

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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TAYNUILT HIGHLAND GAMES

TÍREE MUSIC FESTIVAL

TÍREE MUSIC FESTIVAL PICTURE SPECIAL

Pier today and gone tomorrow as cruise ship sets sail

THE MS Prinsendam seemed to favour a walk on the Esplanade rather than take a dignified sail out of Oban Bay on Tuesday morning, writes Louise Glen.

The mid-sized Holland America Line cruise ship is nicknamed by travellers, the Elegant Explorer.

But the handsome ship took her journey too far when she slipped into the sea channel closest to the seafront hotels.

On hand was Eric Dickson, of Wellpark House bed and breakfast in Oban, to take this photograph where the 27-year-old beauty had a close call.

The cruise liner is no stranger



Plea to save £15m school building for the community

LOUISE GLEN
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'DON'T throw away a £15 million building' was the plea made by a local councillor to his Argyll and Bute colleagues before Oban's high school is demolished.

Councillor for Oban North and Lorn, Iain MacLean, wants a rethink before the old building is reduced to rubble to make way for a car park and a 'grand' entrance to a new purpose-built school due to open for the 2017/18 season.

A former businessman, councillor MacLean believes the building may be valuable for other

public services or community resources.

But a local authority spokesman said it was 'impossible' to accommodate the new and old schools on the same site.

However, the councillor is backed in his calls by former MP Alan Reid.

Mr Reid, who was ousted from the Argyll and Bute Westminster seat in May, said: 'On the doorsteps, local people were saying time and again that a new school is not needed.'

'Many suggested that, to save money, it might be best not to spend multi-millions on a new school.'

Councillor MacLean said the chance to relocate the school or stop the rebuild was probably past, but there was still time to save the former school building.

Mr MacLean said: 'I have an email from Argyll and Bute council in response to my enquiry about the book value of the existing school building.'

'It is a figure well in excess of £15 million.'

'I have tried for several months to introduce a rethink about demolishing the existing building after completion of the new one.'

'Future uses I have highlighted to justify retention of the present building, at least the majority of

it, include the desperate need for additional local authority office space and rationalisation of existing multiple offices, additional Argyll college space, consideration to sharing with other public bodies such as Police Scotland, turning over the gym hall for general public use such as the youth requirement for a skate park, facilities for bigger musical events such as mods and larger conferences being attracted to Oban.

'If one considers the dire budgeted financial situation Argyll and Bute council is facing, then we need to find ways of making the most of what assets we have to fulfil future needs where there is no real hope of finding funding to provide new-build alternatives.'

'In short, it's a very, very wasteful approach to demolish such an asset to make way for a car park and new entrance for the new high school.'

'The latter, which intends to divert pupils from Soroba Road into Millar Road, is pretty unlikely to be easily adopted, as it's a long way around.'

Education spokesman for the council, councillor Rory Colville, said: 'This new school will help to equip 1300 children for the future; providing them

TIMESLINE

Not a full chamber to discuss budgets

A CRUNCH budget meeting to discuss scathing cuts to Argyll and Bute council's services and staffing was attended by 25 out of a full council of 36 members.

The day in May was planned weeks in advance, but 11 elected members were absent.

Members attending from Oban, Lorn and the Isles area were councillors Mary-Jean Devon, Neil McIntyre, Iain MacLean, Roddy McCuish and Elaine Robertson, while councillor Duncan MacIntyre is on an agreed long-term absence.

A new date fixed for Connel sailor

ANTI-piracy crewman, Billy Irving, is to appear before the Indian supreme court on August 3, which may bring an end to his three-year ordeal.

The Connel man has been held since October 2012 after his ship strayed into Indian waters. Cleared of any charges, the Indian authorities still hold his passport.

Watchdog to take a look at concerns

AUDIT Scotland confirmed it is undertaking a review of Argyll and Bute council with a report due before the end of the year.

A spokesman for the statutory body confirmed it had received concerns from a councillor and a Holyrood politician, which it said it would address in the second follow-up report.

Work to start on esplanade hotel

DEVELOPERS of the Argyll hotel on Oban's esplanade have confirmed an application for a building warrant was made this week. Owner, Alan MacLeod, said he hoped work would start soon.



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Talk before walk £40 fouling fine

TWO further days of talks between the RMT union and ferry-operator CalMac should take place before west coast crews consider strike action, says the boss of the ferry company.

Martin Dorchester, chief executive, of the Scottish government ferry contractor is 'disappointed' the union has issued a letter to all members stating there has been 'slow progress' to meet union demands on job security and working conditions.

While many businesses from the islands are sympathetic to the concerns of the crews, they want to see the matter resolved quickly.

RMT general secretary, Mick Cash, told members: 'The emphasis seems to be on what can't be done and what won't be done.'

A MAN who failed to clean up after his dog, which fouled at an Oban play park, has been fined £40 by an Argyll and Bute amenity warden.

The warden was given photographic evidence of a dog fouling at the Balvicar Road football pitch by the group 'Oban community action on dog fouling'.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Oban community councillor Julie Mckenzie said: 'Our members are delighted that the many hours of hard work spent on the campaign have finally paid off.'

'We hope that this fine sends out a clear message to the community that irresponsible dog ownership - and in particular, dog fouling - will not be tolerated.'

View to a centre

PLANS to build a community centre for the people of Soroba are progressing slowly but surely.

The Viewpoint, a multi-purpose building, is planned for land formerly owned by tenants and has been on the cards for 15 years.

Mairi Malloy, of Soroba Community Association, who has been a member of the group for many years, said: 'We are still negotiating the ground being given to Oban Viewpoint.'

'There are some issues we have to clarify with Argyll and Bute council but I feel we are being listened to now with the expert help of Gordon Dalgleish, who is a solicitor.'

'I think people forget we are volunteers and don't understand all the legal jargon, but we won't give up.'

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LORN SHOW SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST 2015 TRALEE, BENDERLOCH

Lorn Agricultural Society (Instituted 1848)

Childrens tug of war, throwing the Wellie Boot and a wool bag race if plenty volunteers!

Sheep and Cattle Classes Poultry Classes Terrier Race Chainsaw craft

Tossing the sheaf Handicrafts and much more. Dog show at 12.30pm Baby Show at approx. 2pm

Discounted Microchipping for Dogs by Oban Vets.

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Admission - Adults £5, Children £2, Family £12. Show field open to public at 9am and judging to commence at 10am.

Derek says he means business

A NEW man is set to champion the cause of Oban's business community.

Connell resident, Derek Connery, has been appointed manager at BID4Oban, the organisation tasked with improving business opportunities in the town.

Graeme Bass, chairman of BID4Oban, said: "There was an extremely high level of interest in the post when it was advertised, both locally and across Scotland."

"We went through an extensive and rigorous recruitment process and Derek stood out as the exceptional candidate from a very strong field."

"He brings passion, enthusiasm, commitment and business experience to the role. He will be a great asset and will help us drive the business forward during the next few challenging years."

Mr. Connery, who takes up his new post on Monday, July 27, said: "I am delighted to have been appointed to this critical position."

"It will be both challenging and rewarding, and offers a real opportunity to build on the great work that has taken place over the last three years to make Oban an even better place to stay, explore and spend - for businesses, residents and visitors alike."

"The BID project allows local business an opportunity for greater co-operation and the ability to speak collectively on important issues."

Store offering chips for pets

DOG and cat owners in Oban are being encouraged to attend a microchipping event on Saturday, August 1 and Sunday, August 2 to help protect their pets from being lost or stolen.

Microchipping increases the chances of a missing pet being returned to its owner and for dog owners this is becoming a compulsory part of caring for their pet.

In April 2016, it becomes law in Scotland that all dogs have to be microchipped by eight weeks old. Owners can bring their cat or dog to Pets at Home store in Oban, any time on Saturday or Sunday and get their pet microchipped for the special rate of £10 (usually £15).

Cara Bald, store manager at Pets at Home Oban, said: "Microchipping is a simple, relatively painless and essential procedure."

The chip is roughly the size of a grain of rice, fits under the pet's skin and contains details about its owner. The chip is given a unique code number, which is stored along with the owner's contact details on the UK's largest registration database, Petlog.

Russell wins party ticket

SITTING MSP, Michael Russell, has been selected unopposed to stand for the SNP in next year's Holyrood elections.

Mr Russell, the current member for Argyll and Bute in the Scottish parliament, was the unanimous choice for the constituency party last Sunday.

SNP Argyll and Bute constituency vice chairman, Antony Harrison said: "Michael has proved to be a popular and hard-working MSP across this very large constituency and has campaigned vigorously on a range of important issues."

Wedding dram-a has happy ending

A WEDDING couple were in high spirits after an island distillery came to the rescue when gusting winds and torrential rain threatened to turn their big day into a washout.

Bride, Kathleen Campbell, nee Holloway, who grew up in Oban and husband, Dougie Campbell, from Jura, had planned to hold their wedding in a marquee in the grounds of a hotel on Jura.

But dreadful weather on the wedding day (July 4) meant the couple and their guests had to abandon the marquee.

However, that's when staff at the Jura distillery showed true community spirit. They opened the doors of the recently refurbished co-operation in the distillery to the wedding couple and their guests.

Kathleen, who has just returned from her honeymoon, said: "It was just a magical day where the whole island came out to make our wedding special."

The happy bride, who is a fully qualified registrar, said the last minute move was "the best thing" that could have happened to make her big day even more special.

Kathleen and Dougie, both went to school in Oban, with Dougie boarding at the hostel. Dougie is the son of Peter and



Annette Campbell from Jura and Kathleen is the daughter of the late Ken Coffee and late Janet Coffee (nee Sharpe) of Oban.

The distillery manager, Willie Cochran, whose wife by a remarkable coincidence is also a registrar, said: "It was great to see the com-

munity come to help this couple have the best possible wedding."

"My wife is a registrar so I knew it was possible to move the wedding from the marquee at the hotel to the distillery co-operation."

"It was really good we could help and while I wasn't on the island

TOAST: Dougie and Kathleen on their happy day - thanks to the staff at the Jura distillery

myself it was by all accounts a great day. There was no whisky in the barrels or it could have been an even better wedding - but I think it was probably one of the best anyway."

As the distillery's motto states 'Dis-urachs believe anything is possible'.

Don't saddle us with the blame

STEVEN RAE
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AN OBAN youth worker has rallied to the defence of young people using the town's Stafford Street pedestrian zone for skateboarding and cycling.

As reported in last week's *Oban Times*, Oban-based councillor Roddy McCuish condemned the actions of youths using the £600,000 zone on their bikes and skateboards, saying they should be 'ashamed of themselves.'

Kevin Irvine, 27, has been a youth worker with Oban Youth Cafe for five years. He said: "Councillor McCuish's comments upset me. Telling young people they are not 'great members of the community' because they skate on a bit of newly-paved area is not only extremely irresponsible, but harsh."

"Instead of spending £600,000 for the benefit of some tourists, why not give the young people somewhere else to go?"

"We, as a community, should be promoting healthy lifestyle

activities, not shooting them down. Instead of pointing fingers at young folk and victimising them for their hobbies why not try to help them? I respect Roddy and often agree with many of his views, however on this occasion he's bang out of order."

Kevin added that he planned to lobby for skateboarding and cycling facilities for the town.

BMX biker, Daniel Thwaite, one of a group of friends who cycle at Stafford Street, said: "Biking at Stafford Street stops us from being out drinking, taking drugs and being on the streets. I don't think we should be ashamed of doing something that keeps us fit and active. And if we had a skate park, it would stop us being 'in the way' and off the street."

In response, councillor McCuish said: "I can fully understand people's anger at my comments in the press. I'd be delighted to meet anybody regarding a skate or BMX park in Oban, at my surgeries on the first of every month."

"Also there is the opportunity



WHEELS IN MOTION: Skater, Jay Carnie, and Kevin Irvine, right, plan to lobby for better facilities

for people to speak to councillors at the open forum at the Corran Halls on August 5.

"I think it's worth pointing out that we did have a facility at Mossfield years ago which unfortunately had to be remove

as it wasn't being used as much as we had hoped."

"I think my past experience of working with youth in sport shows that I'm totally for promoting health and well-being, especially in our youngsters."

Councillors for Oban North and Lorn, Iain Stewart MacLean and Iain Angus MacDonald, said a facility for bikers and skateboarders was something they would seek to address after the council recess.

West coast seabirds under threat

ONE OF Britain's most-loved seabirds has suffered an alarming decline in recent years as numbers of puffins are dramatically falling, writes Niall Hickman.

A 30-year study of puffins on Fair Isle, between Orkney and Shetland, has shown numbers have halved and experts say a similar decline could be affecting the iconic birds on Scotland's west coast and throughout the Inner and Outer Hebrides.

Britain's biggest colony at St Kilda was last monitored 15 years ago and back then 20,000 individuals were present, but if

the recent study on Fair Isle is an indication, then numbers are substantially down.

Aberdeen University-based Dr Will Miles, of Fair Isle Bird Observatory, said: "The study shows that numbers of puffins breeding on Fair Isle has halved from around 20,000 to 10,000 individuals since 1985."

"We have not had a similar in-depth study of the numbers on St Kilda, but it is fair to assume that if the figures are down on Fair Isle, then there is a very good chance they will be down elsewhere. There is no reason to suppose that the decline on Fair Isle is an isolated case."

"The last nationwide study in 2000 showed there were around 5,000 individual puffins on the Argyll coast. Again, no other widespread study has been done since then, but the figures on Fair Isle suggest the same could well be happening in the Argyll region. This is a cause for great concern because the puffin is such a well-loved seabird."

The reasons for the decline in puffins are twofold: declining fish stocks and the increase in the number of great skuas, which are known to feed on smaller seabirds.

Dr Miles said: "Skua numbers are rising and, as well as eating

fish, they are known to feed on seabirds. While the puffin is pretty good at avoiding skuas, they are being preyed upon."

Dr Miles says the next nationwide study of seabirds is long overdue and only then will experts have exact data on how severely puffin numbers are on the decline.

He said: "Without a proper study since 2000, it is difficult to give a completely accurate figure for our seabirds, but all the signs are that puffin figures are lowering."

"We badly need a new study and with enough funding and volunteer help hopefully it will

be done within the next two years."

"Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) could be one answer to the puffins' declining numbers and it is fair to say finding a solution presents a considerable challenge."

Dr Mark Bolton, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "The severe decline is a cause for considerable concern. The puffin has an European conservation status of endangered."

Puffins, which can live up to 30 years, continue to be hunted in Iceland and the Faroe Islands for their meat.

TIMESLINE

Shellfish warning over toxin levels

ROUTINE shellfish monitoring work carried out by environmental health officers has identified raised levels of naturally-occurring algae toxins in several areas within Argyll.

The naturally-occurring toxins accumulate in molluscs such as mussels, oysters, cockles and razor clams and when levels breach statutory limits, harvesting of affected species is prohibited.

Areas which currently have toxins levels, which are above the legally permitted limits for harvest, and are therefore closed, are: Loch Fyne, Loch Striven, Kilbrannan Sound, Campbeltown Loch, Kildalloig Bay, Carradale Bay, Machrie Bay, Saddell Bay, Pirnmill, Loch Riddon, Loch Melfort and Seil Sound.

Warning notices have been posted at various locations around the affected areas, so that members of the public are made aware of the situation.

For more information, visit www.foodstandards.gov.scot

Chicken run leads to top food award

A KINTYRE hen farm has won an award for the quality of its eggs, with the help of an Oban firm and an Ardrishaig customer.

Farmers, Hannah and Will Jones from Campbeltown, entered their eggs into the Scottish egg quality awards for the first time this year after they gathered a loyal following when Oban firm, Waltons, began delivering them throughout Argyll.

Awards were given for 'commended', 'highly commended' and 'outstanding' eggs, with the Kintyre firm scooping the top award.

The couple picked up their award at a ceremony in Perth last month, where they were accompanied by Osvalda MacKenzie from Ardrishaig.

Osvalda orders 90 boxes of eggs a week which she personally pays for, then sells through the Mary's Meals charity shop in Lochgilphead, donating all the profits to the charity.

Trio celebrate the common tongue

THREE singers from the three Gaelic nations - Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man - are to perform concerts in the West Highlands and islands, to celebrate linguistic, musical and cultural connections.

The performance is titled 'Aon Teanga: Un Chengey', which means 'one tongue'.

Mary Ann Kennedy, one of Scotland's most influential musicians and broadcasters, Ruth Keggan, the leading vocalist of the Manx Gaelic revival, and acclaimed Irish singer, Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin, have collaborated to develop an album and live tour of traditional and new-composed songs.

The singers are joined by Argyll guitarist, Finlay Wells, fiddler, Ultan O' Brien, and Gordon MacLean on bass.

For more information, visit www.watercolourmusic.co.uk

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Raising funds just a matter of child's play



OUT FOR A DUCK: the children at the fun day taking part in the duck hunt

TOBERMORY toddlers and the Tobermory playpark appeal joined forces to host a hugely successful fun day recently, raising more than £2,300 for the two local groups.

The Tobermory playpark appeal committee is working in partnership with Argyll and Bute council for a new playpark in the heart of the town.

The playpark appeal chairwoman, Marion MacLean, said: "We are astounded and delighted yet again at the support shown by this little community. It just shows what an important lifeline the playpark is to us all."

"We hope we can achieve our target of next summer for the children to enjoy a new playpark."

The estimated cost is £50,000, with more than half the funds already raised from donations, including grants from the council, Argyll and Bute health and wellbeing network, the Kenny MacIntyre memorial fund, and through the committee's fund-raising events throughout the year.

For more details about the play park, visit www.tobermoryplaypark.co.uk

Thieves leave fundraisers with £70k bill

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THIEVES have struck again at one of Argyll's architectural gems when they stripped £35,000 worth of lead from a lochside church roof.

St Conan's Kirk, the impressive Loch Awe church and cloister which lies just off the A85, was targeted by the thieves for the second time in a year sometime between Friday night and Saturday morning.

Volunteers, who are trying to raise £1 million to restore the exquisite church, have been hit with an additional eye-watering £70,000 to cover the cost of the thefts and subsequent damage to the building.

After the first theft, the replacement lead roof was marked by an anti-theft device, but the church volunteers don't hold out much hope of the lead being



LAI D BARE: Thieves stripped £35,000 worth of lead from the roof of St Conan's Kirk by Loch Awe last weekend, the second time they have targeted the ornate church in a year

traced and recovered. David MacLeod, a volunteer who opens and closes the kirk for visitors every day and also helps out in the community cafe, said: 'I went over on Saturday morning and opened up as usual. It was devastating to see that we had been hit by thieves again. The last time this happened it cost us £35,000 to repair.'

'We are a small charity who are volunteering to bring the

kirk back up to standard. While police are looking for the people who have done this - I want to make sure through the pages of the *Oban Times* that everyone is aware of the damage that these thefts are doing to our buildings.'

St Conan's Kirk was built for the mother of Walter Douglas Campbell, younger brother of the first Lord Blythswood.

Local tradition has it that the elderly Mrs Campbell found the long drive to the parish church in Dalmally much too arduous, and that her son built her a church nearby.

The church was completed in the 1920s and 1930s. Last year, the group started a fundraising campaign to raise £1 million, and were awarded £51,000 from the Church Roof Fund.

Anyone with information on the theft should contact police on 101 asking for the Oban office.

TIMESLINE

User old enough to have known better

A MAN seen staggering along a street in Oban was stopped by police after he appeared to be trying to conceal something.

Andrew Docherty of Millpark Place in the town was searched on July 11 last year on Oban's Esplanade and found to have 84 tablets, in eight blister packs, of diazepam worth between £42 and £84.

The groundsman, 45, admitted possessing the drug illegally and was told by Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC at Oban sheriff court this week that at his age he should have put such offences behind him. He was fined £400.

Man denies drugs charges in court

A 35-YEAR-old man has been charged with illegal drug possession and being in a building without lawful authority.

Michael Docherty, of Iona Road, Port Glasgow, has pleaded not guilty to possessing diamorphine, amphetamine and diazepam on July 20 at Albany Apartments in Oban.

He also denied being in Albany Apartments unlawfully, where it could be inferred he intended to commit theft.

Docherty was remanded in custody on Tuesday at Oban sheriff court for trial on August 18.

No return journey to court - sheriff

A FIRST offender at Oban sheriff court on Tuesday was told, 'do not get involved with drugs' after admitting being in possession of cocaine.

Ryan MacAllister, 19, of Colonsay Terrace, Oban, was stopped by police just after midnight on February 2 after they saw him trying to conceal something.

He was found to be in possession of what was later confirmed as £10-worth of cocaine. Fining him £200, Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC told MacAllister: 'I don't want to see you back in this court again.'

Sheriff gives stern advice to boy, 18

'DON'T go down this road; it will wreck your health, your relationships and cost you a lot of money,' Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC warned a first offender who had admitted possessing illegal drugs.

Bailey Taylor, 18, of Colonsay Terrace, Oban, was stopped by police and found to have 0.4g of the drug MDMA, worth £20, and tiny amount of cannabis. He was fined £200 for possession of MDMA and admonished on the cannabis charge.

Reported to fiscal for cocaine abuse

A 39-YEAR-OLD Oban man was detained in police custody recently and charged with supplying a Class A drug, namely cocaine. A report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.

Town traders angry about market

STEVEN RAE
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THE CONTROVERSIAL decision to allow a continental market to trade in Oban's Station Square this week has been dubbed 'a kick in the teeth' by one shopowner.

The decision comes after Bid4 Oban, which represents over 480 local businesses, had its objection rejected by Argyll and Bute council over the plan.

The market was scheduled to begin trading yesterday, Wednesday, until Saturday, under a restricted licence. This means certain goods cannot be traded, namely those in direct competition with local businesses.

In 2013, Dunfermline-based Continental Market Ltd was granted a street trader's licence



DISAPPOINTED: Graeme Bass

on the basis it would not sell the same produce as established shops in the town. However, the enterprise was issued with an enforcement order by a council officer, instructing the owner to close down around half of the

stalls, as they did not comply with the licence, with one man also charged by police.

The council did not confirm the name of the company given the licence to trade this year.

One shopowner to voice his feelings was Alan Cathro, former chairman of Oban chamber of commerce. He has traded in the Iona Shop, next to Station Square, for 50 years.

He said: 'My feeling is that it is in the wrong place entirely, being right in the middle of the town. I don't understand the decision and, in some ways, I think the council might be dictated to by some of the traders.'

'Every other business has expenses all year round, yet at the same time, council services are getting taken away to balance the books.'



MARKET FORCES: the market in the same location, in 2013, with Oban woman, Adele Duncan

'This is a bit of a kick in the teeth to rate payers.'

Poppies garden centre owner Gary McPherson, who has traded in the Oban area for 24 years, said he was concerned over lack of enforcement of the market's restrictions.

He said: 'The last time it was here, there were restrictions but they weren't adhered to. These restrictions are in place, but they'll come along, set up and just do what they want - I've seen it time after time.'

'The trouble is the council is understaffed and underfunded, so it'll grant this licence but won't police it.'

'Also, the money will be going straight out of the town so it doesn't benefit Oban at all.'

'You'd think the council would be concentrating on keeping the businesses that are here open, paying rates all year, but instead they seem to make it harder.'

However, Alan MacLeod, who

owns the town's Ee-usk and Piazza restaurants, welcomed the decision.

'Who is scared of the competition from a market?' he said.

'Protectionism is not the way to go forward. Competition is good for everyone.'

Graeme Bass, chairman of BID4Oban, said the group had notified levy payers of its efforts to have the licence refused.

'BID4Oban Limited is extremely disappointed that even this restricted licence has been granted,' he said.

'We do not feel that the legitimate objections voiced by the business community have been properly considered.'

'There will still be direct competition with rate-paying businesses in town and there will be a displacement effect with shoppers being drawn away from established business premises.'

'We will continue to make representation to Argyll and Bute

council as to our dissatisfaction with this outcome, and will continue to lobby vigorously on behalf of our levy payers.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council confirmed that goods on the list of the licence included Italian handbags, crepes, handicraft from Thailand and Spanish paella.

He added: 'We have taken care to ensure that the operator is aware that the market must comply with the conditions of the licence, including the range of goods sold.'

'The licence was granted by our legal services team because it met the relevant criteria.'

'We would not expect the market to have any negative impact on local traders, given that the goods to be sold are not in direct competition.'

'Well-managed, complementary markets can actually enhance local business by drawing additional shoppers to the town.'

Star spotting on the train



STAR TURN: Margaret Menassa, from Oban, with TV stars, Giles Wood and Mary Killin, from Channel Four's Googlebox

CELEBRITY spotting has become something of an occupational hazard for an Oban woman.

Trolly dolly, or on-board services supervisor, Margaret Menassa, who works on the trains between Oban and Glasgow on the West Highland

Line, has met more than her fair share of A-listers.

On Saturday, she met two of the stars of hit TV show 'Gogglebox' known as Giles Wood and Mary Killin as they returned from a 'magical trip' from Mull.

Margaret who has previously

served Bob Odenkirk, from hit American TV series Breaking Bad and Better Call Saul, says everyone is treated the same way.

Margaret said: 'Of course people are using the train - it is one of the best journeys in the world.'

Survey on the diverse Argyll coastline

A GREEK student at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) in Dunbeg is conducting a survey on the diversity of the Argyll coastline.

Lizy Spanou, 22, is studying ecosystem-based management at

SAMS, in conjunction with the University of St. Andrews.

She is inviting people to complete the survey by Monday, July 27, to gauge the value of the coastal environment in Argyll.

She said: 'Argyll has an increas-

ing number of aquaculture sites and marine protected areas, as well as being beautiful, which makes it the ideal place for my survey.'

To complete the survey visit www.argyllsurvey.org.

Highland drivers hit the high spot for test passes

BARRA is the most successful place in the UK for men to learn to drive, according to new figures released by the Driving and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA).

And the statistics, which covered the past year, also show that eight of the UK's top 10 centres for passing driving tests were in the Highlands and islands.

While the national average pass rate is 47 per cent, Highland and island drivers are enjoying pass rates as high as 83 per cent, with male learners on Barra hitting a perfect 100 per cent pass rate - although just six took the test there in the past year.

When 10 female learners sat their test on Barra the pass rate was still high at 81 per cent.

Drivers in Mallaig recorded a pass rate of 83 per cent, with the next highest at 74 per cent in Kyle of Lochalsh and 71 per cent on Skye.

Centres on Arran, Orkney, Ballater and in Lochgilphead occupied the remaining Highland and island spots in the UK top ten, with driver success rates between 69 and 67 per cent.

Survey reveals demand for homes

PEOPLE on Coll want more houses. That's the overwhelming finding of a recent survey carried out on the island, writes Steven Rae.

Seventy per cent of the island's residents responded, calling for more homes to be built.

The statistics were gathered by Development Coll, with the survey supported by Argyll and Bute council, Rural

Housing Scotland and the Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA)

A spokesman for Development Coll said: 'The evidence indicates a that some additional accommodation provided at affordable prices or rent levels could play a key role in sustaining recent population growth and economic regeneration.'

Critically, this would have to

operate in tandem with real and sustainable employment opportunities.

'A small-scale development of mainstream social rented properties could address the current and latent need from young residents and newly-forming families.'

'The main requirement, however, for new build housing is likely to be for low-cost home ownership

via self-build, if feasible.'

Discussions are ongoing with ACHA, which has indicated its commitment to build two social houses. Argyll and Bute council and the Scottish government have offered funding for the project.

Development Coll is also applying to the Scottish Land Fund which could support land purchase for social housing.

Police had to use CS gas as they tried to break up rowdy party

A HOUSE party in Oban got so rowdy that police had to use CS gas as they attempted to arrest a man.

At around 11.15pm on January 16, police were called to the address in question after reports of a disturbance and, on entering, were confronted by a house full of people, including juveniles.

While trying to arrest Daniel Nesbitt, 35, for swearing at the officers, his friend Ranold Clark, 29, tried to in-

tervene and stop police from apprehending him.

Clark was arrested for resisting and obstructing police officers and subsequently found to be in possession of cannabis. Corey Telfer, 19 and Craig MacIvor, 17, were both arrested after obstructing and resisting officers by pushing mobile phones in their faces in an attempt to video the incident.

At Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday, Procurator Fiscal

Eoin McGinty said: 'Police were warning everyone to stand back and it got to the point where they had to take out CS gas.'

Representing himself, Nesbitt, of Arcadia Street, Glasgow, admitted threatening and abusive behaviour and claimed he had only sworn at the officer because she had sworn at him first and made a derogatory remark. He was fined £250.

Also pleading guilty, the

court heard that Clark, of Longdale Crescent, Oban, did not usually drink and would not have intervened in his friend's arrest if he had not been drinking. He was fined £300 and admonished for possession of cannabis.

Telfer, of Hynish Crescent, Oban pleaded guilty to resisting arrest and was fined £300. McIvor, of Soroba Road, Oban, also admitted the same charge and had his sentence deferred until August 18.

Fèis Latharna Argyll Cèilidh Trail 2015

Cèilidh air chuairt

Ceòl traidiseanta air a chluich le cuid den òigridh as fhearr aig Fèis Latharna
Traditional music from some of the best young musicians and singers from Fèis Latharna

Ceann Latha	Aite	Tachartas	Uair
Date	Venue	Event	Time
Tues 21 July	Iona Village Hall	Ceilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Wed 22 July	Dervaig Village Hall, Mull	Ceilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Thurs 23 July	Inveraray Castle Grounds	Big Day Out	2.45pm
Fri 24 July	George Hotel, Inveraray	Ceilidh	9.00pm
Sat 25 July	Connel Village Hall	Ceilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Tues 28 July	Tayvallich Village Hall	Ceilidh/Dance	8.00pm
Wed 29 July	Cullipool Hall	Ceilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Thurs 30 July	Creagan Inn, Appin	Ceilidh	8.00pm
Fri 31 July	George, Inveraray	Ceilidh	9.00pm
Sat 1 August	Lismore Village Hall	Ceilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Tues 4 August	Easdale Island	Ceilidh/Dance	8.00pm
Wed 5 August	Crianlarich Village Hall	Ceilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Thurs 6 August	Port Charlotte Hotel, Islay	Ceilidh	9.00pm
Fri 7 August	Gigha Village Hall	Ceilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Sat 8 August	Ceol Campbeltown - Seafield	Ceilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Sat 8 August	Carradale Village Hall	Ceilidh/Dance	8.00pm

Tuilleadh fiosrachaidh www.feisean.org/ceilidh for further information

Plan slammed as 'populist'

MANAGEMENT measures for Marine Protected Areas (MPA) off the west coast have been described as 'lightweight and populist' and will destroy the fishing industry of Scotland, a meeting between officials and fishermen heard.

A meeting between Richard Lochhead, the cabinet secretary for rural affairs in the Scottish government and Bertie Armstrong, chief executive of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF) saw little comfort for trawlermen.

Mr Armstrong, of the SFF, said: 'We outlined to the minister in the strongest possible terms the devastating impact these measures will have on fragile coastal communities on the west coast. 'The Scottish fishing industry fully supports the concept of MPAs, provided their designation and management is done in an evidence-based manner. 'Conservation measures need to be right, not gratuitously damaging in pursuit of, in the minister's words, 'ambition'. 'Unfortunately, the minister still seemed keen to pander to lightweight, populist lobbying and failed to understand the impact these recently announced measures will have on several of our small coastal communities, where the loss of even one or two boats could affect local schools and other pillars of village life.'

Praise for plan to cut fuel bill

AN ENERGY company will tackle rising fuel bills. Our Power Energy, founded by housing associations and local authorities, aims to save its members in the most disadvantaged communities in Scotland up to £11 million over five years.

Fuel poverty is at its highest level in a decade because of a 7 per cent increase in fuel bills between 2012 and 2013.

Mike MacKenzie Highlands and Islands SNP MSP, who lives in Easdale, said: 'This is a fantastic announcement that will go some way to tackling rising energy bills for our most disadvantaged.'

Crowing glory awaits winner

WITH just two weeks to go until the deadline for the Highlands and Islands Annual Business Excellence Awards, The Crown Estate is calling on eligible businesses to enter and celebrate successful growth and innovation of the marine sector.

The Crown Estate sponsors the Award for Excellence in marine business. All entries must be submitted by Friday July 31.

Driver taken to hospital after car park crash

A TREE lies torn from its roots after a car careered out of control in a supermarket car park and ploughed into other parked vehicles, writes David McPhee.

Police cordoned off a section of Tesco car park in Oban on Monday afternoon as they attempted to establish what caused the freak accident.

Eyewitnesses said the car appeared to be driven by an elderly man, who they thought was trying to find a parking space in the busy Oban store.

A bystander, who witnessed the incident, said: 'A woman shopper had to jump out of the way as the car seemed to crash through a hedge, flatten the tree and then smash into the two cars and a van.'

The driver of the car was taken to the Lorn and Islands district hospital in Oban by ambulance.



Volunteers digging deep to create a social space at community hub

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE ROCKFIELD Centre has been given a grant to add a splash of colour to the grounds of the former Victorian primary school.

Funding has been awarded from the Scottish government's arms-length programme, Stalled Spaces, and Argyll and Bute community partnership's health and wellbeing fund.

The money will be used to buy tools for volunteers to maintain the garden and grounds, provide tubs and seating and also to install garden art.

It will involve the horticultural students of Argyll college working with older members of the community on the project, the long-term objective of which is to transform the B-listed town centre building into a cultural and community hub for Oban.

With the building unoccupied for seven years, the sloped garden area and the concrete hard standing in the grounds have become tired and overgrown.

Since taking ownership in May, Oban Community Trust (OCT) has started to clear years of overgrown weeds and brambles from the grounds and now wants to add colour and use the

... to make a pleasant place for people to sit and enjoy the sun - when it shines

Caroline Boswell (pictured at The Rockfield Centre)

concrete area as a 'social space'. Caroline Boswell of OCT, who is also leader of the grounds group, said: 'Our first job is to tidy up the grounds completely. 'The site lends itself well to tubs and planters which are easily accessible for all ages and abilities. Then we will be looking at developing the garden, so if anyone has any ideas on what they would like to see please get in touch. We will shortly put

out seating to make it a pleasant place for people to sit and enjoy the sun - when it shines. 'It is also an area that lends itself to displaying the skills of artists and makers and we will be encouraging the installation of community arts. 'The garden gives the commu-

nity an opportunity to make their mark on the site, opening up new opportunities and providing a space for everyone to meet and enjoy.'

She added that volunteers from the group are already meeting regularly on a Wednesday night at 6pm for work

parties to clear up the grounds and a massive amount had been achieved so far. Anyone wishing to be involved in this project either at the ideas or development stage should contact the OCT by email at 'membership@obancommunitytrust.org.uk'



TIMESLINE

Work will keep A83 traffic going

WORK is to be carried out on the A83 Rest and be Thankful road to keep Argyll traffic on the move in the event of a landslide.

Government agency, Transport Scotland, will improve the general layout of the road, the access points to the old military road and a diversion route in the case of emergencies.

Fencing, debris netting and improvements to the drainage have already been carried out.

Holyrood transport minister, Derek Mackay, MSP, said: 'The A83 is a vital route for people in Argyll and Bute and we are firmly committed to mitigating the effects of landslides in the area.'

Striking a chord with Mull visit

ACCLAIMED musical group, the Scottish Ensemble, is set to tour Mull for a three-day masterclass, from August 12-14.

The Scottish-based string ensemble's 12 musicians will visit different parts of the island for a variety of events. They aim to strike a chord with people who may not be familiar with classical music and the joy it can bring.

In particular, they aim to reach out to children and adults living in socially deprived areas, or to elderly or isolated people who cannot, or would not, travel to a major concert venue.

Excellent win for Trust attractions

VISITORS to three attractions in Argyll and Arran owned by the National Trust for Scotland have helped them win prestigious TripAdvisor Certificates of Excellence for 2015.

The certificates were awarded to Arduaine Gardens, Brodick Castle, and Craeae Gardens, Inveraray, for receiving consistently good reviews on the trip planning website for the quality of their service and visitor experience.

A hat-trick bid for Western Isles MSP

ALASDAIR Allan will stand in the Scottish government elections for a third time next May, it has been confirmed.

The Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP has represented the Western Isles at Holyrood since the SNP won the seat from Labour in 2009.

Reunion fever for 'Boomers'

'BOOM TOWN' dwellers are in for a treat this weekend when a hundred former residents make their way back to the town for a 'knees-up' in the Glen Hotel in Oban.

The Dunbeg and Dunstaffnage Reunion has been planned since a Facebook group brought former friends and neighbours together online.

With almost all the tickets sold, organisers Vary Ferguson and Shirley Inglis say they are looking forward to

a great night of chat and dancing. Shirley, who still lives in Dunbeg, said: 'There has been a lot of interest from all over the country in coming back to the area. 'It is really lovely that so many people are already sharing their memories of living and growing up in the area. We are all looking forward to getting together on Saturday.' For more information, please contact Shirley on Facebook via the Dunbeg and Dunstaffnage Reunion.

Hugh Smith's letter from ISLAY

Crew's final voyage into literary history

New book charts the story of island ferries

Over 50 island transport activists and enthusiasts attended the local launch in Ionad-ChaluimChillelle of author Roy N Pedersen's latest book, 'Western Ferries Taking on Giants'.

Along with the author, the launch was also attended by representatives from the book publishers, Birlinn, as well as Sir William Lithgow, who wrote the introduction to the new publication and was among the early pioneers for roll-on/roll-off ferry services to the southern isles.

Also present was Gordon Ross, managing director of the ferry company and he referred to the powerful legacy bestowed on the islands of Islay and Jura by Western Ferries.

Mr Ross pointed out that although the company no longer operates in these waters that legacy remains.

He went on to condemn the Scottish authorities' views on the ferry innovation which they regarded as a weed which must be eradicated.

'And eradicated it they did', stressed the managing director.

Author, Roy Pedersen, specialises on the social and economic impact of transport services to the Highlands and islands, and his latest book charts the history of the innovative ferry operators whose vision, enterprise and determination was to be commended.

Sadly, Western Ferries are now but a memory on the Islay and Jura routes, but happily they went on to make their considerable mark on transport arrangements further afield in Argyll and Bute.

Chief among those who attended the launch in the St Columba Gaelic Centre were some of the former crew members of Western Ferries 'Sound of Gigha'.



The crew of the 'Sound of Gigha' served on the Islay-Jura route. Pictured (back row) are James Jamieson, Iain MacNeill, John Paterson, Donald MacKenzie, Neil McEachern; (seated) Arthur MacEachern, Archie Campbell and Sir William Lithgow. Photo: Mark Unsworth, Islay Studies

Margaret ensures the fund well topped up

MEMBERS of the RNLI branch fundraising committee, with chairwoman, Margaret Hastie, at the helm, have pulled out all the stops over the past few weeks to ensure that the Islay lifeboat coffers remain in a healthy state.

The buffet lunch at the Bruichladdich distillery's 'open day' during the Fèisle week continues to be a major fundraiser and added £1,500 to the lifesaving charity's bank balance.

Without the generosity of a large number of produce donors, the lunch spread would be greatly curtailed and thanks go to local estates, businesses and various individuals for their

interest and support. Those who prepared the spread are also worthy of full plaudits.

The open air dance following the beach rugby tournament at Port Ellen was hampered by generator problems which may have been caused by acts of vandalism. This led to the event being held in the Ramsay hall where the visiting Irish band, 'Sailor Bill', was at its tuneful best.

It was unfortunate that this venue also suffered at the hands of the vandals, which limited the numbers allowed into the hall. However, £1,000 was raised for the RNLI by the end of the night.

The annual lifeboat flag day was well supported by both locals and visitors and the next fundraiser will be the family fun day on Sunday, August 2.

Yet another reason for raising a glass to Jim

VERY shortly after retiring from Bruichladdich distillery, production director and master distiller, Jim McEwan, returned to the scene of past triumphs to receive another master distiller award to add his already extensive collection.

This honour was bestowed on Jim by the International Whisky Competition committee and its tasting panel and handed over by US residents, Sylvain Allard and Sebastian Gavillet. Slàinte mhath gudearbhh!

Hugh Smith, 4, Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810 658.



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ISLANDERS SHOW THE TRUE 'DUNKIRK' SPIRIT TO HELP HUNDREDS OF STRANDED FESTIVAL-GOERS



EVACUATION: police and other emergency staff clear the camp site on Friday night



STORM TOSSED: a sodden tent, belonging to a Fort William woman, succumbs to the stormy conditions

Festival site abandoned on first day as 60mph gusts batter Tiree

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

REVELLERS at the Tiree Music Festival had to be evacuated from the site on Friday after 60 mph winds and a torrential downpour made the campsite unsafe.

The 1700 festival-goers were told the music would be cancelled at around 6pm, following a decision by the event's health and safety team, after just one act had performed.

People spent the night in facilities including the island's high school, airport, business centre and the parish church, as well as people's own homes.

However, despite the evacuation, spirits weren't dampened, and the festival went on with a revised line-up on Saturday and Sunday, with many praising the 'Hebridean hospitality' of islanders.

Christine Wright, from Glasgow, was staying with her son, Andy, who lives on Tiree and is manager for Tiree Trust, based at the island centre.

She said: 'Andy was asked in the afternoon if he would be willing to open up the trust premises if they were needed, because there were already concerns about the weather and he said "yes".'

'He took 30 people to the centre, but realised there were too many for the building, so he brought three back to his house.'

'Back at the campsite there was

another family of five I was concerned for, including two young children, so I took them as well. So we ended up with eight people spending the night with us in the house.'

'I met some of the people we put up the next evening at the festival and they had stayed on the island and were having a ball. Everyone who helped acted absolutely fantastically.'

Neil Mackay, from Oban, who was festival organiser along with headline act, Skerryvore, said: 'On Tiree, people came together in an extremely difficult situation, which at times reminded me of the Dunkirk spirit, with the whole community coming together.'

'Oban's Tesco and Argos stores generously donated all their camping equipment, with Argos even going to the extent of opening the store out of hours to give us all they had in stock, and Oban people also kindly dropped off the supplies from Argos and Tesco to be picked up at the ferry terminal.'

'I'd also like to thank Argyll and Bute council and the emergency services team, who were outstanding and having that professional advice and support was invaluable, when serious decisions had to be made.'

The festival was closed by Skipinnish on Sunday night, following a set by rockers, The Fratellis. For a festival picture special, see pages 16 and 17.



SHELTER: festival-goers take shelter in the backstage area as the weather got worse on Friday night



TAKING REFUGE: Marian MacMaster, left with her daughter, Ruth, and her mother, Joan McWilliam



SHELTER FROM THE STORM: The Candlish and Anderson families, including 10-month old Oran Candlish, who were forced to move their tent from the Balnoe campsite and take refuge in a nearby shed



BACK IN BUSINESS: Daniel Gillespie (centre) helps to get the show back on the road on Saturday morning

Call handlers must be local plea

URGENT phone calls to the police should be handled by a local station, says a former police call handler, writes Louise Glen.

Former civilian worker, Ryan Beatson, from Nether Lorn, says the current situation is dire with many call handlers unfamiliar with the geography of Argyll.

Ryan, who left the police five years ago, said: 'In my day we all knew the local area and were able to send police to the correct place.'

'What is happening now is a disgrace. When you phone 101

you can be on hold for ages before you get through.'

But the MSP for Argyll and Bute, Michael Russell, defended the centralised call handling system. He said: 'There is a lot of concern about a recent incident involving the 101 number, but in recent months I have had no local complaints about lack of local knowledge from those servicing 101.'

'Indeed, personal experience tells me that those involved are helpful and well-informed.'

'The service needs to be judged on its response to local demand and on that measure-

ment it is presently doing a good job.'

One woman, Nicki Black, who had her bag stolen from a private house on the Isle of Seil, was shocked when police handlers in Glasgow sent officers to Balvicar Road in Oban.

She had to wait 45 minutes for them to arrive on the island. Marri Malloy, the chairwoman of Oban community council, said it was a recipe for 'chaos'.

She added: 'The calls are going to go off the radar and people are going to be hurt or worse due to reporting delays.'

'Have they learned nothing

from the case last week where it was reported that a car had gone off the road and three days later they decided to investigate, the outcome being two deaths that may have been avoided.'

'Oban is too far away to have a central call centre - we need it localised as we are a very diverse area.'

Police Scotland's area commander, Marlene Baillie, said she was aware of people's concerns and wanted the public to contact her, or any of the area sergeants, with any problems they were having with the current system.

Knife threat after being told marriage was over

A MAN whose wife told him their five-year relationship was over threatened to kill someone and himself.

Jakob Skibinski, who was described as 'devastated' at the news, left the couple's Mossfield Drive home in Oban at 8pm and went out drinking with friends before returning at 1am

on July 11 to confront his wife.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban sheriff court this week: 'She noticed he was holding a knife and he was threatening to kill someone and himself.'

'He began to self-harm by striking himself on the neck with the knife.'

Hearing the row, a neighbour called the police and when they arrived Skibinski, 31, was seen coming out of the common close with no top on and scratches and blood on his neck.

Kevin McGuinness, defending, told the court his client had been very distressed and dazed to be told his marriage

was over, but Skibinski's wife had since said she wished the marriage to continue and was 'looking forward to having him back in the house'.

Skibinski, who admitted threatening and abusive behaviour with a knife, had his sentence deferred for three months to be of good behaviour.

TIMESLINE

Illegal drug found in man's pocket

AN OBAN chef, who was spotted by police on patrol to be smoking what looked like a 'reefer', has been fined £100 after admitting possessing herbal cannabis.

Oban sheriff court heard on Monday that Michael Duncan, 21, Glencruitten Drive, was stopped in Miller Road in the town and searched by officers on March 2 and found to have £20-worth of the illegal drug in his pocket.

Biker is 'critical' after island crash

A MOTORCYCLIST is in a critical condition after his Harley-Davidson crashed on a Western Isles road.

The man was initially taken to hospital in Stornoway for treatment following the smash near Tarbert on Harris.

But when his condition deteriorated, the biker was transferred to Glasgow's Southern General Hospital by air ambulance.

On Tuesday, a spokesman for Police Scotland described the biker's condition as 'critical but stable'.

Two new homes for local village

ARGYLL Community Housing Association (ACHA) has started work on two three-bedroom homes in Tayvallich.

The funding for the development has come from the Scottish government, ACHA and Argyll and Bute council.

The development will double ACHA's provision in the village. Lochgilphead-based firm, M&K MacLeod, is due to com-

MP says 'no' to welfare reform

WESTERN Isles SNP MP Angus MacNeil voted against the Tories' welfare reform bill as it went through its second reading in parliament this week.

DISCOVER THE HEBRIDES THIS AUGUST

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Rum

A COMMUNITY-RUN campsite on Rum has been named as one of the top places to camp in Britain. In poll by the Independent newspaper, Kinloch village campsite on the islands took number four in the best six from across the UK. The report said: 'One of the best parts of camping is being close to nature, and this site puts you at the heart of it. The community-run site on the shores of Loch Scresort, on the isle of Rum, makes up for in views what it lacks in luxury. It is just a 10 minute walk from Kinloch castle and it also has views of the hilly mainland.'

Harris

LOCALS and visitors to Harris have the opportunity to learn more about the island and its nature as part of a new walking event. The North Harris trust holds guided tours of Hushinish to explore the area's unique flora, in particular the abundant machair and enjoy the view. There will also be an opportunity to learn about the history of the adjacent island of Scarp. The 1.5 mile walk leaves from Hushinish car park at 1pm on Tuesdays.

Plockton

THERE were four inches of rain in Plockton in June. The warmest day 17.6°C and the coldest was 5.7°C. This is five degrees colder than the hottest day last year. May and June in the village have been the coldest for around 40 years, with many plants not growing.

Ardnamurchan



SPECIAL: the British beetle is rarely found in Scotland. Photograph by Jon Haylett

A KEEN photographer from Kilchoan snapped this beetle, a rare find in Scotland, while on a day out to Sanna. The *Cryptocephalus aureolus* is widespread in southern parts of Britain. Jon Haylett spotted the insect while on a walk in the area. He said: 'The beauty doesn't have a common name which suggested straight away that our chance encounter at Sanna had yielded something slightly special.'



DONATION: Rob Gilford, general manager of the Queens Hotel, Oban, presents a bottle full of customers' loose change, amounting to more than £100, to Anne May, representing Friends of Oban hospice.



Top comedian makes Coll debut

A NATIONALLY acclaimed comedian is visiting Coll for a performance of her one woman show next week. Josie Long, above, was officially the best-reviewed comedy aged 14, winning the Edinburgh Festival last year and will

Coll

perform her show on Monday July 27 at An Cridhe. She began performing stand-up comedy aged 14, winning the BBC new comedy award at 17.

Described on her website as a writer and comedian, Josie tries to make her shows friendly and silly, but also uses important themes such as politics and social justice in her performances. Over 18s only. For more information visit anacidhe.com

Aberfeldy

PERTSHIRE and Angus provincial Mòd was held recently. Mull Gaelic Choir won the Westcroft trophy, overall winners competition 62, choral four-part harmony and the Janet McIntyre memorial cup for highest marks in music. Results: Westcroft Trophy for four-part choral: 1 Mull Gaelic Choir; 2 Aberfeldy and District Gaelic Choir; 3 Stirling Gaelic Choir. May Mitchell and Frances Matheson Cuach for Puirt-a-beul: 1 Stirling Gaelic Choir; 2 Aberfeldy and District Gaelic Choir; 3 Dundee Gaelic Music Association. Mull choir member, Donna Dugdale, won the Kennedy Fraser trophy for singing the a Kennedy Fraser song with piano accompaniment, and the Crieff Bowling Club trophy for singing a traditional song.



ON SONG: from left: May Brown, conductor Aberfeldy and District Gaelic choir who won the Helen T MacMillan Cuach Clachmhor for highest Gaelic marks, Mary Stewart, Aberfeldy's Gaelic tutor, the Lady Provost of Perth and Kinross, who presented the prizes, Jane McQueen, conductor of Stirling Gaelic choir who won the ladies choral competition, and Elizabeth Jack, conductor of the Mull Gaelic Choir, with their trophies.

Islanders' war efforts recognised

CONTRIBUTIONS to the First World War by the people of the isle of Lewis were recognised with a reception in the Scottish parliament. Last year the islanders, led by local history group, Comunn Eachdraidh Nis, held a number of events commemorating the war and the roles played by the people of Lewis. A book, *Dol Fodha na Grèine* (The Going Down of the Sun), was also written in both Gaelic and English and published by Stornoway-based, Acair, depicting first-hand experiences and letters home during the war. So successful were the commemorations, that a reception at the Scottish parliament was held last week, showing powerful images of the year's events, attended



Left to right: Iain Macleod, singer Joan Morrison, guest speaker, Matthew MacIver, An Storlann manager, Donald W Morrison, Comunn Eachdraidh Nis chairwoman, Annie MacSween, Angus MacDonald MSP and Acair manager, Agnes Rennie at the Scottish Parliament reception

by MSPs and representatives Angus MacDonald, MSP from war commemoration for Falkirk East, grew up on Lewis and hosted the event.

He said: 'The reception was just fantastic. It was an emotional and poignant commemoration both of the book and the servicemen who passed away in the Great War. A lot of people seemed to appreciate the event and the fact that it was held in the Scottish parliament. It's the parliament of the people of Lewis as much as anywhere else. It was very poignant and personal for me.' Acair manager, Agnes Rennie, added: 'You could have heard a pin drop. It was very, very moving. Someone said afterwards how amazing it was to hear Gaelic singing in the parliament. For me, it was recognition for an outstanding commemoration programme developed by one community.'

MORVERN
lines

Gleann Dubh - The Black Glen

EVERY Highland parish has a spot with a tale or two to tell. In Morvern it is the Black Glen, or Gleann Dubh to give it its old Gaelic name. The chief point of interest is the lead mine between Crosben and Achagavel. The Lurga mine was opened about 1730 by Sir Alexander Murray of Stanhope who, a few years before, developed the extensive and well-known Strontian mines. He gathered a number of shareholders together and between them they formed the 'Morvern Company' which leased the mineral rights from the Duke of Argyll, the local landowner. Both must have had great faith in the extent of the ore deposit because they agreed an annual rent of almost £42 which today would amount to £146,000, based on the income value. According to an account written in 1733 by Lieutenant Bruce for the famous General Wade, the Morvern Company was responsible for building a large store and pier, as well as a manager's house, smelter and a malt still for the miners at Liddesdale on the shores of Loch Sunart. To reach the Lurga mines, a narrow road was built along the side of the glen to allow pack ponies to carry tools and equipment in and, later, to remove the ore in panniers. Many of the miners, it seems, came from the Leadhills and Wanlockhead areas, but there were others from further south as local tradition has it that a cairn near the foot of the Lurga Burn marks the grave of several English miners who died from suffocation when one of the tunnels collapsed. The Lurga mines were worked intermittently until about the mid-1800s when they were finally abandoned probably on account of the high cost of getting the ore out and the lack of suitable pumps to keep the shafts dry.



STILL STANDING: Crosben House in the Black Glen

One of the houses at Lurga became a shepherd's cottage and was last occupied by a Donald Cameron, better known as 'Donald Lurga' whose family still live in Morvern. The Camerons came originally from Sanna in Ardnarmurchan to Laga near Glenborrodale from where they were evicted before settling in Morvern. When Donald Cameron died in the early 1900s, his remains were carried over the hill to Loch Sunart. From there they were rowed across to Resipole and shouldered over the foothills of Ben Resipole to Achannellan by Loch Shiel. Here another boat took the coffin to the ancient burying ground of Eilean Fhianain where Donald was laid with his ancestors - a distance of 13 miles over hill, loch and burn. The shepherd's cottage at Lurga provided a welcome refuge for many walkers taking the shortcut to and from Strontian until around 1910 when it was deliberately set on fire by an Irish vagrant who roamed around the district at the time. In the old days, before cattle sales were established at Salen and Strontian, surplus sheep, cattle and ponies from Mull and Morvern passed through the Black Glen on their way to the famous trysts at Falkirk and Dumbarton. Clachaig, between Lurga and Achagavel, was a rendezvous for local drovers before they started their long journey south. Here a market used to be held and, for the convenience of everyone who attended, a pub was established for a few days a year. Traces of it and the foundations of several tents are still to be seen. Not far above Lurga there is a hill called in Gaelic, 'Leac na Saighde' - the Ledge of the Arrows - where a battle took place in 1596 between the MacIans of Ardnarmurchan and the Camerons of Lochiel. It came about through the murder of John, ninth Chief of MacIain, by his uncle, Angus Mor. Young John was engaged to a daughter of Lochiel. Realising that his family would be disinherited if the marriage took place, Angus killed his nephew at the head of Kentra Bay. Hearing of his intended son-in-law's death, Cameron of Lochiel pursued the culprit until they came face-to-face on Leac na Saighde. Apparently it was a bright summer's morning. In order to see better, Angus Mor put his hand to his forehead to lift the visor on his helmet and to wipe the perspiration from his brow. Noticing this, one of the Cameron followers, Ewen MacLachlan of Coruanan, let fly an arrow which such accuracy that it pinned Angus Mor's hand to his head and he fell to the ground. His remains were buried at Kiel, Lochaline, under a massive stone which is still pointed out. Crosben, more correctly Corrospine, meaning a crossing-point, is reached by a once fine metalled track from Acharn. At one time there were eight or nine houses at Crosben supporting 12 inhabitants. Today only one house, built in 1881 of poured concrete, remains. The well-known Henry family, who came into Morvern in the 19th century with the sheep, lived here. They were followed by Dr Frank Hollick, senior fellow of St John's College, Cambridge, and his family, who used it as a holiday retreat and dispensed fine Highland hospitality whenever they were in residence.

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SUCCESS: Arisaig primary sevens won a Highland-wide competition

Arisaig primary school pupils on to a winner with two new phone apps

ARISAIG primary school pupils toughed out the competition to win a Highlands and Islands enterprise competition. The Lochaber youngsters came top of almost 30 schools from across the region by designing mobile phone apps. Arisaig primary seven boys created the winning Paddle App, which shows water sports available in the Highlands. The girls group also entered an app about dancing. Sarah Winnington, chairwoman of the Road to the Isles marketing group, was impressed.

When announcing the winner, she said: 'I am delighted to present the prizes. It is lovely to see the pupils designing an idea to promote tourism in our area.' Martin Jones, headteacher at Arisaig primary, added: 'I am proud of all 12 pupils who took part. They have shown real focus and enthusiasm as well as spending a lot of their own time after school to research ideas and translate them into finished products. The pupils have embraced the opportunity and I am sure they will use the skills they've learned in their senior school careers and beyond.'

Killin



LONG TREK: Leanne McDonald in Killin on her way to Edinburgh to raise awareness and money for research into grass sickness in horses. Leanne was also at the Royal Highland Show where there was a stand to raise cash. For more information visit www.grassickness.org.uk/ recovery/candyfloss-walks-all-over-grass-sick

Hotel faces shut-down as owner stripped of licence

EMMA CRICHTON
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A HOTEL in Lochaber could be closed for up to six months as the owner had his alcohol licence suspended after being found drunk in charge of the hotel bar on numerous occasions.

Police even found Graham McMenemy slumped in a store room of the Ben View hotel in Strontian, while residents were left waiting for a meal last month, causing 'serious concerns' about public safety and fire risks.

Highland council's licensing board held a special meeting on Tuesday and members agreed to suspend McMenemy's personal licence for six months. The hotel still holds a premises licence, but without its personal counterpart, the owner can't sell alcohol.

The only way the Ben View can continue to trade is if McMenemy finds a manager with a personal licence within

six weeks. If not, the hotel must remain closed for the duration of the six month suspension.

A report provided to the licence review meeting, which McMenemy chose not to attend, outlined times police had carried out checks at Ben View and found the owner, who also runs holiday cottages in Strontian, 'heavily intoxicated', 'staggering' and 'slurring his words' with residents present.

The statement by chief inspector, Mairi MacInnes, said of the first inspection on May 16 this year: 'Graham McMenemy was traced to the hallways between the lounge and the public bar where he was speaking to patrons.

'He was wearing his chef's attire, he was staggering and holding on to the walls to prevent him from falling over. Mr McMenemy was slurring his words and claimed to be sober, however it was evident he was heavily intoxicated. He was advised to go to his bed and leave a member of his staff in

charge which he refused to do.' On another three inspections in May and June, McMenemy was found to be drunk, including at a menu relaunch night attended by 35 customers.

The issue reached a peak when a police officer attended on June 24 and couldn't find any members of staff, but found two hotel residents waiting on a meal.

A report on the incident said: 'On carrying out a further check of the premises Constable Swift located Graham McMenemy slumped behind the door of a storeroom, apparently unconscious through drink. Constable Swift was unable to rouse Mr McMenemy who was slurring his words and unable to stand unaided.'

As no other staff members were working, the hotel had to be closed for the night and the customers relocated to new accommodation.

Inspector MacInnes said McMenemy was 'incapable of looking after himself, let alone ensuring the safety of the public.'

She continued: 'Graham McMenemy was so drunk he could barely stand. He was seen to be wearing his chef's attire. This causes serious concerns for the safety and fire risk of patrons, staff and the licensee himself in the fact he may attempt to use kitchen equipment.'

Ian Cockburn, chairman of Highland council's licensing board, heard there had been further incidents since the report was submitted. He imposed a six month suspension, effective immediately.

He said: 'He will no longer be able to use the premises licence without a personal licence. If he can't find a licence holding manager within the six weeks he will have to shut the hotel.'

Mr McMenemy was unavailable for comment.

Court shame of holiday pair jailed for three nights

A COUPLE'S weekend visit to the Highlands didn't quite go as planned when they ended up spending three nights in jail.

Lauren Alexander, 30, and Darren McCabe, 37, appeared at Fort William sheriff court on Monday after they were arrested for being drunk and disorderly on Friday afternoon.

The couple were travelling from their home in Bridgend, near Falkirk, to Skye in a minibus with a group of friends when they began arguing over a lost phone. But the crowd soon got sick of the drunken pair's rowing and kicked them out of the bus, leaving them stranded

on the A87, close to Fort Augustus. Alexander and McCabe were arrested and spent the weekend in a cell, instead of their planned trip camping at Fairy Braes on the island.

Sheriff Richard Davidson admonished the couple on Monday morning, but asked if they could be trusted to travel home together without arguing.

He added: 'The course of true love did not run particularly smoothly this weekend but I'm not entirely sure why the police had to become involved. For your stupidity you spent a weekend in custody and you're now admonished.'



All smiles for Caol gala day

CAOL GALA DAY: Gala queen, Morgan Bisset, middle, with attendants, Erica Peden, left, and Erica MacKay. For more on Saturday's fun-filled event at Caol community centre, see page 10

Hartson's Heroes return to tackle Ben

FORMER old firm footballer John Hartson will walk up Ben Nevis for the fifth time this weekend, with more than 50 supporters - dubbed 'Hartson's Heroes'.

The 40-year-old, and wife, Sarah, from Spean Bridge, are taking part in the BraveHart Challenge to mark the sixth anniversary of John's battle with testicular cancer and raise funds for his charity, the John Hartson foundation.

The ex-Celtic star said last year would be his final time on the summit of the Ben, but enthusiasm from his supporters persuaded him to return to add to the thousands of pounds he has already raised through the annual challenge. This year's walk will take place on Saturday (July 25).

Mr Hartson, who also played for Arsenal, West Ham and Wales, said: 'The BraveHart Ben Nevis challenge has

become one of our flagship events.

'Although I said last year would be the last time I went up the Ben, the feedback from all those fantastic supporters who came along persuaded me that we should come back again this year.

'I'd like to thank everyone for coming and look forward to a great weekend raising funds and awareness of testicular cancer.'



BURNT OUT: Smoke can still be seen in the ruins of the house

Families are 'devastated' by fire at Skyfall location

POLICE are investigating a fire that destroyed an ancient family home on the banks of Loch Etive, famous for being a location in the last James Bond film, Skyfall, writes Louise Glen.

Alltchaorunn, near Dalness in Glen Etive, was 'burnt to the ground' by the fire last Saturday and highlighted by the popular Facebook page, 'Glen Etive the dirty truth'.

The individuals who started the blaze have been called 'scumbags and mindless morons' by people on the social media site for

destroying the last of a few traditional houses in the rural areas of Glen Etive.

The house is believed to have been used by the Earls of Breadalbane in the 18th and 19th centuries for family holidays at the remote location four miles from the nearest main road.

The house and surrounding bothies were home to various families who are now scattered throughout the world. They were alerted to the fire by Facebook.

Concerns over the loss of their heritage by the destruction of the

building were outlined by Toni Kelly Fleeton, of Tasmania, she said: 'How devastating. I am hoping that it is the two-storey house next door to the little white cottage. I'd like to know which one was on fire as I am coming over to visit in September and have planned a visit to the property to see the birthplace of my great-grandfather.'

If anyone was in the area at the time, Saturday July 15, and noticed anything suspicious, please call 101 and speak to Police Scotland.



HIGH NOTES: Popular band, Cherry Grove, en route to the Tìre Music Festival, delighted the audience at the Tàynnuilt ceilidh last Thursday with a lively and rousing programme of music

TIMESLINE

Rescue team back in action again

LOCHABER mountain rescue team was called out again on Tuesday to rescue injured women.

The two casualties were located and rescued on the Ben track and within 100 metres of each other. The team called in the assistance of a helicopter to move the women because of strong winds. This comes after the team reported this has been the busiest first half of a year ever.

The Lochaber deployment figures stand at 79 for this year. One member of the search and rescue dog association (SARDA) spent Tuesday searching for missing hill walkers, Tom Brown and Eric Cyl on Coire Eoghainn.

Mr Brown has been missing since July and Mr Cyl has been missing since May. They have not yet been found.

Village man races to make proposal

A BALLACHULISH man fell to one knee at the finishing line of the Snowdon International race last weekend to propose to his partner.

Bryan Johnson, 39, and Linda MacEwan, 47, both members of Lochaber athletic club, ran the 10-mile Snowdon International race in North Wales together.

They crossed the line after one hour, 58 minutes and 31 seconds, when Mr Johnson promptly popped the question.

Miss MacEwan answered 'yes', to the delight of the large crowd.

Handyman, Mr Johnson, said he had chosen the moment because it was exactly four years ago to the weekend that he and his accountant girlfriend met.

He said: 'It just seemed right.'

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- Universal Credit*

In addition, children aged two or over who are (or have been at any point since turning two) looked after by a local council, the subject of a kinship care or guardianship order are eligible.

*This applies to children who have turned two on or after 1st March 2015.

The income thresholds for Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit can vary annually.

For more info visit earlylearningandchildcare.scot ask your health visitor or contact your local council.



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SOMETIMES people need extra help. The unexpected happens, or disability or illness strikes. And, as loved ones inevitably grow older, a bit of assistance is often needed.
 Asking for help is the first step, and easy to do with a wide selection of products and services available locally.
 Seniors often need assistance with day-to-day chores, home maintenance or routines. They take medications on a schedule. Dementia is especially troubling to deal with. Even when adult children are nearby to provide assistance, busy lives make it nearly impossible to keep up. Trained professional services and home carers are available to do this - allowing the elderly to stay in their own homes and adult children to get the professional assistance they need in caring for their loved

ones - whether on a semi-regular basis or 24 hours a day.
 Physically or mentally disabled children and adults can benefit from professional home care as well. Experienced carers can not only assist at home, they can take clients on outings and help them pursue their interests, whether it's bird watching or music sessions.
 Carer's Week was celebrated in Scotland last month. This is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, to highlight the challenges carers face and to recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK.
 "This annual week is our call to action to urge individuals, organisations and service providers to wake up to the needs of carers and do their bit," said Carers Scotland's Director, Simon Hodgson.

'Across Scotland 657,000 - one in eight people - are caring for a loved one. Without help and assistance at the right time, carers can find themselves facing financial hardship, health problems, emotional stress and relationship breakdown.'
 Successful relationships are hard work. But sometimes even hard work isn't enough, when there are changes within the family, addiction issues, death or financial crisis. Counselling allows family members or couples to talk about their feelings and problems with a trained, neutral professional in a confidential environment. Counsellors can help people deal with negative thoughts and situations and help heal family rifts, so there is no need to suffer.
 The statistics on domestic violence are sobering. A domestic violence

incident is recorded every 10 minutes in Scotland. At least one in five women in Scotland will experience domestic abuse, and one in three teenage girls suffer an unwanted sexual act. These things are nothing to be ashamed about or keep hidden.
 Local organisations are there to listen and provide solutions, whether a victim needs to get safely out of a situation immediately or counselling for emotional trauma.
 There doesn't have to be an emergency situation for a person to reach out. Clinical depression is a medical condition, not just feeling blue, and can be treated as such. Or sometimes life gets overwhelming and people just need someone to talk to. Whatever the case, suffering in silence is not the answer. One phone call can be the first step to a happy, healthy life.

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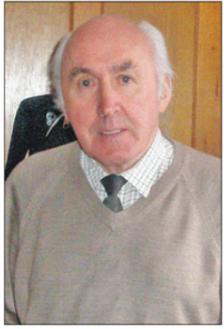
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LONG SERVICE: Plockton community council stalwart, Charlie MacRae, is to step down after 40 years

Stalwart calls it a day after decades

A COMMUNITY council stalwart is stepping down from his role as chairman after more than a quarter of a century.

Charlie MacRae has been a member of Plockton and district community council since its inception 40 years ago and took on the role of chairman 26 years ago, but has decided it is time for a new lease of life.

The 77-year-old is also involved with Plockton hall committee, the Lochalsh branch of British Legion Scotland, Skye and Lochalsh sports council and a local poppy convener.

He said: 'It's kept me going and I've enjoyed it, but it's time for someone new. I'm still involved with all of my other activities.'

But there are concerns for the future of the community council as four members - vice chairman, Joy MacKenna, long-serving secretary, Gill James, and members, George Glasgow and June Sanderson, - will stand down at the elections in November.

Mr MacRae added: 'I hope they can find more people to take over. Gill was a great secretary for 26 years, so she'll be a big loss and young people don't seem as keen to take over.'

Tourism booking system saves cash

BUSINESS owners in Fort William have saved £20,000 through a local tourism booking system, a marketing group has said.

Providers of the not-for-profit Fort William accommodation marketing group (FWAMG) said hotel and bed and breakfast owners in the town have saved thousands in the two years since the website's launch due to cheaper commission fees than international companies. The group was set up in 2013 and since then has taken direct bookings for its 25 members.

Andy Keen, chairman of FWAMG said: 'It felt like a bit of a David and Goliath situation going up against these industry giants. The first bookings came in quite quickly, though and after that, it just began to grow and grow.'

'Why should this money go to multi-national corporations when it can remain in the Lochaber economy? Too many local accommodation providers are paying a fortune every month in commission when it could stay in their pocket.'

Rural school facing rapid drop in number of pupils

AMANDA CRAWFORD
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A RURAL Lochaber school that has defied closure twice before is facing its lowest number of pupils for more than a decade.

According to Highland council's predicted rolls, Roy Bridge primary school will see 20 pupils return for 2015/16, but locals say there are just 11 expected to return.

The school's pupil numbers have been dropping in recent years and it waved seven pupils off to high school at

the beginning of the summer. However, neighbouring school, Spean Bridge primary, is set to have 106 pupils return for the new term in August.

Roy Bridge school was faced with closure in 2006, but after community campaigns to keep it open, Highland council backtracked on the plan.

Then in 2009 - when there were 29 pupils attending the school - it faced closure, but with the support of Scottish Rural Schools Network (SRSN), parents and community groups again campaigned against this successfully.

John Fortheringham, chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry community council, said: 'We would not encourage the closure of Roy Bridge primary school and would support parents in the community if such proposals were raised.'

'There has been an influx of youngsters to the area, so it was hoped that school numbers would increase year on year.'

With Spean Bridge primary school having a nursery, Mr Fortheringham believes this has had an impact on the school roll at Roy Bridge decreasing

over the years. He said: 'The nursery has impacted from what I can gather.'

'When parents send their children to nursery, it is often the case that they settle there and it is easier for them to continue to go to school there.'

'The low numbers may be a blip and there may be more children in the future, but time will tell. I hope that Roy Bridge continues.'

There is just one teacher at Roy Bridge and four at its larger counterpart, Spean Bridge. The schools share a cluster headteacher who

travels the three miles between the villages.

As the Oban Times went to press, the chairman of the parent council, David Dignan, was unavailable for comment.

A spokeswoman from Highland council said there are no plans to close Roy Bridge school, despite the rapidly dropping school roll.

The spokeswoman added: 'Any decision to close a school is a political one, made by elected members following a period of consultation with the community, stakeholders and the Scottish government.'



PROUD: members of Fort William's town team and community council at the award ceremony

Town team's pride over Fort community award

A COMMUNITY group received an award for the 'uplifting' changes it has made to the town. Fort William town team (FWTT) became the first group in the town to receive the citizen of the year award. During a ceremony last Monday, the award was given to members of the accolade's creators, Fort William community council (FWCC). On behalf of FWCC chairman, Neil Clarke, said: 'The group

has uplifted the town with hanging baskets, by painting chairs and planting near the bypass. We thought it was particularly deserving of the award this year.'

A FWTT spokesperson said: 'Thank you to everyone who helped us achieve our award, supported us along the way, unanimously decided to give it to the town team and came to celebrate with us. We could not be more proud.'

Man scared family in the early hours of the morning

A MAN who scared a family in the early hours of the morning has been given community service.

James Reade, 33, began knocking on the window of a house on Union road in Fort William at 2am on December 27 last year, disturbing a man, wife and child at the property.

Reade declined the householders' offers of help, but did not leave the premises when asked to. He became more aggressive after he asked the householder for a cigarette and was refused, even calling him explicit names. The householder then phoned the police but not before Reade began brandishing a rock outside the property.

He is thought to have dropped the object before the arrival of police on the scene.

On Monday, Fort William sheriff court heard that Reade had consumed so much alcohol prior to the incident that he passed out in a garden nearby and when he woke up he 'did not know if he was in Fort William or Glasgow'.

Reade, formerly from Lochaber, now lives in Glenurquhart road in Inverness where he is studying at college and lives with his partner.

Sheriff Richard Davidson said: 'To do this to complete strangers is just nasty. They would have been alarmed and it is worse that you were in possession of a rock.'

Reade was ordered to carry out 60 hours of community service in Inverness to allow him to continue with his education.

Transport in the spotlight

CONSULTATION into transport in Uist and Barra has moved up a gear.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has asked for public opinion on what services should be available on the islands and locals can give their opinions at two events next month.

The first will be at Castlebay school, Barra, on Thursday August 13 from 2.30pm until

7pm with the second at Sgoil Lionacleit, Benbecula, on Saturday August 15 from 11am until 3pm.

Councillor Angus Campbell, chairman of the partnership, said: 'The Uist and Barra public transport project is using a completely new approach to the way services are commissioned. I strongly urge people to come along.'

Disused Acharacle home given new lease of life



CO-OPERATION: an empty home in Acharacle has been renovated to provide accommodation for a local family

A DISUSED property in Acharacle has been given a new lease of life and will soon become a family home.

The community-owned house, Druim Garbh, was empty for six years, but thanks to help from the Nationwide Foundation and the Highlands small communities housing trust (HSCHT), the Acharacle community company was able to renovate the building to rent to a local family.

Ronnie MacRae, chief executive of HSCHT, said he was 'delighted' to see the completed project. He added: 'The key feature to the success

of the project has been the superb co-operation with the community and the wider partnership of those involved.'

'This project has brought together a welcome and innovative funding stream from the Nationwide Foundation and our well-established contacts with the Acharacle community, resulting in a desirable home being available to rent for people in Acharacle.'

A spokesman from the Acharacle community company said: 'We are delighted to see the renovation work at the bungalow completed to such a high standard and very

pleased to be offering this accommodation back into the community for low cost rental.'

'Many thanks to the Highland Small Community Housing Trust for all their help and support in making this happen.'

Not only will the rural Lochaber village benefit from affordable accommodation, the economy has also been given a boost through the scheme as a local construction firm, S&K MacDonald homes, was used and HSCHT insisted a new apprenticeship for a local teenager was created as part of the renovation.

Kenneth MacDonald, owner of S&K MacDonald homes, said taking on 16-year-old Colin Cameron was an important part of the project: 'We're not a huge firm but taking another apprentice is entirely positive. Getting new blood in lifts everyone's spirits, and local people appreciate the effort we put in with youngsters.'

'It's also important because we need to build a local base of skilled tradesmen so that we can tackle jobs on the west coast without the costs of having to bring in people from hours away. We're training a workforce for the future.'

Lifeline village road to be fixed as part of £300,000 upgrade

A CRUMBLING single-track road connecting a rural community to the rest of Lochaber, is to be repaired as part of a £300,000 upgrade.

The economy of Polloch is reliant on forestry, but timber lorries were banned from the road connecting the village to Glenfinnan last year as the road fell into disrepair.

But funding has now been provided by the Scottish government and Highland council to improve the stretch, including the bridge over Polloch river.

Dr Ben Lennon, head of Forestry Commission Scotland's Lochaber team, said: 'Polloch is a very small

community and the single-track road in and out is a lifeline that everyone relies on.'

'Forestry is also an important element of the local economy, so the damaged surface and its being barred to timber lorries was a bit of a double whammy.'

'This partnership project is a fantastic boost for the community because it will provide residents with a high quality road that will serve them well for years to come.'

'But it also means that around 300,000 tonnes of land-locked timber can be taken to market over the next 30 years.'

Allan Henderson, Highland councillor for Caol and Mallaig, welcomed the announcement: 'This productive partnership approach means that a badly damaged road can be repaired and enhanced and can carry on to serve the local community for many years to come,' he said.

'Good team work has been very effective.'

'I am particularly pleased as much of the existing road materials as possible is going to be used in the reshaping before the overlay work is done.'

'This cuts down on material and haulage costs and also is good news for reducing our carbon footprint.'

Tick removal tool is 'a great idea'

HIGHLAND council is offering a free tick removal tool and information leaflet to prevent lyme disease from bites.

The small spider-like creatures feed on blood and will bite humans if they make it onto skin. They can often be picked up in long grass or from domestic pets and can cause the bacterial infection.

Bob Murdoch, a Highland council environmental health officer, said: 'This is a widespread issue across the country and we should all take simple precautions like avoiding walking through long grass with bare legs or arms in the tick season of May to September. Tuck trousers into socks and inspect yourself when you get home. If you haven't already got a tick tool, this is a great idea and something we should all have handy in the car, wallet or handbag.'

For a free tick removal tool and information leaflet send a stamped and addressed envelope to Tooled up for tick time, Environmental Health, Community Services, The Highland Council, Town House, High Street, Inverness, IV1 1JJ.

Sheriff appalled at man's behaviour

A MAN who smashed a glass door in front of an elderly woman has been told his behaviour was 'appalling'.

Sean McCuish, of 4 Banavie Road, Caol, appeared at Fort William sheriff court on Tuesday.

The 24-year-old pleaded guilty at a previous hearing to verbally abusing and behaving aggressively towards a 71-year-old at his home.

The court heard how McCuish

threw his mobile phone on the kitchen floor before walking through to the lounge and smashing the glass door, during the incident on the evening of November 26 last year.

Defence solicitor, Hamish Melrose, said: 'He knows that he acted in a way that was uncalled for. He is also taking active steps to move on from the incident.'

Mr Melrose also told how following

the incident McCuish has begun to address his 'anger issues'.

Sheriff Richard Davidson said: 'This is the first occasion that this man has had anger management issues, but I am keen to get to the bottom of what has caused this appalling behaviour.'

The sheriff requested a background report on McCuish ahead of his sentencing scheduled for September 15.

TIMESLINE

Glencoe Inn fire shuts restaurant

THE RESTAURANT of the Glencoe inn is closed after a fire broke out in the kitchen last week.

Fire crews arrived at the scene last Wednesday morning to find the blaze in the Gathering restaurant had already been put out, but had to return shortly after as the fire, thought to have started under the cooker, ignited again.

The restaurant area remains closed, but a spokesman for the Glencoe inn said a full menu is available from the bar.

Tributes paid to former councillor

TRIBUTES have been paid to a former Western Isles councillor who passed away at the weekend aged 68.

Donald Macdonald was elected to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar in 1990 and served Scalpay, Bays and Harris East until 2007.

Speaking after his death on Sunday, comhairle convener Norman MacDonald said: 'Donald was a good man who cared and worked for his community tirelessly. He was a very active participant in all of the comhairle's processes and served as vice chairman of transportation, chair of contract services and chair of the commercial operations board. Donald was a key driver of the Scalpay bridge project and many other beneficial works for his community. Our thoughts go out to his family and friends at this very sad time.'

Car crash results in closure of A87

FOUR people were involved in a road traffic collision at Dornie on Tuesday.

Only one vehicle was involved in the incident on the A87 and the four occupants are not thought to have sustained life-threatening injuries.

The road, which leads to the Skye bridge, was closed from around 2.30pm until almost 5pm.



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Return of Caol gala day after a decade

DRESSED TO IMPRESS: Gala queen Morgan Bisset, middle, with her attendants Eva MacKay, right, and Erica Peden 21_f30gala03



HUNDREDS turned out for the first Caol gala day for a decade, despite wind and rain forcing Saturday's event indoors. Resurrecting the once-popular gala day has been a mission of Caol community council since it was reformed last summer and their efforts paid off in the village's packed community centre at the weekend. There was something for every-

one including a rodeo sheep, bouncy castle, tug of war, and bottle stalls. The event kicked off with the presentation of Caol's gala queen, Morgan Bisset and gala chieftain, James Russell. Kirsty Kyle, treasurer of Caol community council, said: 'We were delighted with the turnout and the dance at night was really busy as well. We have had really good feedback, everyone's raving about it so thanks to everyone who helped make it a success.'

Two-year-old Thea Thompson had a day out with the family 11_f30gala13



CHIEFTAIN: Caol resident James Russell was named chieftain of the event 21_f30gala04



Kayden McDonald, 20months 11_f30gala11



An audience gathered to see the crowning of the queen and to watch sport demonstrations 11_f30gala15



THRILLS: Millie Nixon, Jenna MacLean and Cara Henderson enjoyed the fairground rides 21_f30gala06



June Watson, of Caol community council, had a go on the rodeo 11_f30gala18



Arturs Ludborzs, 13, lasted longer than June on the rodeo sheep 11_f30gala19



Fergus Stewart, two, had fun in the ball pit with other children 11_f30gala17



Highland dancers wowed crowds of people 11_f30gala14



POPPING IN: Ian Blackford, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber (left), paid a visit to Caol with his office manager, Steven Brown (right), for a chat with community council vice chairman, Steven Young, and volunteer, Karin McKay 21_f30gala07



Lochaber Phoenix boxing club performed a demonstration at the gala day. Left, club official, Steve Docherty, and boxer, Mark Gillespie 21_f30gala10



Karen Grant of Fort William hosted her own stall selling hand-made jewellery 11_f30gala20



Donnie Corbett receives the David McCook good citizen award for voluntary work in Caol. He was presented with the award by Mr McCook's wife, Angie McCook (middle), his daughter, Becky McCook, and her sons, Josh (left) and Marc McCook 21_f30gala09



Cassie Paterson, Mavis Valentine and Poppy Valentine were fundraising for Kelly's Klimb at the gala day 11_f30gala21



FANCY DRESS: Jay McCormack (left), his sister, Samara McCormack and their cousin, Alex McCormack, looking forward to the gala day 21_f30gala01



Jennah Hutton, Kerry Mackenzie and Dana Mackay on the Juice Plus stall trying to promote healthy living to families 11_f30gala12

Men admit assaulting teenagers

TWO MEN have admitted assaulting three teenagers, including placing one in a headlock and covering another's head with bubblewrap.

Reece MacIsaac, of 8 Birch Road, Caol, and Dejan Watson of 4 Inverloch Court, pleaded guilty to assaulting the 14-year-old boys in December last year.

But the two 18-year-olds will not learn their fate until September, as sheriff Richard Davidson called for background reports before sentencing.

Fort William sheriff court heard on Monday that the pair chased the three boys down the town's Kennedy Road on the evening of December 2 last year, after the children had thrown mud and stones at MacIsaac's mother's home. Watson placed a sheet of bubblewrap over one boy's head while MacIsaac punched one before putting another in a headlock, compressing his throat, and forcing him to the ground.

He then pulled him off the ground, put him in another headlock and pulled him across the road. Defending solicitors, Hamish Melrose and Stephen Kennedy, said it had been an attempt to 'warn off' the teens. Sheriff Davidson said he understood there had been a 'level of provocation' but said this did not justify the assaults.

He added: 'You have to understand you can't take the law into your own hands especially with people under the age of 16, although you're not much older yourselves.'

Sentencing was deferred until September 13 for background reports.

Pensioner brands cemetery fence a gross waste of cash

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A PENSIONER has criticised Highland council for spending money on a fence around a rural Lochaber cemetery as it only covers half of the graveyard.

Tony Dobson called the work to keep out wild animals 'a gross waste of money' as the enclosure only surrounds one side of the Strontian cemetery.

The local authority said the fence was built to keep out goats from a nearby farm, but local people report there have been



UNDER FIRE: new fencing on the stone wall only protects half of the graveyard

no goats in the area for months. Strontian resident Mr Dobson said: 'This expensive work has been completed at a time when councils are strapped for cash and hard-pressed to meet their every day commitments. I find it outrageous that the goats which have been the problem are now no longer around and haven't been since before the work started. It's a gross waste of money.'

A spokeswoman for Highland council said she was unable to find out how much the work had cost and the fence would also prevent wild deer from entering

the cemetery. She said: 'The fencing works at the cemetery have just been completed and will be of benefit at keeping livestock out of the cemetery at present and into the future.'

'Part of the reason for installing the fencing was also to help deter wild deer that are evident in the area from easy access to the cemetery.'

But Mr Dobson branded this 'nonsense' as only half of the graveyard is protected: 'There is no fencing on two sides of the cemetery so deer and the likes still have good access. It's absolute nonsense.'

Police files

A FOUR figure sum of cash was stolen from the Nisa store in Glencoe village, along with a quantity of alcohol, sometime between 12pm and 4pm on Saturday July 18.

Two men were allegedly attacked while walking alongside the A82, just north of Fort Augustus. They reported men stopping a vehicle and attacking them at around 3am on Saturday July 18. One of the men, in his 20s, sustained a serious facial injury.

Sometime between 6pm and 6.45pm on Tuesday July 14 a watch was stolen from Lochaber leisure centre changing rooms.

At around 3.15pm on Friday July 10, a man was seen stealing food from the Stable restaurant in Fort William.

Sometime between 1pm on Friday July 10 and 4.15pm on Monday July 13, the window of a car was damaged at Dalness, Glen Etive.

A holiday cottage in North Laggan was broken into between 12pm on Sunday July 12 and 3pm the following day.

Anyone with any information about these incidents should contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously via 0800 555111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Shellfish alert as toxin levels rise

HIGH levels of naturally occurring toxins have been found in shellfish on west coast islands.

Warning notices have been placed at the affected areas and Highland and Western Isles councils are advising shellfish from these waters are not eaten. Lochs Sligachan, Ainort, Eishort and Slapping on Skye have all been found to have raised toxin levels, along with east Loch Ollay in South Uist.

Home improvement project a winner

A HOME improvement project that reached more than 1,000 homes across the Highlands has won an award.

The Home Energy Efficiency Project - Area Based (HEEP-ABS) fitted fuel poverty stricken households, including some in Lochaber, with cavity wall insulation and/or external wall insulation.

Highland council delivered the scheme in partnership with E-ON energy solutions.

HEEP-ABS won an accolade for project of the year at the National Green Deal and ECO Awards ceremony recently in Manchester.

The £7.4million energy saving project has saved more than 63,000 tonnes of carbon, employed around 98 people and has secured a £4.9 million contribution in ECO funding from the Scottish government.



Highland council energy officers with HEEP-ABS and E-ON energy solutions colleagues and comedian Rory Bremner, right, at the award ceremony. Photograph by Jason Mitchell

New phone app a lifesaver says MSP

A HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP has urged people to download phone software which could save lives.

Rhoda Grant said the Crowdsav app uses the phone's location to find the nearest defibrillator in case of a health emergency.

She said: 'Having this app downloaded on your phone could help you to save a life.'

'It will provide crucial information as to where the nearest defibrillator is. The app also provides a CPR tryout mode guide which is really good for anyone who hasn't been trained or needs a refresher.'

'Don't wait until the need arises to download the app. Download it today as every second is vital in an emergency and knowing where to get immediate help could save someone's life.'

Community spirit wins the day as Morvern games rise to the occasion



Sisters, Ailsa and Morvern Jackson, joined in the fun at the games, proving you're never too old to have your face painted!



GALE force winds, torrential rain, floods, muddy roads and last minute cancellations didn't hamper the community spirit for Morvern games at the weekend.

Games day at Knock park, Lochaline, got off to a poor start on Saturday when the marquee collapsed due to strong winds, but a helpful group of volunteers arrived early to prepare the field for festivities.

However, by early afternoon there were clear skies with a mild breeze to keep the midges at bay.

Local teenager, Cameron Bolton, did well winning all the events he competed in including the Morvern mile race.

The Morvern games are part of gala week with seven days of activities including a popular regatta held on Sunday.

Games chieftain, Riona Whyte, praised her fellow com-

mittee members, Janette Mowat and Gemma Ryan in her opening speech on Saturday.

She said: 'This is a community event run by the community for the community and Janette and Gemma have worked extremely hard to ensure a week-long event full of activities for all ages. They do, however, need support and I hope the post-games and gala week meeting will be well attended to ensure the future of this unique event.'

She added: 'The committee would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with games day and everyone who supported the competitors. We're looking forward to the rest of the week, whatever the weather.'

The fun-filled week will close with a children's crab-catching competition this Sunday from noon, followed by a scavenger hunt and ladies rounders match.



Winners of the tug of war, the Tigers



Morvern games chieftain, Riona Whyte



Isla and Flora Robertson won Sunday's raft race on 'Nessie'



Games committee members, Gemma Ryan, left, and Janette Mowat, try their hand at deal or no deal



Archie Kennedy



The field setting off on the Morvern mile

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We in the West Highlands must appear to the average visitor impervious to the extremes of weather. There can be no doubt that centuries of being blasted and buffeted by gales and drenched to the bone by incessant, unrelenting rain does equip the West Highlander with an impressive resilience and stoicism in the face of adversity.

It also engenders a real sense of community and solidarity. There can be no better example of this than the marvellous way the people of Tiree opened their hearts and their doors to the hundreds of festival-goers who

had to abandon the island's music festival on Friday to seek shelter from the driving wind and rain.

That sense of togetherness permeates the West Highlands as people on the mainland rallied to the cause with Tesco and Argos donating camping equipment, Argyll and Bute council opening up its buildings on the island and, as usual, the emergency services going above and beyond the call of duty.

The following day the show did go on and was an outstanding success. We may not be able to tame the weather, but we don't let it get the better of us.



Days gone by - Lovat shinty club, 'grand slam' winners 1952/53

Bowmore reader, Jimmy Hanlon, submitted this week's flashback photograph. It features Lovat shinty club members during their 1952-53 season when they won the 'grand slam' winning all competitions entered at senior and junior levels. They were the first shinty club to achieve this feat. Digital versions of flashback photos for The Oban Times can be sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk or prints sent in to Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped addressed envelope.

Nowhere for town's young people to go

Sir,
The article concerning young people misusing the new seating area in Oban has caused me some concern. Whilst I am by no means condoning their behaviour, I am particularly upset people are calling for police action. It would surely be best to identify the underlying issue by approaching the youngsters themselves. These children obviously have nowhere else to play. It's hard to expect youngsters to treat the town with pride when we seem to be mostly ignore their needs. The new seating area was so expensive; I'm sure instead the council could have built some facilities for youngsters.

It's a real shame for the younger generation here that they are not our priority.

An understanding elderly resident, by email.

Ensure maintenance plan is in place

Sir,
Congratulations to Argyll and Bute Council on the multi-thousand pound development in Stafford Street, Oban.

However, can I offer a word of advice to councillor McCuish and fellow members. Make sure responsibility for future maintenance is well documented, not like the lower

part of the road linking Dalrigh to Breadalbane Street. It is part of the parcel of land bought by Oban town council from Dunollie estate to build the terrace known as Dalrigh.

The road is now a mess with potholes, some of which are pretty major. The road carries all the services and is the only vehicular access. Repeated requests for repair work bring the response that the road is private. Since when?

My car recently had to have two front wheel springs replaced. I do not drive long distances any more. My total mileage last year, as recorded on the MOT certificate, was less than 2,000 miles. The culprit has to be the Dalrigh potholes.

My late wife often said that ambulances should not have to cope with road surfaces like that. Unfortunately she had to undergo that very journey a few weeks ago. It was a bumpy ride.

We, here in Dalrigh, are not in the public eye.

Perhaps we don't matter. If I appear to be frustrated and angry it is because I am.

Duncan Johnston, Dalrigh, Oban.

Academics have killed the Gaelic language

Sir,
So, Bord na Gaidhlig is now not being steered by a Gaelic speaker.

What a farce! I also agree with the sentiments of Dr Meek of Tiree who originally set up the 'bord'.

However, I also need to emphasise that in my book, Gaelic is on the slippery road to extinction. And no amount of money, propaganda or any body will now save it.

If Gaelic is not alive in our villages and communities, it certainly will not be kept going by media alone, otherwise it will be a mongrel type of language, and even now I witness its abuse by people who are paid to use it.

Our main problem is that we are 40 years late and 1,000 children short, to carry the language into the future. I recently heard more than £1m was spent via ULPAN and the academics as usual telling us 'it was money well spent'. Pull the other one guys.

Abuse of money, abuse of grammar and abuses of all kinds seem the norm these days and they are not even remotely aware of the trash they are spouting and wasting on resources.

In the past, everyone concerned kept the language live, real, and free by speaking it daily in our villages. No charge whatsoever.

For love of language and each other is the only way to go. It is never going to be the same again and I'm happy I won't be around to witness its extinction.

The academics have killed my dearly loved language over the past 30 years. Bring back 'Da cheathradh's fonn'. It was minimal - but it was quality and a verse to ponder over.

'Gach builleadh gu fodair'
S'gun Bhuilleadh gu siol
Aonghas Eoghainn Mhoir, Gearradh - na Monadh, Uibhist - a Deas.

Glasgow Letter

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

Tiree Music Festival - what a weekend

Tiree Music Festival is over for another year and, after the weather stopped misbehaving on the first day, what a weekend it was.

I wrote last week of the Glasgow connection of many of the bands in the line-up. It is also worth mentioning that a lot of the festival is actually organised from Glasgow. Skerryvore's Daniel Gillespie is a director and is based in Glasgow.

When I asked him whether it was difficult to organise the festival on his home island from so far away, he told me that fellow director, Stuart MacLennan, is based on Tiree.

'It's a really good combination,' said Daniel. 'Stuart is like the community director while I'm more of the artistic director. Stuart gets a good feel for the community in Tiree but, for me, being based in Glasgow is so important because it is an amazing hub for music although I'd like to get home to Tiree more often.'

Daniel and his brother, Martin, took the well-trodden path to Glasgow years ago to find opportunities for the band. Skerryvore has since gone from strength to strength, this year celebrating its tenth anniversary with the massive Decade event in Oban in

May. But it was the Tiree summers of years gone by, and gigs in the local bars, that inspired Daniel to start the festival back home.

'We used to play gigs in The Lodge when we first started the band and those summers on Tiree were amazing,' said Daniel. 'After living in Glasgow for years, I really wanted to bring something back to the island.'

As well as Glasgow being a great hub for music today, Daniel also mentioned the connection between Tiree and Glasgow - making particular reference to the Tiree Association which has existed in the city for more than 100 years.

That connection is still going strong; and, with Tiree Music Festival inspiring a whole new generation of Tiree musicians, the musical connection is bound to remain for many years to come.

Castle the answer says Glasgow taxi driver

THIS is not the first, and it won't be the last, time I have written in this column about the uniquely endearing sense of humour of the famous Glasgow taxi drivers.

A friend of mine got into a black cab last week and engaged the driver in conversation with the tried-and-

tested opening line: 'So, are you busy?'

The driver replied with an unabating rant of disgruntlement. He was disastrously quiet over the summer period because students had gone home and the city had lost a large section of its taxi-using population - with not enough summer tourists in the city to replace it.

As he lamented the situation, his voice grew louder and louder.

In his spontaneous fit of rage, he brought up the time old Glasgow prejudice against Scotland's capital city. 'The problem,' he surmised 'is that there's nae tourists in this town cause a' the tourists go tae Edinburgh!'

By now regretting that he had started conversing in the first place, my friend asked the gentleman what he thought Glasgow could do about that.

The driver's optimistic response was: 'Well, we'll just have to build a castle, won't we?'

Pub scene

Clark Bar: Thursday July 23: Session. Friday July 24: Eriskay Lilt. Saturday July 25: Scott Harvey Sunday July 26: Scott Harvey. Islay Inn: Saturday July 25: Twist of Fate. Wednesday July 29: quiz night.



The crowd went wild for the acts at Tiree Festival.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
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CHAN eil cothrom conaltraidh eadar buill a' chinne-daonna na dhearbhadh air aonta, agus sith seach còmhstri, ach tha cinnt nach tachair sin as aonais co-luadair subsainteach.

Thug an aithne sin goireasan conaltraidh air adhart thar nam bliadhnaichean, agus mar a bhiodh dùil tha companaidhean air feadh an t-saoghail air deagh chosnadh fhaotainn bhon leasachadh.

'S e seirbheis fòn-làimhe pàirt chudromach den t-siostam conaltraidh seo ach tha cosgaisean mòra ann a bhith a' stèidheachadh cruinn gus na seirbheisean a ghùllain.

Tuigear mar sin carson a bhiodh an riaghaltas ag àiseanta nuair a tha iad ag aontachadh cheadann-libhrigidh leis na companaidhean fa leth. Ach tha làn-sheirbheis doirbh a choileanadh mar a tha fios aig mòran nach fhaigh seirbheisean craolaidh ann an sgìrean air iomallan na dùthcha.

Annas a' bhitheantas 's e bhios na companaidhean a tha a' libhrigeadh sheirbheisean fòn-làimhe a' gealltainn ach gun fritheil iad feumalachdan suas ri 's dòcha naochad sa h-ochd sa cheud de

mhòr-shluagh Bhreatainn. Ged a tha seo a' coimhead gealltanach dhan riaghaltas, tha e a' ciallachadh ann an da-rìribh gum faod na companaidhean sin cuimseachadh sa mhòr-chuid air na sgìrean as còmhnrada agus sam bheil an slugh as lionmhòra gus an cuid aonta ceadachd a choileanadh.

Tha sin a' fàgail gun tèid aig companaidhean libhrigidh air pàrtean mòra de leithid na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean, far am bheil beanntan nan dùbhlann air seirbheisean agus far am bheil an slugh nas tearca, fhàgail gun chrìnn agus gun sheirbheis!

Chan e a-mhàin gum bheil seo tàmailteach dhan fheadhainn a tha a' fuireach agus a' suibhail anns na sgìrean sin ach chanadh mòran gur ann an sgìrean iomallach as cudromaiche seirbheisean conaltraidh den t-seòrsa seo.

Tha rannsachadh le Ofcom, aig am bheil uallach riaghaidh air seirbheisean conaltraidh, air nochdadh gum bheil an t-seirbheis fòn-làimhe as miosa annam Breatann ann an Alba is an ceathramh pàirt den dùthaich gun sheirbheis idir.

Chan iongnadh ged a bhiodh gnìomhachasan feadh Alba ag iarraidh leasachadh gun dàil,

agus cha mhotha na sin a tha e na annas gum bheil gnìomhachas nam fonaichean-làimhe fhèin a' cumail a-mach gum bheil seo gu bhith cho cosgail is gum feum iad taic airgid poblach airson a choileanadh.

Ach aig àm far am bheil saideal a' cur dealbhan bho chùil Pluto, saoil nach biodh e na bu chiallaiche agus nas èifeachdaiche leithid seo de sheirbheisean a libhrigeadh bho shaideal far nach biodh sgìre sam bith air chùil beinne!

RESIDENTS and travellers in the Highlands and Islands will not be surprised by the news from Ofcom that almost a quarter of Scotland has no mobile phone service.

Many would argue that the more remote the area the greater its need of effective communications, but the mobile phone industry inevitably finds it more profitable to concentrate on areas of highest population.

Highland topography is a challenge in all forms of communication and surely at a time when a satellite is photographing the back of Pluto, Highland communications should be provided by satellite.

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
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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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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

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The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and

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- ...round ice cream (5)
- Correctly (6)
- Panda food? (6,6)
- Strut (7)
- Simplicity (4)
- Hierarchy (7,5)
- Not played at home (4,4)
- Summer wear (1-6)
- Mottled (6)
- Hackneyed (5)
- Margarine (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

D	U	L	L	A	R	D	T	O	U	S	E
E	E	P	R	E	A	M	L	E			
I	N	A	P	R	E	C	I	A	B	L	E
G	R	R	N	C	I	T	I	N			
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T	I	H	H	E	I	E					
T	I	N	D	E	R	E	D	U	C	E	D
I	G	N	U	P	A						
D	E	C	A	D	E	N	C	E	L	O	O
T	U										
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G	V	E	E	I	R	E					
S	T	E	A	L	D	E	L	U	D	E	D

Agenda: the people ● the issues ● the back story



The wind in her sails

For over a decade, Christine Metcalfe has been tilting at windmills or, more precisely, wind turbines. She has even addressed the United Nations in Geneva about them. From her rural idyll on the banks of Loch Avich, she talks to **Niall Hickman**

STOP THE SPIN: campaigner Christine Metcalfe is calling for a rigorous health check on the effects of wind turbines on people. She argues that the public has been subjected to a 'greenwash' by the pro-wind farm lobby 15_t30windmet01

IT all started a decade ago with the faint drop of an envelope onto the floor of Christine Metcalfe's house, overlooking the stunning surrounds of Loch Avich.

Inside the letter was a notice that plans were afoot to build dozens of gigantic wind turbines overlooking the loch, and it was a missive that was to lead Christine from her delightful corner of Argyll, five miles from the village of Kilmelford, all the way to the United Nations in Geneva.

Christine is not a NIMBY (not in my back yard), far from it. She is rightly concerned about the environment in which she, her family and her community live and that has been the driving force behind her campaign.

At the heart of Christine's concern is the issue of wind power. She readily admits that there are many who consider it a natural godsend to our energy requirements as fossil fuels continue to decline.

But she is also promoting the counter argument, that all is not necessarily what it seems with wind power. In her view, there has been an 'appalling greenwash' over the issue, with little or no heed to the damage these hulking 90-metre bladed turbines may inflict on our world.

'The fact is, there is simply no monitoring being done to assess people's health for those who live next to wind turbines, nothing at all. This would not happen if a new wonder drug came on the market. It would go through rigorous clinical trials, but with wind farms, nothing.'

And according to Christine and many others, there is plenty to worry about. She says there is abundant evidence that wind farm developments have led to pollution of surface and ground water around river basins.

How, you may ask? Wind turbines are mostly constructed on areas of unspoilt moss, heather and deep peat, so when construction vehicles churn up the ground - three million trees were felled for the largest wind farm in Scotland at Whitelee, East Renfrewshire - the peat releases excessive carbon which water treatment works cannot deal with.

Also, concrete turbine foundations go down to a depth of nine metres causing fractures which provide an immediate channel for chemical and diesel spills.

Christine said: 'There is clear proof that water quality has fallen consistently below regulatory standards and yet there is no monitoring of this by the authorities whose job is to monitor the public's health. Wind turbines are also known to emit low frequency infrasound and those living or working near to them are exposed, as are wildlife.'

'The most serious consequences of Vibro Acoustic Disease (VAD)

are chronic neurological problems, epilepsy and suicide.

'Infrasound is unquestionably harmful to humans and other life forms and can kill.

'The checks and balances should have been done before the growth of wind farms was permitted, but they simply have not been.'

This may all sound like a load of hot air, bearing in mind wind energy has been identified by the green lobby as the answer to all our prayers.

But Christine is convinced there is little or no policing of the health issues surrounding wind energy and developers have run roughshod over an industry which they claim is now worth £3billion and employs over 5,500.

Mother-of-two Christine questions the veracity of those figures - 'There is no evidence I've seen to support it' - but what next in her campaign?

'We continue to raise our objections and show that the public's health is being seriously jeopardised.'

She is wonderfully modest about her role, which took her all the way to the UN in Geneva three years ago.

Christine said: 'Nervous? I was terrified. Thankfully, I had two "outriders" either side of me. One was an absolute expert in the field of wind energy and the other an eminent QC.'

'We were grilled for four hours by the Economic Commission for Europe and the lovely thing about it was, this was democracy very much in action. For an ordinary person like me to be able to speak at the UN at no cost is pure democracy, albeit fairly terrifying.'

It is all a world away from her earlier years when she worked as a secretary in a civil defence office in Surrey, a kindergarten teacher and factory wages clerk.

'I was not very good at maths so I was always terribly worried I had got the wages wrong, but somehow I muddled through.'

As a young girl she and her parents - her father was an RAF officer - emigrated to New Zealand, a bold move which did not work out.

'We left in 1959 and 12 weeks on a ship through the Panama canal took us to New Zealand via Tahiti and the Pitcairn Islands. What an adventure it was. These places are now well-trodden, but back then they were still very raw, very natural. But my mother couldn't settle in New Zealand and we ended up returning to Surrey.'

'Eventually, 20 years ago, my husband, Peter, took semi-retirement and we moved to Argyll, where he had family connections through his father's side. We both have the hermit gene, which is why we chose a lovely location with our nearest neighbours about a mile away.'

The couple ran a bird sanctuary for many years, taking in injured feathered friends and nursing them back to health. That has now finished as Christine continues her work on wind power, which will make her plenty of friends and enemies.

'Landowners who want wind turbines are responsible for the stewardship of the environment and it is incumbent upon them to be aware of those responsibilities to safeguard what is a very delicate relationship between ourselves and

our world. They should also do so not for profit.

'What concerns me is that whole swathes of Argyll from Loch Awe to Ford are being targeted for wind farms and so little is being done to protect the public's health.'

The Scottish government has a target of generating 100 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020, the majority from wind power, but Christine says it is time to stop the spin, and start looking at the facts.



BATTLEFRONT: a mosaic marking Christine's visit to the UN 15_t30windmet04



UNSPOILT: the view of Loch Avich from the Christine's house 15_t30windmet02

Sun shines on Taynuilt gam

A MINUTE'S silence was held for a stalwart of the Highland Games world at Taynuilt Highland Games on Saturday.

Leslie Servant of Taynuilt, who sadly passed away late last year, was remembered for his passion and enthusiasm for the games which he was involved with for more than 40 years.

The Leslie Servant Memorial Cup was introduced this year for the best junior heavyweight and was handed out at 2pm after a lone piper played Westering Home, Leslie's favourite song. Louie MacFarlane of

Inverawe won the trophy after a friendly, but hard-fought battle with the second place competitor, Calum MacDonald of Taynuilt.

The rain made way for sunshine and there was a large crowd with many stalls, games and activities surrounding the field, promoting a wide variety of charities and organisations from within the local area.

Chieftain of the games, Gavin Eisler, a former engineer at Cruachan Power Station for 30 years, said: 'I'm very proud to have been asked to be chieftain. My mum would have been proud too.'

The local heavy events were cancelled this year due to the weather the night before and morning of the games, as a way to preserve the condition of the pitch.

However, the open heavy events went ahead as planned. The only local taking part was Murdo Masterson, 16, from Dunbeg, and he held his own. In the heavy hammer event, he was on track to receive his first victory after throwing a personal best of 95ft, but was beaten on one of the last throws of the event by the eventual overall open heavyweight winner, Bruce Robb, from Dunfermline.

Darrach Urquhart Kyle, of Lochalsh, with the Angiolin Cup for Best Overall Piping, the Games Shield for the Open Piping March and The Brander Lodge Hotel Trophy for Piobaireachd.



Murdo Masterson, 16, from Dunbeg, throws the 16lb shot.



Eilidh Munro is a study of concentration in the sword dance.



Games committee and stewards, with the chieftain of the games, Gavin Eisler, far right, arrive at the games park.



Stewart Inglis of Dunbeg.



The effort was too much for some of the older gentlemen.



The ladies team manage to win one pull against the men in the tug of war competition.



Eric MacIntyre from the Clan MacIntyre presents the clan MacIntyre shield to Iona Keyes, Kerrera, (left) and runner-up Joy Barrow, Oban, for their efforts in Gaelic.



Andrew Servant presents the Leslie Servant Memorial Trophy to local athlete, Louie MacFarlane, Inverawe, for his efforts in Gaelic for 40 years.



Games chieftain, Gavin Eisler, welcomes the crowd and declares the event open.



Fierce competition in the under 10s race.



Blue skies appearing above Taynuilt Highland Games made it a pleasant afternoon.

es



Harry Mobey, Taynuilt, on his way to winning the 100 yards race. Harry was also awarded the Inglis Memorial Cup for best local athlete.

Neil Elliot, Helensburgh, tossing the caber.

Jacob Cameron, from Hamilton, with his medal for winning the under 10s 60m sprint.



Gregor MacDonald with the Lodge St Modan's Trophy.



A welcome sight: dancers back on the boards after the heavy rain in the morning forced them into the village hall.

Lisa McGillivray of Dunoon was a winner in the under 12 Highland dancing.

Right: Murdo Masterson, 16, in the heavy hammer event. Murdo was on track to win the event after throwing a personal best of 95ft, 6ft further than he has thrown before, but was beaten on the last round of throws.



Above: Neil Elliot, Helensburgh, fires the weight away in the heavy competition.

Bruce Robb, Dunfermline, fires away the shot-put in the heavy events at Taynuilt Highland Games.

Right: Bruce also won the Games Trophy for the best heavy athlete on the day.

Taynuilt Highland Games Results 2015

Open Heavy

- Light Hammer**
1 B. Robb
2 G. Hagan
3 S. Anderson
4 N. Elliott

Shot

- 1 B. Robb
2 G. Hagan
3 S. Anderson
4 N. Elliott

28lb Weight for Distance

- 1 B. Robb
2 S. Anderson
3 N. Elliott
4 G. Hagan

Caber

- 1 S. Anderson
2 N. Elliott
3 B. Robb
4 G. Hagan

Nant Stone

- 1 B. Robb
2 G. Hagan
3 S. Anderson
4 N. Elliott

Heavy Hammer

- 1 B. Robb
2 M. Masterton
3 G. Hagan
4 N. Elliott

56lb Weight Over Bar

- 1 G. Hagan & B. Robb
2 S. Anderson
3= G. Hagan & N. Elliott

Overall Heavy Champion

B. Robb

Games Cup for Open Heavy Events

B. Robb

Biggie Cup for Open Caber Tossing

S. Anderson

Junior Local Heavy

Stone

- 1 L. MacFarlane
2 C. MacDonald
3 J. Reid

Welly

- 1 L. MacFarlane
2 C. MacDonald
3 J. Reid

Welly over Bar

- 1 L. MacFarlane
2 C. MacDonald

Caber

- 1 C. MacDonald
2 L. MacFarlane

Bungy

- 1 L. MacFarlane
2 C. MacDonald
3 G. Goldie

Leslie Servant Memorial Cup for Best Local Junior Heavy
L. MacFarlane

Tug-O-War

Taynuilt Games Committee

Track Events Gents: Open

Gents 100yds

- 1 B. Coates
2 S. Inglis
3 S. Mobey

Gents 220yds

- 1 B. Coates
2 S. Inglis
3 N. Clark

1/4 Mile

- 1 B. Coates
2 S. Inglis
3 V. Slagt

1/2 Mile

- 1 B. Coates
2 S. Inglis

1 Mile Gents

- 1 S. Mobey
2 A. Davies

Hill Race - Open

- 1 C. Fraser
2 G. MacDonald
3 A. Barrington

Track Events Gents: Local

Gents 100yds

- 1 H. Mobey
2 E. Hunter
3 B. MacFarlane

Gents 220yds

- 1 H. Mobey
2 B. MacFarlane
3 D. Teape

1/4 Mile

- 1 H. Mobey
2 D. Teape
3 B. MacFarlane

1/2 Mile

- 1 H. Mobey
2 D. Teape
3 B. MacFarlane

Mile

- 1 H. Mobey
2 D. Teape

Hill Race

- 1 A. Houston
2 Andrew Campbell-Gray
3 A. Crawford

Track Events Ladies: Open

Ladies 100yds

- 1 G. Thomson
2
3

220yds

- 1 G. Thomson
2
3

1/4 Mile

- 1 G. Thomson
2
3

1/2 Mile

- 1 G. Thomson
2
3

1 Mile

- 1 Elin Slagt-Tichelman
2 G. Thompson
3 Elke Slagt

Track Events Ladies: Local

Ladies 100yds

- 1 E. Shearer
2 E. MacIntyre

220yds

- 1 E. Shearer
2 E. MacIntyre
3 H. Teape

1/4 Mile

- 1 E. Shearer
2 E. MacIntyre
3 H. Teape

1/2 Mile

- 1 E. Shearer
2 E. MacIntyre
3 H. Teape

Mile

- 1 E. Shearer
2 H. Teape

Cups

Inverawe Cup for Open Athletics: Joint Winners: Joint Winners E. Shearer & H. Mobey

Duncan MacDonald Memorial Cup for Gents 100yds: B. Coates L. Goodfellow

Inglis Memorial Cup for Best Local Athlete: H. Mobey

John Garvie Cup Best Local Junior Athlete: E. Shearer

Piping - Open

March

- 1 Darroch Urquhart
2 Gordon MacLean
3 Jamie Forrester

Strathspey & Reel

- 1 Euan Dewar
2 Darroch Urquhart
3 Jamie Forrester

Piobaireachd

- 1 Darroch Urquhart
2 Euan Dewar
3 Jamie Forrester

Jig

- 1 Darroch Urquhart
2 Jamie Forrester
3 Ruairidh Edwards

Piping Junior - Open

March

- 1 Gregor MacDonald
2 Innes Munro
3 Emma Hill

Strathspey & Reel

- 1 Gregor MacDonald
2 Emma Hill
3 Innes Munro

Best Open Piper

Darroch Urquhart

Best Overall Open Junior
Gregor MacDonald

Piping Cups

Angiolini Cup Best Overall Piping Competitor: Darroch Urquhart

Games Shield for Open Piping - Strathspey & Reel: Euan Dewar

Games Shield Open Piping - March: Darroch Urquhart
Brander Lodge Hotel Trophy - Piobaireachd: Darroch Urquhart

Ardanaisg Hotel Trophy - Best Junior Piper: Gregor McDonald

Arena

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



TIREE

food and drink

As part of the Year of Food and Drink Scotland, the *Oban Times* has teamed up with local businesses to celebrate the wealth of variety, quality and talent in this booming industry. Over the coming months, the paper will be promoting a selection of events, stories, restaurants, pubs and producers from the west coast. Each week, one business from the sector will be the focus of this exciting new column, along with a delicious recipe, so keep an eye out and allow the *Oban Times* to provide a taste of the fantastic food and drink available in the area.

The Year of Food and Drink is a chance to spotlight, celebrate and promote Scotland's natural larder and quality produce to people and visitors.



This week...

Who is it? **Colintraive Hotel**
 What do they do? **Award winning hotel and gastropub with four en-suite rooms**
 Where can I find them? **A 2-minute walk from Colintraive Ferry Terminal on the Kyles of Bute**



The Colintraive Hotel on the Kyles of Bute proffers spectacular views and warm hospitality, along with award-winning cuisine using the best local produce. The menu features local bounty such as Loch Fyne king scallops and Kyles of Bute langoustines, meat from Bute and wines from Argyll. Chef/owner Patricia Watt and her team even grow their own herbs, resulting in a flavoursome, fresh approach to their dishes, whether traditional pub favourites, succulent seafood, hearty meat and game or gourmet light bites. No wonder Colintraive garnered a silver medal for Chef Excellence and a gold award from Visit Scotland. Set in a charming coastal village overlooking one of Argyll's most beautiful views, the Colintraive Hotel offers a full menu dining experience in both their gastro pub and the restaurant. The pub, with a cosy log fire and gorgeous views, is a favourite of locals and visitors alike, and children and pets are welcome. The elegant dining room features sea views and is perfect for special occasions, parties or romantic dinners. Both venues are open for lunch and dinner year round. Patricia and her friendly staff invite everyone to make the beautiful drive down the Kyles of Bute to enjoy lunch or dinner at the Colintraive Hotel. Or why not have a lovely overnight stay in one of their gorgeous bedrooms? Mention this ad to receive two nights lodging for the price of one at the hotel, good from September 2015 through November 2015 (conditions apply).

Colintraive Hotel original recipe Linguini Pescatore

This recipe was passed on to me by my darling Mum Maria. The essential part is the Italian sugo (sauce) for 2 people...
 Chop half a bulb of garlic and fry in olive oil till lightly brown
 add quite a few leaves of fresh basil for a couple of seconds
 add tin of chopped tomatoes
 a good shake of origano
 2 sticks of celery
 one chicken stock cube melted with about half cup of hot water (if you don't have home made stock)
 1 teaspoon of brown sugar
 and a little sweet chilli sauce
 half glass of red wine
 Cook this for at least 45 mins. The longer the better. This is your basic sauce for many dishes. Bolognese, arrabiata etc or even just to have on its own with pasta. For pescatore, gently fry again in olive oil, prawns and any other seafood you like...
 Add a good dose of sauce and a quarter glass of white wine, and par cooked linguini or spaghetti which has been cooled first. Once hot, don't over cook, serve and Bon Appetite.

If you would like your business to feature in our weekly Food & Drink column call us on **01631 568000**

Good day sunshine as revellers enjoy full-on sounds spectacular

AS the words from the famous song from the musical *Annie* go: 'The sun will come out tomorrow.' Despite a full evacuation of the Tiree Music Festival (TMF) site on Friday night (see page five) spirits couldn't be dampened as revellers weathered the storm and enjoyed a full-on, Hebridean hootenanny on Saturday and Sunday. The sun broke through the clouds and spirits were high on Saturday morning, as the multi-award winning festival kicked-off, with a stellar line-up featuring We Banjo 3, Manran and Skerryvore. Set on the white sandbanks of Crossapol beach, the 1700 capacity, family-friendly festival was a huge success, with campers enjoying a mixture of traditional, folk, Gaelic and popular music. Skerryvore's accordion player, Daniel Gillespie, who is also director of TMF, said on Saturday morning: 'The weather has settled and we are ready to kick off day two with double the celebration, after we showed last night how strong community spirit is in the festival and Tiree.' Singer/songwriter J J Gilmour, who played on both Friday and Saturday, said:

'I had the unusual honour of opening and closing the festival on Friday because during my set it was decided we were evacuating. It's my first time here, and it was a great feeling on Saturday waking up and seeing the sun and knowing the rest of the weekend would go ahead. All credit to the organisers, they turned what was almost a tragedy into a fantastic festival.' On Sunday, revellers were treated to a second performance by Skerryvore, as well as Trail West, the Fratellis and Skippinish, who closed the festival in the Big Top Tent. Steven Monro, from Fort William, who was attending the festival for the first time, said it was his best-ever festival experience. 'With the white beach on one side and the sun setting of the other, it really was a great evening. I've been to T in the Park and Rockness, but the setting is nothing like here, it was incredible.' 'The Fratellis playing was good because it gave us some more rocky music, then Skippinish playing, for me, stole the show.'



Skerryvore receive their award from Tiree



The Urban Teucharts entertained the crowd in the Big Top Tent 16_t30urban01



We had th on th 16_t30



Kate Schelley, six, from West Kilbride enjoyed her first festival 16_t30kate01



Lucy McNiven and Rachel Mackinnon, from Islay, who recently played bagpipes at Prince Charles' visit to Ardbeg distillery 16_t30islaygirls01



Aylin and Tom Ziegen travelled from Cologne, Germany to the festival 16_t30german01



The packed Big Top Tent 16_t30wide01



Gentlemen of Few attracted a large crowd at the Cairn Capital Open Air Stage 16_t30gentlemen01



The police - the force, not the band - enjoyed better weather on Saturday and Sunday 16_t30police01

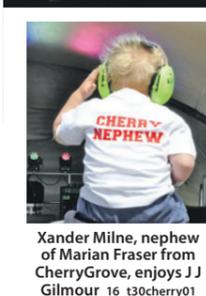
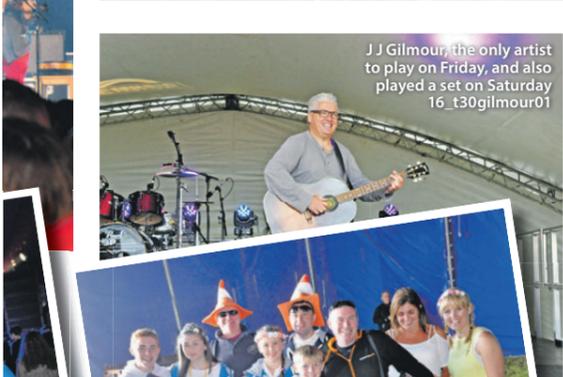


Benbecula reveller, Angus MacDonald, with daughters Annie and Rona 16_t30benbecula01



Gary Innes and Ross Saunders of Manran, who played on Saturday evening 16_t30manran01

MUSIC FESTIVAL PICTURE SPECIAL



Entertainment Guide

Cinema

Oban Phoenix Cinema, community-owned and run
Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com

24 JULY 2015 - 30 JULY 2015

ANT-MAN (12A)
Daily: 13:00, 15:35, 18:10, 20:45

INSIDE OUT (U)
Daily Except Sat, Thu: 15:40, 20:20; Sat: 14:50, 19:30; Thu: 15:40

INSIDE OUT 3D (U)
Daily Except Sat: 13:20, 18:00; Sat: 12:30, 17:10

MINIONS (PG)
Daily: 10:45

MINIONS 3D (PG)
Daily Except Sat, Wed: 11:00

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - ROGUE NATION (TBC)
Thu: 20:20

THE LION KING (U)
Sat: 10:00

FILM SYNOPSIS

ANT-MAN SYNOPSIS
Armed with a super-suit with the astonishing ability to shrink in scale but increase in strength, con-man Scott Lang must embrace his inner hero and help his mentor, Dr. Hank Pym, plan and pull off a heist that will save the world.

MINIONS
Hilarious animated family fun. Minions live to serve, but find themselves working for a continual series of unsuccessful masters, from T. Rex to Napoleon. Without a master to grovel for, the Minions fall into a deep depression. But one minion, Kevin, has a plan; accompanied by his pals Stuart and Bob, Kevin sets forth to find a new evil boss for his brethren to follow.

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - ROGUE NATION
12A - 146mins
Ethan and team take on their most impossible mission yet, eradicating the Syndicate - an international rogue organization as highly skilled as they are, committed to destroying the IMF.

INSIDE OUT
U - 122mins
After a girl moves to a new home, her emotions are plunged into chaos as they compete for control of her mind.

(KIDS CLUB) THE LION KING
U - 85mins
Tricked into thinking that he caused the death of his father, a lion cub flees and abandons his destiny as the future king.

Radio

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THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

MONDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Jim Edge, 1700 Drivetime With Danni Hay, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen, 2200 American Jukebox with Michelle

TUESDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show with Maggie May, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1330 The Quiz with Danni Hay, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey

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

THURSDAY:
0800 Maggie May's Carousel, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with DJ Taz, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY:
0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFH Friday with Jim Lawn

SATURDAY:
0900 Maggie's Swingin' Sixties, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowsher, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

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

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Arena

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

Exhibition paints a picture of local group's success over past 20 years

Back in 1995, a small group of friends – who wanted to have a go at painting and sketching – decided to meet regularly to give mutual support and encouragement to each other with their new hobby.

Fast forward 20 years and the Appin Art Group is still going strong with 77 enthusiastic members, and the latest exhibition of their work is currently on show at Port Appin Village Hall.

With mediums such as acrylic, watercolour, machine embroidery and wood engraving, the exhibition shows the huge variety and styles within the group.

And there is also a special photographic display with members, tutors and the different events the group has been involved with over the past 20 years.

Geoff Fairbairn, deputy chairman, was one of the original few who started the Appin Art Group.

He said: 'It all started when a few of us got together in 1995 including Joan Loro, who was an amateur painter. She was very helpful as the rest of us just started from scratch. We met in each other's houses at first and, when the group grew steadily over the years, we started to use the village hall.'

'We have members who live locally and also from other parts of the country such as Glasgow and East Lothian. They have holiday homes here and take part in workshops

and courses when they can.'

Geoff, who lives in North Shian, added: 'We hold workshops every Monday in Port Appin Village Hall. These will start again on September 21 from 10.30am-4.30pm. There is no formal tuition, but the workshops allow members to work in studio conditions. Everyone interested is welcome to come along – you don't need to have any experience at all.'

'We also run courses throughout the year with different experienced tutors. For instance, the programme for 2015/16 includes painting with felt; rescue remedies; silk painting as well as linocuts and multicolour lino printing. These are held on Saturdays starting on October 24 also from 10.30am-4.30pm. Places are limited on these courses, so anyone interested needs to book.'

'As well as the annual exhibition, we also organise sketching parties during the summer break and in the past have gone on boat trips to some of the islands.'

And visitors to the 20th anniversary exhibition have been very impressed by the high standard and range of work on display.

Donald and Morven Hutchison of Kinlochlaich have visited regularly over the years.

Said Morven: 'We always enjoy it as the work is of such good quality. I rearranged a trip away as I didn't



Above: Fiona Hunter, chair of the Appin Art Group, with just a few of the exhibits on display. Right: 'Mackerel' painted by Gordon Hopkins.



want to miss the start of the exhibition.'

Brian and Glenys Harrison have lived in North Ballachulish for the past 18 years, but are originally from Bronte country in Yorkshire.

'We are from Haworth and decided to move up here when we

retired as we spent many holidays in the area,' said Brian.

'We always come to the exhibition as there is so much on show. I enjoy painting watercolours myself and have exhibited in the past, but I just like to see other people's work now,' he laughed.

Joy Blakeney from Benderloch, has also been a regular visitor to the annual exhibition: 'I just love it,' she said. 'There's such a huge variety both in subject and media. It's a credit to all those involved and shows what talent there is in the area.'

The exhibition in Port Appin Village Hall runs until Saturday. It is open from 10.30am-6pm, today, Thursday, and Friday, and from 10.30am-4pm on Saturday. Admission is free and information on the group's courses and booking forms are also available.

Book commemorates the Great War experiences of islanders

CONTRIBUTIONS to the First World War by the people of the Isle of Lewis were recognised with a reception in the Scottish parliament.

Last year the islanders, led by local history group, Comunn Eachdraidh Nis, held a number of events commemorating the war and the

roles played by the people of Lewis. A book, *Dol Fodha na Grèine* (The Going Down of the Sun), was also written in both Gaelic and English and published by Stornoway-based Acair, depicting first-hand experiences and letters home during the war.

So successful were the commemorations, a reception at the Scottish parliament was held last week, showing powerful images of the year's events, attended by MSPs and representatives from war commemoration charities.

Angus MacDonald, MSP for Falkirk east, grew up on Lewis and hosted the event.

He said: 'The reception was just fantastic. It's an emotional and poignant commemoration both of the book and the servicemen who passed away in the Great War.'

'A lot of people seemed to appreciate the event and the fact that it was held in the Scottish parliament. It's the parliament of the people of Lewis as much as anywhere else. It was very poignant and personal for me.'

Acair manager, Agnes Rennie, added: 'You could have heard a pin drop. It was very, very moving. Somebody said afterwards how amazing it was to hear Gaelic singing in the parliament. It was fascinating.'

'For me, it was recognition for an outstanding commemoration programme developed by one community.'



Pictured left to right at the Scottish parliament reception are Iain Macleod, singer, Joan Morrison, guest speaker, Matthew MacIver, An Storlann manager, Donald W Morrison, Comunn Eachdraidh Nis chairwoman, Annie MacSween, Angus MacDonald MSP and Acair manager, Agnes Rennie

Whisky and chocolate with more than a dash of culture is a treat

One of Scotland's most famous fiction writers once stood Oban up, and is now using free whisky to get back in our good books, writes David McPhee.

Novelist, Alan Bisset, 39, from Falkirk, was meant to perform at Oban library a few years ago, but there was a grand 'muck up'.

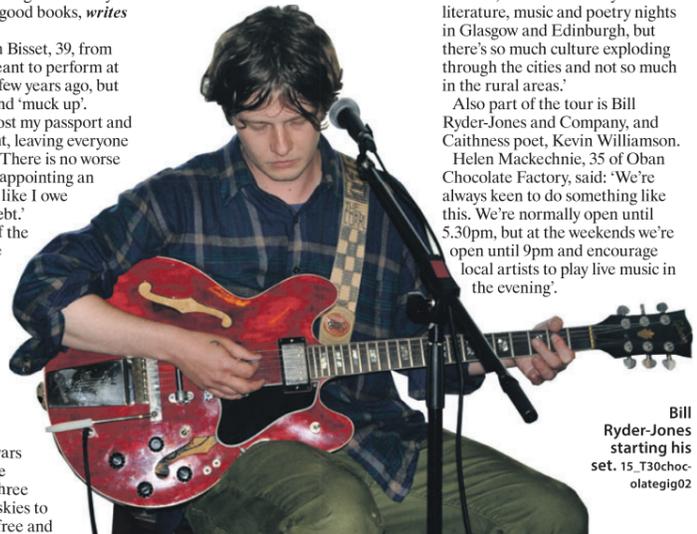
Alan said: 'I lost my passport and missed my flight, leaving everyone waiting for me. There is no worse feeling than disappointing an audience. I feel like I owe Oban a great debt.'

Alan is part of the tour, Anywhere but the Cities, 'a culture feast for minds and bodies' that came to the Oban Chocolate Factory to host a night of music, poetry and prose. Dewars who sponsor the tour provided three single malt whiskies to be handed out free and

Oban Chocolate Factory created a batch of chocolates to complement them.

Michael Pedersen, 30, from Edinburgh, who helped organise the tour, said: 'We usually hold literature, music and poetry nights in Glasgow and Edinburgh, but there's so much culture exploding through the cities and not so much in the rural areas.'

Also part of the tour is Bill Ryder-Jones and Company, and Caithness poet, Kevin Williamson. Helen Mackechnie, 35 of Oban Chocolate Factory, said: 'We're always keen to do something like this. We're normally open until 5.30pm, but at the weekends we're open until 9pm and encourage local artists to play live music in the evening.'



Bill Ryder-Jones starting his set. 15_T30chocolategig02

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We will also have an exhibition on display in the visitor center and tearoom, with new material from last year's show. It has been developed by MECOPP and the Gypsy/Traveller community, offering an insight into these private communities through memories, poetry and photographs, reflecting upon how social exclusion and discrimination impact on well-being, mental health and quality of life.

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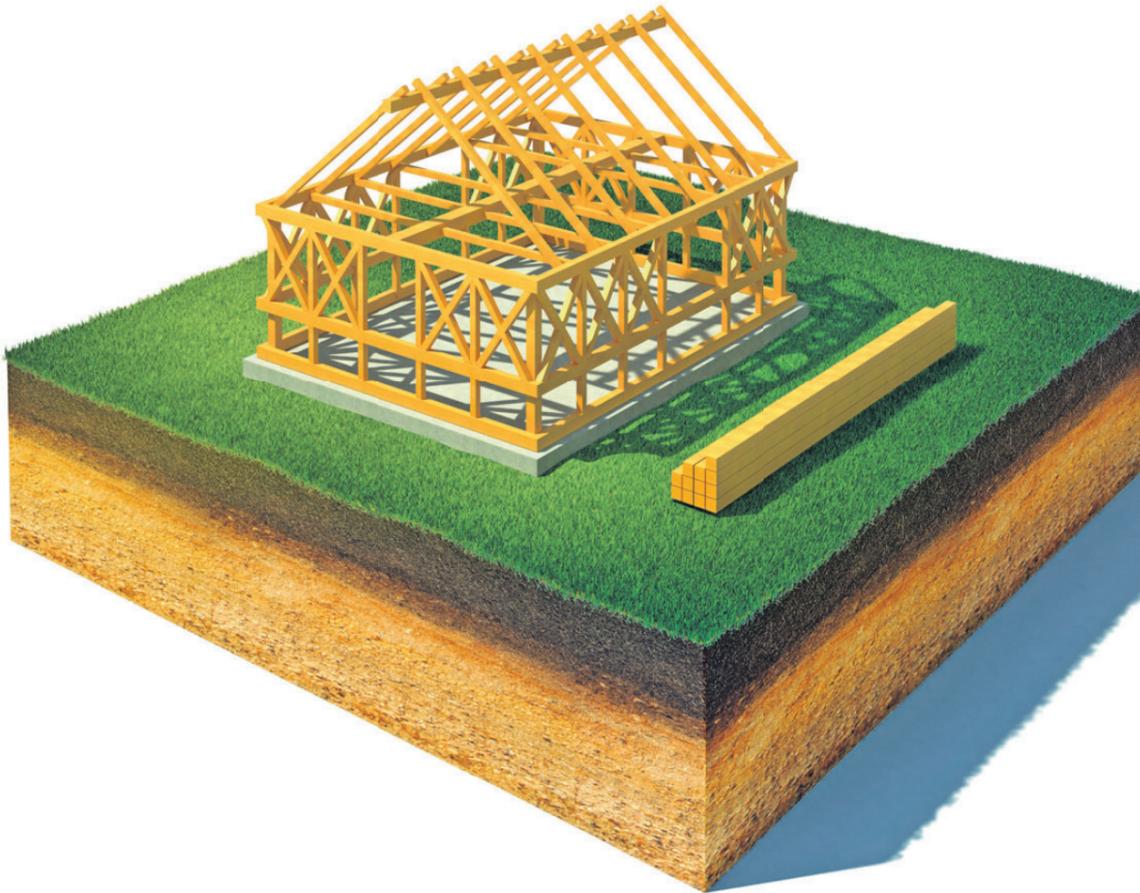
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New Plot New Home



When building your own home, as with buying a home on the open market, you need to be clear from the start what sort of home you need and want, where you want to live and roughly what you can afford to pay.

This includes how much you can pay up-front in cash and how much would need to be borrowed or paid later.

This will help you to identify early on whether your budget is likely to be enough to fund a home that meets your needs or whether you need to consider compromising on certain aspects, such as size, design, location or how much of the building work you will do yourself.

While you probably won't want to make a formal mortgage application before you have identified a plot of land and estimated your build costs, it is important to get financial advice at an early stage to be confident that you will be able to get a big enough mortgage. Even if you don't need a mortgage to help you buy your plot, you should try to be sure that you get a mortgage offer before you commit to buying a plot to avoid any nasty surprises later on.

You will need a specific type of mortgage for a self-build because a self-build mortgage is normally paid in instalments at certain stages during the build process and the lender needs to check progress at these stages to make sure it is satisfied that the work has been carried out before the next instalment of the mortgage is paid out.

Whatever mortgage you choose, you will be required to provide a significant deposit to fund your build. In many cases at the moment, lenders will not provide any mortgage funding until your build reaches the wind and watertight stage - i.e. the main structure of the building is complete and weatherproofed.

Lenders also generally pay for each stage of the build in arrears, i.e. once it is complete.

If you don't have enough savings or other ways of borrowing the money to finance the purchase of the land and the initial stages of the build, it may be possible to get mortgage finance at an earlier stage.

This can either be through a specialised mortgage product which pays instalments in advance or, in some cases, you may be able to agree a form of bridging loan with your current lender to fund the construction phase, which allows you to take a standard mortgage when your home is complete.



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Self-build gives you a good opportunity to build the type of home you want and make sure it suits all of your needs.

However there are, of course, a number of things which may restrict what you can do, such as how much you can afford to spend, restrictions attached to the planning consent for the site and making sure your design complies with building regulation requirements. In addition, you need to consider several key issues at an early stage to make sure any plot you buy meets your needs and to help you budget for your project.

You should make sure that the size of home you choose fits the size of the plot you are looking to buy and bear in mind if you have particular preferences for the size of your garden or you want to avoid your home being overlooked by neighbours.

An architect will be able to give you detailed advice about the type of construction best suited to your needs as each type of method has pros and cons, which depend on the particular site and your own individual requirements.

Self-build websites will also provide information about different build options and their costs. It is worth thinking early on about your requirements in terms of number of rooms or flexibility to change the internal layout of the home in future as this may have an impact on which type of construction method is best for your home.



The main types of houses in Scotland are; timber frame (also known as kit homes) which are the most common method of construction for self-builders.

Brick and block is also a common and well-known construction method for self-build. There is normally an outer wall built with bricks, with an inner wall built of blockwork with a cavity in between which is filled with a thermal insulating material.

Steel-framed buildings are made of a steel frame which panels of various materials can be attached to. The external panels are then coated in render or made weather-tight by other means.

Insulated concrete framework involves the assembly of polystyrene blocks with a hole (cavity) inside. Concrete is poured into the cavity on site. This then makes the structure airtight and very well insulated so it does not need any additional insulation inside the home to meet building regulation requirements. The polystyrene blocks are then clad internally and externally.

There are also a number of other modern methods of construction, particularly environmentally friendly, energy efficient types of building method, which can minimise your home's impact on the environment and reduce fuel bills.

These are usually partly prefabricated off-site and have the advantage of quick assembly on site of the external weatherproofing and structure of the building. With any eco or modern method of construction, it is important to double check that your lender will lend a mortgage for this type of build as lenders are not always willing to lend for construction methods which they may view as more risky if they haven't been used much before.

Once you have worked out what budget you have available, you can find out about plots of land for sale which may be suitable for self-build from a number of sources.

There are several websites which allow you to search for details of plots for sale, although for some of these you need to pay a fee for membership.

Before you buy any plot, you should check whether it has full planning permission or, if not, that the site is zoned for housing by the council; this means that the council's development plan indicates that the land is suitable for use for housing.

A plot may have full planning permission, but this means that you would be required to construct a house which exactly fits the planning approval documents (including the drawings describing a particular design) and you may have to appoint the designer who produced those drawings, as they will probably own the copyright to the drawings. If you wish to build a house that is different in its external appearance from the one approved (except in minor details), you will need to make a new planning application,

but you will at least have a good idea about what it is acceptable to the council on that site.

You should discuss the situation with a planning officer at the relevant council before making any decisions as they will be able to provide information about the requirements for any particular site.

If the plot either has planning permission in principle (formerly referred to as outline planning permission) or does not have planning permission at all, the price may be cheaper, but you should also get in touch with a planning officer at the relevant council to try to find out whether or not you would be likely to get planning permission on the site for the type of home you want to build and to find out about any particular issues (for example if there may be further development on land around the

site). If you wish to buy a plot which does not have full planning permission, the landowner will often agree to an offer which is subject to you securing appropriate planning permission. This allows you to pull out of the sale if your planning application is rejected, so is a sensible option.

You should seek independent legal advice before making an offer for a plot of land (if you don't already have a solicitor, your local Solicitors Property Centre can help you find one or you can ask friends for a recommendation or search in the Yellow Pages).

You should also get a site appraisal done for the plot of land to check how suitable it is for building on and if there are any problems.

For any self-build project, you should get professional advice to help you develop your ideas for the house you want, help you decide which is the best way for you to go about having the house built and prepare detailed drawings and costs.

Unless you have the appropriate qualifications, you will need help from an architect to advise you on and design plans for your home. Your architect will ask you a number of questions about your requirements and the site you have bought or are planning to buy to make sure their design suits your needs, but the Scottish Government's checklist of points to consider will help make sure that you have considered all the possibilities, such as size,

where it is located on the site, particularly in areas such as conservation areas or sites close to listed buildings. In considering whether to grant planning consent, the authority will also need to consider whether the house can be safely and satisfactorily accessed and serviced, and that this does not cause problems for access or amenities for any neighbours' homes.

You should try to get planning permission as early as possible as the process can take some time and you should aim to secure planning permission before you enter into a contract with any building firms in case your planning application is rejected.

The council and local planning officer should also be able to help if you need advice or guidance on completing a planning application.

In addition to planning permission, you will also need to apply for a building warrant before you can start building work on your home.

You need to pay a fee to the council to cover their costs in dealing with your warrant application; the fee is calculated as a proportion of the estimated final value of the proposed work. While planning permission largely focuses on how the external structure of your home will look, to get a building warrant you will need to show that the design of your home (both inside and outside) will meet all the requirements of the latest domestic building regulations.

Once your home is completed, you will need to send a completion certificate to the council

far from other properties or on a hill, there can be problems in connecting sites to the mains water and gas grids in particular and the cost of the connection can be high; therefore if your site is in a remote area, you should check the feasibility of arranging connections before you commit to buying a site.

Where possible, you should arrange for the water mains drainage and electricity supply to be provided for the site as early as possible because the builders will need access to water in particular during the build process and also to electricity at certain stages (although not necessarily for the initial stages).

There are a number of different options for going about having your house built and your architect will be able to advise you of the advantages and disadvantages of each in your particular set of circumstances and the extent to which you wish to be involved in the construction work.

If you are not planning to do much or any of the building work yourself, the simplest route may be to contract the building work to a single building company (which becomes the 'main contractor') and ask them to agree a fixed price for the build, including the cost of them contracting in other tradesmen if they need to in order to certain aspects of the work. This is a very common and traditional



layout and energy efficiency and renewable energy measures.

If there is not already detailed planning permission for your home for the plot of land you are buying, you will need to secure this before you can start building as the planning authority (your local council or national park authority) will need to be satisfied that your plans for your home are in line with the council's development plans and that your home's design will be acceptable in terms of its impact on the surrounding homes and landscape. It is generally harder to obtain consent within designated areas, such as green belts outside cities or flood plains. Where the principle of development is acceptable, the planning authority will still expect careful attention to be paid to the detailed design of the house and

an inspector from the council will visit and check your property. Normally your home must be completed within three years of you receiving your building warrant, although you can apply to extend this deadline (you need to pay an extra fee for this though).

Unless the site is already fully serviced, you will need to arrange for your site to be connected to mains water and sewerage systems and for electricity and (if applicable) gas connections to be provided.

It is helpful for you to check with Scottish Water and power companies early on to make sure you can get connections when you need them. In rural areas, particularly if the site is

approach and your architect will be used to supervising projects using this process.

As an alternative, you may wish to consider appointing separate contractors to carry out the different pieces of work which need to be carried out by different trades.

One traditional form of Scottish building contract that is suitable for this situation is the 'separate trades contract' where the architect takes responsibility for co-ordinating the different trades and managing construction on site. This gives useful additional flexibility to the self-builder where they want to undertake some of the work on site themselves. However, not all architects will have experience of this approach or be willing to use it.

Alternatively, you can choose to do most or all of the self-build work yourself. This saves

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money and gives you greater control over the work, but bear in mind it is hard work so you will need to be able to work on the build full-time and, unless you have the relevant qualifications, there are certain aspects of the work you will be required to get qualified professionals to do (such as electricity and gas work).

It is also important to arrange site insurance for your build project. A number of companies will provide insurance for self-builders.

It is best to make sure it covers you against theft or vandalism of any materials or equipment on the site during the build process. If you will be having a number of tradesmen working on the site, it is also worth ensuring that your insurance covers you for public and employer's liability in case there are any accidents on the site.

A structural warranty insures your home against structural defects for ten years after it has been completed as long as the warranty provider is satisfied that it has been built in accordance with all the necessary standards.

A warranty is not compulsory, but lenders often require you to obtain one as a condition of providing a mortgage and it will also be helpful if you wish to sell your home within ten years of completing it. Warranty providers who offer warranties for self-builders will have more information on insurance policies for self-build projects.



After all is said and done, a new build home is the perfect opportunity to let your creativity loose and design a home just right for you.

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It doesn't end there either, remember that your garden/outdoor space can provide a tranquil setting for relaxation as well as presenting your home's first impression.

While planning permission largely focuses on how the external structure of your home will look, to get a building warrant you will need to show that the design of your home (both inside and outside) will meet all the requirements of the latest domestic building regulations.

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Bidvest Foodservice holds food and drink collaboration event

Bidvest Foodservice, a leading foodservice provider employing 400 people in Scotland, hosted a food and drink event on 10th June at its depot in Newbridge.

Richard Lochhead MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment, and Robin Gourlay of the Scottish Government's Food Policy team were guests on the day.

The theme was 'Collaboration Works' and the event was designed to showcase how companies across Scotland have been working together to develop the availability and distribution of Scottish products. The collaboration has been led by Bidvest Foodservice, which partners both local suppliers such as Cobbs Bakery and large foodservice operators such as CalMac Ferries, as well as working closely with Scotland Food and Drink and Visit Scotland.

John Forteith, Head of Business Development at Bidvest Foodservice Scotland, who hosted the event along with Jon Mack, General Manager Bidvest Foodservice Scotland, explained: 'Bidvest Foodservice is working with Scottish bodies and local suppliers to create collaborative working relationships across the industry, to help drive awareness and promote the development and distribution of local Scottish products. As a leading wholesaler in the UK food industry, we believe we have an integral role to play and we've put in place a dedicated resource to ensure local products can reach a wider customer base. With our new decentralised structure, in which general managers manage each of our regions, bringing decision-making closer to our customers, our Scottish depots are better placed than ever before to support smaller producers and connect them with local customers.'

Speakers from across the industry shared their examples of collaboration and were then given a tour of the facilities at Newbridge, followed by a Scottish buffet which featured several quality local products available through Bidvest Foodservice, ranging from Rannoch Smoked Venison to Red Onion Marmalade from Puffer Foods, hand-made on the historic island of Easdale.

Willie Cameron, Business Development Director of

Highland-based. Cobbs Bakery, attended the event to talk about the development and growth of the bakery in Scotland and the rest of the UK, aided through the companies' partnership with Bidvest Foodservice. Bidvest Foodservice has worked with Cobbs to provide a wider distribution network and extend access to its products. One example he gave was the development of a muffin for CalMac Ferries, which has been made available to a wider customer base through Bidvest Foodservice.

Willie said: 'This was an excellent meeting to illustrate to the Minister the collaboration going on behind the scenes in the food and drink sector in Scotland, beyond just production and supply. The meeting also highlighted the vital role that a food service partner can play in bringing all parties together to both communicate and develop their business for the benefit of all.'

Cathy Craig of CalMac Ferries gave an insight into the scale of CalMac's day-to-day operations and spoke about how they work closely with the communities they serve. This included how CalMac works with Bidvest Foodservice through its regional wholesale division, Forteith Foodservice, to source and promote local Scottish products for their vessels. CalMac was the first ferry operator to achieve the 'Taste our Best' accreditation on all its major vessels, having made food and drink an important part of the customer experience and by continuing to develop its range. The operator serves over 25 Scottish brands and has developed a 'Mariners' menu featuring local sourcing stories.

Cathy commented: 'CalMac is proud to serve Scottish produce on its ferries and work with partners such as Bidvest Foodservice and Cobbs Bakery to showcase Scotland's larder to the 4.6m people who travel with us each year. Becoming the UK's first ferry company to win Visit Scotland's 'Taste our Best' accreditation would not have been possible without the strong working relationships we have built over the years with our partners and suppliers. These partnerships enable innovation and progress and are vital to helping the growth of Scotland's

food and drink industry.'

Janie Neumann, VisitScotland Industry Development Manager, attended the event to demonstrate how they have been working with suppliers to create a foodie experience for visitors to Scotland.

She said: 'Food and drink is an integral part of the tourism experience and it's fantastic, particularly during this Year of Food and Drink, to see the benefits strong collaboration by those in the supply chain can bring to all businesses involved.'

'It was also encouraging to hear how Cobbs, as a food producer, Bidvest as a distributor, and CalMac as a foodservice provider are working together to meet the growing expectation of visitors for quality Scottish food and drink experiences.'

'As the success of "Taste Our Best" - which now boasts almost 700 accredited businesses - has shown, both Scots and visitors to Scotland want produce that is of local origin. The Year of Food and Drink is a chance to celebrate our outstanding natural larder and diverse dining options which make a trip to Scotland so memorable.'

Chief Executive, James Withers, of Scotland Food and Drink, which is working with companies to help small Scottish suppliers find a route to market, commented: 'Bidvest Foodservice impress with their commitment to supplying Scottish produce and their strong regional focus. This is a fantastic case of local sourcing and the business has successfully built strong relationships with suppliers and customers alike.'

'Their approach is invaluable and this form of collaboration is key to the continued growth of the food and drink industry in Scotland. The food and drink offering is inextricably linked to the tourism experience and Bidvest Foodservice's partnership with operators such as CalMac result in a good experience for producers and passengers. This contributes towards Scotland's growing reputation as a Land of Food and Drink and helps achieve the ambitions growth targets for both the tourism and food and drink sectors.'

Following the event, Richard Lochhead MSP, highlighted the importance of Food and Drink to Scotland's economy.

He said: 'Scotland's booming food and drink industry is already worth around £14 billion a year to the Scottish economy, and has smashed its growth targets years ahead of schedule. But I firmly believe we have only scratched the surface of what is possible, and that we can do even better.'

'That is why, in our Year of Food and Drink, I have challenged Scotland Food and Drink to explore options to help everyone involved in the sector reap the benefits of joint working and maximising links to boost growth in the industry. By working more effectively together and building on our strengths, we will be able to seize upon the even greater success that is within our grasp as Scotland journeys towards becoming a Good Food Nation.'

Bidvest Foodservice has been actively promoting its support for Scottish-sourced products and takes part in many showcase events to promote local products and source new ones. The company's Scottish range continues to expand as Bidvest Foodservice works with suppliers to develop local products which meet local demand in Scotland, and to provide these products to a wider customer base through its distribution network.



Richard Lochhead MSP in front of a Bidvest vehicle.

Delegates at the food and drink event



Some of the delegates from Meeting Group 2

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A great day out on Tiree, whatever the weather...

HOPING for better weather than the previous week's music festival on the island, Tiree Show chairman, Iain MacInnes, appears confident.

'We haven't had a wet show day since 1996,' he recalled, 'except one year when it rained in the morning and dried up later.'

The farmer from Ruaig is more concerned, however, that the 2015 summer has so far disappointed. In common with most of the human population, cattle and sheep from around the island have not enjoyed the cool, wet and dull weather. Grass has failed to thrive and nobody is happy with rain on their backs.

'It's been a bit of a struggle getting folk to enter livestock, because they don't feel the animals are looking their best,' said Iain.

'But at least it's the same for everyone entering this show, which is confined to the island of Tiree.'

Iain might be mildly concerned that the standards set by the stockmen might not be reached, but a high quality turnout of stock is nonetheless sure to line up at Tiree Rural Centre tomorrow (Friday July 24), come rain, hail, sunshine or snow.

The farming community, as it always does, rallied round and a good number of entries came forward, with around 40 cattle and 100 sheep entered across commercial and pedigree classes.

Mrs Nancy MacKechnie, Crossapol, will present the prizes to

the winners.

But Tiree Show is about much more than cows and sheep. There will be heavy horse and light pony classes, poultry, a pet show and, of course, the ever-popular home industries and produce sections. Tiree Pipe Band will provide musical entertainment.

But, without doubt, the star attraction at this year's show will be The Clan cycle stunt team, formed four years ago by YouTube sensation, Danny Macaskill, who will bring their daring stunt show to Tiree.

And between stunt shows, any kids who want to hone their skills will be able to ride their bikes with the stunt team - with the chance for two young stars to ride away with their own Clan stunt team T-shirts.

Winding down after the show is never a problem at Tiree, with the show dance at An Talla an annual highlight. This year late night revellers can dance away the evening to the stunning sound of local band, Trail West.

'It's traditionally the biggest event every year on the island, a real community effort', said Iain.

'I would encourage people to come and enjoy the day.'

Thinking a little more about his earlier statement, he concluded: 'I hope the weather's good for this year and I haven't tempted fate...'

Tiree Show will be held on Friday July 24 at Tiree Rural Centre, with the showground opening at 8.30am. Judging starts at 10.30am.



Tiree vet, Patrick Boyd, produced last year's supreme cattle champion.



2014 Clydesdale champion, Major, shown by Mary Flora MacDonald, Roadside.



Exceptional displays in last year's horticultural section.

Tiree Show 2015 - judges

Cattle:
Mr Doug Davidson, Shinsharnie Farm, Huntly

Pure bred sheep:
Mr John McLachlan, Kildalloig, Campbeltown

Cross bred sheep, prime lambs, blackface sheep:
Mr Alastair Aitken, Traprain Farm, Haddington

Poultry:
Mr George Campbell, Tigh na H-aibhne, Taynuilt

Heavy horses:
Mr John McLachlan, 1 Moy Holding, Campbeltown

Light horses and ponies:
Mr John McLachlan, 1 Moy Holding, Campbeltown

Pets:
Mr and Mrs Douglas McRobbie, Pennycross, Killin

Tractors:
To be confirmed

Home industries:
Judges will also judge visitors' sections

Handcrafts:
Mrs Ann Davidson, Shinsharnie Farm, Huntly

Produce:
Mrs Liz Kerr, Heanish, Isle of Tiree

Children's section:
Mrs Morven Campbell, Tigh na H-aibhne, Taynuilt

Horticulture:
Mrs Cath Kennedy, Port na Bhata, Sandaig, Isle of Tiree

Presentation of prizes:
Mrs Nancy MacKechnie, Crossapol, Isle of Tiree

Argyll food project wins grant funding



An Argyll project is among nine successful enterprises to share grants totalling £60,710 from the latest round of Community Food Fund (CFF) applications.

As part of the Scottish Government-funded three year Think Local project, the CFF supports schemes and events around Scotland which encourage people to appreciate and access local produce.

The projects to receive funding have come from all over the country and range from small-scale localised projects to larger national initiatives.

Fresh herbs and vegetables from the Blarbuie Roots initiative, offered for sale at a recent open day.

They include a project to support farm shops and the Scottish Borders Food and Drink Network.

Among the successful applicants was the Lochgilphead-based Blarbuie Roots project, part of the Blarbuie Woodland enterprise, which received £3,500.

This project aims to create a community growing space that will see the use of raised beds and polytunnels to produce salads and other food crops for the benefit of all.

Blarbuie Woodland promotes health improvement initiatives and works with people with poor mental health and those disadvantaged as a result of drugs and/or alcohol addiction. To date, most of this work has centred around the

management of an NHS estate woodland near the Argyll and Bute Hospital, Lochgilphead.

In a recent initiative, however, an area of land that was previously the hospital bowling green has been developed, with grant funding support, into a space for growing food crops.

Food secretary, Richard Lochhead, said: 'It's encouraging that so many communities are working towards getting access to and enjoying the fresh, seasonal nutritious local food and drink we produce here in Scotland.'

'During the Year of Food and Drink, it is particularly essential that people take advantage of our fantastic natural larder in order to achieve our ambition of becoming a Good Food Nation.'

New project targets top performance

An anonymous Scottish cattle and sheep farm will take part in a new Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) project which aims to lift the business' net margin performance from 'average' to 'top 25 per cent'.

The initiative will monitor, over a three-year period, the changes introduced to the management of the farm to boost performance to the level of the top category of performers identified in the Enterprise Costings publication produced each year by QMS.

The identity of the farm will not be revealed in the project, but the lessons learnt along the way will be shared by QMS with the Scottish farming community. The project will be delivered by SAC Consulting, part of SRUC, Scotland's rural college.

Among the areas which will be considered on the cattle side of the average-performing farm selected are: fertility levels (over 10 per cent of cows on the unit are currently barren); losses at calving; numbers reared, health and welfare and bedding costs.

The initial phase of the project will review how the farm compares with QMS Enterprise Costing results for top quartile farms, so that the target areas where improvements are needed can be focused on.

The early data collection phase will review the farm's fertility and calving results and numbers reared over past few years. Forage and soil analysis will be undertaken along with the metabolic profiling of a number of cows and grass growth monitoring will also take place.

Unions promote farm renewables

Following a recent meeting in Birmingham, the UK farming unions are calling upon the UK government and devolved administrations to do all they can to unlock the huge potential contribution of land-based renewables to UK energy security - including solar, wind, mini-hydro, anaerobic digestion and other forms of sustainable bioenergy.

In a joint statement, NFU Scotland, NFU, Ulster Farmers Union and NFU Cymru are calling on politicians to recognise the substantial diversification income opportunity that renewable energy represents in support of profitable agricultural production.

In the run-up to November's international climate talks in Paris, the unions believe that it is vital that governments acknowledge this unique capacity within the agricultural sector for tackling climate change.

To help realise the full potential within the industry, the unions are asking their respective governments to:

- Deliver a transparent and consistent planning framework for new renewable energy installations.
- Make a clear distinction between 'farm wind' and 'wind farms', in order to help our members continue diversifying and supporting their businesses with locally generated renewable electricity.
- Ensure that each and every farm can become a net energy exporter, by finding smart ways to reduce the need for additional network capacity and offering more flexible connection terms.

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Judging Commences 9.30am
Sheep, Cattle, Dog show & Local Crafts, Highland Dancing, James Dylan Stuntworld motor cycle stunt team
Open to public by Pipe Band at 12.30pm
Entry: Adults £ 5.00, Children & Conc £3 Family Concessions.

west coast recruitment



Farms Manager Loch Etive, nr Taynuilt

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland, England and Ireland.

We are currently looking to identify a suitably qualified and highly motivated individual to undertake the role of Farms Manager for our five seawater farms on Loch Etive, nr Taynuilt.

As Farms Manager you will be fully responsible for the day to day planning, running and reporting of all five farms, 25 staff and producing >3,000t annually of 5.5kg Rainbow Trout (Steelhead).

Reporting to the Production Manager, the successful candidate will already be a Farm Manager within the aquaculture industry, or an experienced Assistant Manager who is keen to progress in management.

Essential skills will require the demonstrable aptitude for managing and motivating personnel plus an ability for developing site infrastructure and establishing best farming practice, with first class planning and organisation abilities and a high degree of computer literacy. In addition, applicants should have a full driving license and be prepared to undertake travel as required.

Depending on experience, we offer an attractive salary package along with the opportunity to develop your management career within a company at the forefront of UK trout farming. Our production in Loch Etive is expected to double within the next 2-3 years with the re-development of existing sites and the further potential for opening new production in a separate geographic region(s).

Assistance with relocation may be available.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, by Thursday 13th August 2015, to:

Jane McCusker, HR Advisor, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office 01698 810008, E-mail: jane.mccusker@dawnfresh.co.uk
Informal enquires can be made to Gideon Pringle, Mobile 07747 487232, E-mail gideon.pringle@dawnfresh.co.uk

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E: hr@fergusontransport.co.uk

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Argyll College UHI Ltd provides access to a range of educational opportunities. We are now recruiting for the following part time tutoring posts:

Business Studies

Subjects include economics, business law, office administration, finance, human resource and business management, from NC to HND level. Previous experience of teaching would be preferable. Delivery will be through videoconferencing and online support, so applicants need to be comfortable with teaching technologies, although training will be provided. This post can be located in any of our centres across Argyll.

Initially required to cover maternity leave between December 2015 and June 2016, with the possibility of a longer-term position. Applications are encouraged from those who specialise in selected subjects from the list above, and hours are available from 2 hours upwards per week.

We are also recruiting for tutors to teach a range of schools link programmes to S4-6 school pupils between August 2015 and May 2016. Suitable applicants will possess the enthusiasm and flair to pass on their knowledge to young students, and must have experience in and knowledge of the subject area they are tutoring.

Higher Psychology - based in Tobermory High School

Applicants should hold as a minimum a qualification at SCQF level 7 in Psychology

Construction - based in Campbeltown

Tutors are expected to follow standard college administrative procedures and policies. Payment will be at the standard FE hourly teaching rate, which is £22.21 per hour plus an hourly payment in lieu of annual leave of £4.16, giving a total hourly rate of £26.37

Successful candidates will be subject to an application to join Disclosure Scotland Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme. An application pack for these posts can be downloaded from the vacancies section of our website at: www.argyllcollege.ac.uk

All applications must be made on the Argyll College application form. Please send/email completed application forms to:

Lorna McDonald, Argyll College UHI Ltd, Glenshellach Business Park, Oban PA34 4RY or e-mail: lorna.mcdonald@uhi.ac.uk
Closing date for applications is **Friday 7th August**

Argyll College UHI

Argyll College UHI provides a range of further and higher education opportunities.

We would like to recruit the following post in our Lochgilphead centre:

Assistant Centre Manager - part time

We are looking for a dynamic and enthusiastic person who will provide information, guidance and support to students as well as assisting with the administration of the centre in line with college policy and procedures. Excellent written and verbal communication skills, a sound working knowledge of Microsoft Office and good administrative skills are essential requirements of the post. The highest quality service to students and customers is of prime importance to the college.

The post is part time, for a fixed term of 1 year and will involve some evening work. The salary is **£18,856.18** (pro rata)

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An application form and job description can be found on the vacancies section of our website www.argyllcollege.ac.uk

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Site Supervisor (Lochaber)

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Reporting to the Regional Construction Manager for TSL North, you will be a high calibre Site Supervisor, who will have responsibility for professionally supervising projects throughout Lochaber and surrounding areas. Preferably with experience of civils work, you should be able to demonstrate a proven track record in overseeing all types of construction projects, and knowledge of excavations, formwork, concrete and pipework installation is especially relevant.

You will have experience of delivering a quality product to the client; liaising with them, and having a good understanding of the importance and management of Health & Safety, being used to effectively co-ordinating sub-contractors and forward-planning materials ordering, and have a great approach to paperwork and following site procedures. You must also have good people management skills including a collaborative approach to communicating with your team.

If you are interested in this position and you believe you have the necessary skills and experience, please send your CV, quoting the reference **TSLN/01/0715** either by email to d.feenev@tslcontractors.co.uk or by post to: D. Feenev, TSL Contractors Limited, Unit 6, McLeod Buildings, Lochavullin Road, Oban, PA34 4PL.

Closing date 31st July 2015.

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Reference: SA/216

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Closing Date: 04 August 2015

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£12,501 - £13,292 (pro rata)
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4 hours per week on a permanent basis
The Council applies the Living Wage of £7.85 per hour to this post
☎ 01546 604334

Ref: CTF00505

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If you want to be part of the progressive new sales department, please submit CV and covering letter to
ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

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public notices

Proposed Let of a Grazings Share
The Scottish Ministers' are applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let a vacant grazing share in Anahelt Common Grazing, Sunart Estate to Duncan Cameron, 5 Burnside, Strontian, Argyll. If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township, or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW

Proposed Let of a Grazings Share
The Scottish Ministers' are applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let a vacant grazing share in Anahelt Common Grazing, Sunart Estate, to Julie Traynor, 28 Anahelt, Strontian, Argyll. If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township, or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD FIRST REGISTRATION OF COMMON GRAZINGS
The Crofting Commission have registered the following Common Grazings on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.
Baemartine Common Grazings, Tیره Registration Number: CG164
Caolis Common Grazings, Tیره Registration Number: CG170
Cornaigbeg Common Grazings, Tیره Registration Number: CG166
Gott Common Grazings, Tیره Registration Number: CG167
Greenhill Common Grazings, Tیره Registration Number: CG173
Hough (East End) Common Grazings, Tیره Registration Number: CG169
Hough (West) Common Grazings, Tیره Registration Number: CG174
West Hynish Common Grazings, Tیره Registration Number: CG175

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS
Dr & Mrs Overnell
The Croft, Kilmore, Kilmore & Kilbride
0.159 ha - Existing house site
4.86.58164
D A Macalister Hall & M J Macalister Hall
Camusine, Ardnarmurchan & Sunart
0.0057 ha - Site of an existing septic tank
4.86.55210
Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.
Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED
Mrs E A MacDonald Gray & others
8 Inveroy, Kilmonivaig
0.137 ha - Croft house site and garden ground
4.85.55794
Conditions: 3a,4
Conditions:
(3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:
(a) the date of the direction
(4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011 APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION
ETIVE EAST (ETIVE 2) MARINE CAGE FISH FARM, LOCH ETIVE
An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Dawnfresh Farming Ltd to vary water use licence number CAR/L/1022266 authorising the carrying on of a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Etive East (Etive 2) Marine Cage Fish Farm, as follows:

Description of Change to Controlled Activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
The addition of chemical therapeutants to the discharge of effluent from the cages.	Loch Etive	NN 0230 3310

SEPA considers that the above change(s) to a controlled activity may have an impact on water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment.
A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advised-applications-under-car/>
Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1022266:
Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB
Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application.
Before determining the application, SEPA will:
• assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
• assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
• consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
• consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
• assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
• assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
• apply and have regard to relevant legislation.
SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

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Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/01280/PPP	Site for the erection of 2 dwellinghouses	Achamore Fionnphort Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA66 6BL	Sub Post Office Bunesan Isle of Mull
15/01838/PPP	Site for the erection of 2 dwellinghouses	Beachievey Benderloch Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1QP	Sub Post Office Connel
15/01889/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Land South West of Collieveneach Fasna-loch Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4B	Sub Post Office Connel
15/01983/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse. (revised location to that indicated on planning permission in principle 14/02799/PPP)	Land Northwest of Ashlea Croft Drive Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
15/01968/PP	Siting of Transportable Treatment Unit, formation of vehicular access and associated works	Land Off A849 And Adjoining Craignure Water Treatment Works Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/01937/LIB	Re-roofing of church	Church North Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1RF	Oban Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/01870/PP	Change of use from (class 1) shop to mixed use (class 1 and 2) - organic health shop and therapy centre.	10-12 Shore Street Bownmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7LB	Bownmore Area Office Isle of Islay

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.
A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.
Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website.
Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

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First Registration Of A Croft
John MacLean has registered their croft at 7 Treslaig, Ardour on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by February 2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is A0126.

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>
Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
15/02318/FUL	Land to South of Surgery, Lochaber Road, Kinlochleven		Erect house and detached garage
15/02425/FUL	Site 110m North East of Corran Beag, Onich, Fort William		Erection of house
15/02491/FUL	Land 90m NE of Kilchoan Public Toilets, Pier Road, Kilchoan		Installation of pontoon
15/02593/FUL	Land 50m East of Garage House, Onich		12no. houses (3no. blocks of 4no. houses)
15/02688/LBC	Glencoe House Hotel, Glencoe, Ballachulish		Internal alterations to form new kitchens and additional guest accommodation
15/02701/FUL	Land adjacent to Mo Dhachaidh, Ormsaigbeg, Kilchoan, Acharacle		Retrospective planning permission for 5 hardstandings for motor homes and campsite for twenty pitches
15/02711/FUL	Land to North East of Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel, Spean Bridge		Proposed 8no. apartments

Time period for comments is 14 days. Application 15/02688/LBC is 21 days.
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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LOCHILHEAD: Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochilhead, Argyll PA31 8DB

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LOCAL SERVICES

DEATHS

BOOTMAN - Peacefully at home on Thursday, July 16, 2015, Andrew Bootman. Loving and much loved husband of Sue. Funeral Service will be held at Inverness Crematorium on Tuesday, July 28, 2015 at 2.30 pm. Enquires to John McLellan Funeral Directors Tel 01397 702128.

MACCOLL - Peacefully at home on Wednesday, July 15, 2015, Hugh MacColl, Leacantium Farm, Glencoe. A loving partner of 53 years to Kathleen. A private funeral was held at Hugh's request. Arrangements by John McLellan Funeral Directors.

MACDONALD - Peacefully at the Belford Hospital, Fort William on July 14, 2015, Jimmy aged 89 years, beloved husband of Susie, dear father of Marion, Alex, Jimmy, Joe and Margaret, a much loved father-in-law, grandfather and great grandfather. The funeral service took place at St Johns, Caol on Monday, July 20 with a retiring collection for Mossparc Residents Fund. Sadly missed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GRANT - The family of the late Alistair Grant would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy extended to them by cards and phone calls in the recent loss of their brother and uncle. Special thanks to all staff at Ward 1, Belford Hospital who cared for Alistair in his last illness. Special thanks to Rev. Morag Muirhead for a comforting service, to May MacIntyre for lovely organ music and to Mike McFall and his staff for efficient funeral arrangements. To Shona for the beautiful flowers and the Moorings Hotel for refreshments. Finally, thanks to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside and gave to the Belford Hospital collection.

MACLEAN - Nancy and family would like to thank relatives, friends and the wonderful community of Mull for all the care and kindness shown during the past few weeks; the letters, cards, flowers and practical help have given us enormous support throughout this difficult time. Our thanks to the Ambulance crew, Richard and Martin, for all their efforts and to Billy McClymont for sensitive funeral arrangements. Special thanks to Rev. Johnny Paton for conducting the funeral service and making it a perfect tribute

to Lachlan, also to Elizabeth Jack for such fitting music, to Ethel and Catherine for the beautiful church flowers and to Salen Hotel for their hospitality. To all who travelled and attended church and graveside, our deepest gratitude. Your presence and generosity have been quite overwhelming. The retiring collection for Salen Church raised in excess of £4000. 'Missed the most by those who loved him best.'

McDONALD - The family of Katharine McDonald would like to thank friends and neighbours for the kindness shown. Special thanks to Paramedics, Belford Hospital, Mike McFall, Rev David Kirk and Caol Community Centre and to all who paid their respects at church and graveside. The collection at church will be donated to Lochaber Action on Disability.

SCOBIE - The family of the late Morag wish to thank friends, relatives and neighbours for the support and kindness shown during their recent sad loss. Special thanks to Drs Ellis, McConnell and Brown, Dr MacMillan, Kinlochleven Community nurses, Macmillan staff at the Belford Hospital, carers Ria, Fiona, Norma and Michelle, Beryl and Crossroads Lochaber, Rev Dr Malcolm Kinnear and Church Guild members for their comfort and very personal funeral service and to Mike McFall for all the guidance and support on funeral arrangements. Thank you to all who attended the funeral service where the sum of £700 was raised and will be shared between Macmillan Belford Hospital and Crossroads Lochaber.

SLOSS - The Sloss family would like to thank Dr. Richard Wilson for his care and attention to Alex in his last few weeks, Macmillan nurses, Oban Hospital, Day Care Centre, Donald MacKinnon for his spiritual support, the beautiful service and D and A Munn for the funeral arrangements. Petals of Oban for the beautiful floral arrangement and to everyone who was involved. Your care and professionalism was outstanding. Thank you from all his sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and extended family.

But there will never be another you.
- Love always mum, dad, Lisa and uncle Angus.xx

DONALDSON - In loving memory of our mother Lexy, who passed away on July 27, 1989.
No words, no verse
Could ever say
How much we miss you every day.
- Iain and Maria.

DONALDSON - Treasured memories of a dear mother, mother-in-law and nan, Lexy, who died July 27, 1989. It doesn't need a special day to bring you to our minds For days without a thought of you are very hard to find.
- Love Morven, DJ and boys x

GILLIES - Precious memories of Donnie a much loved husband, father and grandad, who passed away July 16, 1992 and loved ones gone since.
Gone but not forgotten
Day by day he lives with us and will forever more.
- Jean and family, 47 Drumfada Terrace, Corpach.

HAMILL - In loving memory of Margaret, my very special mum, who passed away July 23, 2014. Also my dad Frank, who died June 30, 2010. Always in my thoughts and in my heart.
- Kevin

HAMILL - In loving memory of Margaret Hamill, who passed away July 23, 2014. Loved with a love Beyond all telling Missed with a grief Beyond all tears.
- Isobel, Nicholas, Ryan and Kevin

MACDONALD - 50th anniversary. In memory of Robert (Bobby) MacDonald who died July 20, 1965. Gone but not forgotten.
- Margaret, Archie and family

MACEACHEN - In loving memory of my brother Ian MacEachen who passed away July 24, 2014. Sadly missed.
- Ann and Donnie.

MACEACHEN - In loving memory of my brother Ian, who died on July 24, 2014. Forever in our thoughts. RIP.

JOEY and family MACINTYRE - In loving memory of Iain "Slippers" a dear son, brother, brother-in-law and uncle, who died July 22, 2014. Our hearts still ache Our tears still fall For the one we loved most of all Missed and remembered every day.
- All the family

MACKICHAN - In loving memory of my much beloved and adored husband Cameron, who passed away on July 24, 2014., adored father, stepfather and granddad.
A loving heart stopped beating as I watched you slip away
My heart was truly broken as you fought so hard to stay God saw you were so tired, the cure was not to be
He put his arms around you and whispered come to me.
- Your loving wife Ann.

MACRAE - Remembering our dear friend Mairi, who passed away on July 18, 2014.
We can't have old days back When we were all together But happy memories Will be with us forever.
- Angus and Jen, Billy and Ann, Donald and Fiona, Donnie Carmichael, Ivor and Jean, Ivor Lloyd, Johnny and Teen, Colonsay, Kilchoan, Lochaline and Tobermory.

McCOMBIE - In loving memory of a dear mum, mother-in-law and granny, Cathie, who died July 27, 1990. Time slips by but memories stay. Quietly remembered every day.
- Family Oban and Aberdeen

SIMPSON - In loving memory of a devoted husband and father Archie, who died July 18, 2006. You left a place no-one can fill I miss you now and always will.
- Ever loving son Archie.

WILLIAMSON - In loving memory of Marion, our dear mum, mum-in-law, granny and great-granny who died July 23, 2005. Never more than a thought away Loved and remembered every day
- Alyson, Ian, Robert, Alistair and families

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GRADUATION



Iain Brown graduated from Edinburgh University with a BSc (Hons) in Computer Science. Iain is the son of Iain and Lynn Brown, Glencoe and the grandson of Mary and the late Jimmy Brown, Glencoe and Agnes and the late Stan Davren, also of Glencoe. Iain is a former pupil of Glencoe Primary and Kinlochleven High. He now works for Administrate, an Edinburgh based IT company.



Congratulations to Rachel MacMillan, Taynuilt, who graduated from Strathclyde University with a Bachelor of Education (Honours) Degree in Primary Education. Rachel is the daughter of Keith and Janette and the granddaughter of Alex and Sandra MacMillan, Taynuilt and Margaret and the late Jimmy Lyon, Barcaldine. Rachel is a former pupil of Taynuilt Primary School and Oban High School.



Calum AM Douglas graduated from the Glasgow School of Art with BA Hons 2:1 in Communication Design. He is the youngest son of James and Christine Douglas, Luskenyrie, Seafield Gardens, Fort William. Calum is a former pupil of Fort William Primary School and Lochaber High School.



Billie Kirkham graduated from University of Edinburgh with a Diploma in Professional and Legal Practice and has taken up a trainee solicitors post with MacPhee and Partners. Daughter of Marion and the late Billy Kirkham, Chirsty and the late Angus MacDonald.



Hymnia Chamber Choir tour comes to Oban

Hymnia is one of Denmark's best choirs (last year ranked 15 on Interkultur's World Choir Rankings). It is currently touring Scotland with a programme of modern Scottish (including James MacMillan's Miserere, Rory Boyle's Three Scots Songs, Thea Musgrave's Madrigals, Tommy Fowler's Gruinar, Dr. Garrett's My love's like a red, red rose, Rhonda Polay's Come in and stay a while) and Scandinavian a cappella choir music. Hymnia is known both inside and outside of Denmark for programming adventurous, modern and challenging a cappella works. The members of the choir are professional singers and music teachers. Hymnia will be performing on July 28th at 7pm in St John's Cathedral. The concert is free of charge but a retiring collection will be taken on behalf of St John's.

Go it Alone group help raise donations for Friends of Oban Hospice

FOLLOWING the closure of the Weight Watchers group in Oban, the Go it Alone weight management group has continued to meet at the Great Western Hotel on Mondays between 5-6pm. In their first four weeks they managed a combined weight loss of 135.5lb and donated £171.30 to the Friends of Oban Hospice. The chosen charity for the group for the following month is Riding for the Disabled. New members welcome to come and join in the group every Monday.



GoItAlone Oban made its first donation to charity on Monday night. £130weight1no

Oban Rotary club members meet with newly-elected president



Newly-elected president of Oban Rotary club for 2015-2016, Ken Moncrieff, gathered with other rotary council club members on Monday. Pictured are, front row from left: George Miller, Ken Moncrieff, Ronnie Neil, Iain MacInnes. Middle row, from left: Kees van Rein, Graham Innes, Lachie Beaton, Michael Urwin. Back row, from left: Tommy McQuade and Graham Fraser. Ken, together with council members, will oversee the operations of the club for the next year.

The Oban Times
& West Highland Times
THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL

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In memory of Dawn Joyce

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Please contact Jack Tollan Birch Hill Achnacreebeag North Connel, PA37 1RE

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HEADER: The Vale of Leven defence can only look on as Saints' striker Dean Smith's header flies into the roof of the net. Photos and match report by Derek Black

Saints turn on the style to beat former Junior cup winners

'The boys are getting used to the new system I want to play and we are improving with every game'

Oban Saints	3
Vale of Leven Juniors	1
Pre-season friendly	

AN 8am pitch inspection was possibly the last thing on Saints secretary David Buchanan's mind when he invited former Scottish Junior Cup winners, Vale of Leven, to Oban for a pre-season friendly.

However, such are the vagaries of the Scottish summer weather, so it was with great relief that he was able to confirm that Glen-cruitten 1 had survived Friday night's torrential rain and the fixture could go ahead.

Symptomatic of the mixed bag of weather, by the time kick-off had arrived, the rain had given way to bright sunshine and, with the exception of a strong breeze, conditions were perfect.

The semi-professionals from Alexandria playing their first pre-season match, looked in the mood and were rewarded for their bright start in the sixth minute when David McNaught exploited a gap in the Saints defence to drill a shot into the bottom corner on the net past Thomas McCulloch's left hand.

Saints responded well to this early setback and a good move up the right wing involving Martin Bonar and Myles McAuley set up Lewis Cameron for a shooting

opportunity which Vale keeper, Charlie Smith, did well to parry behind for a corner.

Saints midfield trio of Myles McAuley, Keith Millar and Donnie Campbell began to take control in the centre of the park allowing full-backs Martin Bonar and Scott Maitland to get forward at every opportunity.

The home side were using both flanks to good effect and a Martin Bonar run into the box on the right was halted by a well-timed interception to win Saints a 25th minute corner kick.

Lewis Cameron's out-swinger was met by Dean Smith whose glancing header squeezed in between the junction of post and bar to bring Saints level.

The Oban side came close again moments after the restart. Scott Maitland made an overlapping run on the left wing and sent over a low cross to the near post where Dean Smith was foiled by a timely interception from the Vale defence.

Lewis Cameron passed up a glorious opportunity to get on the score sheet in the 35th minute when a long ball from the back picked out a suspiciously offside looking Craig MacEwan in the inside left channel about thirty yards from goal. With no whistle coming from referee, John Scott, Craig played on and crossed to

Football

Lewis unmarked on the penalty spot. Unfortunately Lewis snatched at the chance and sent a tame shot wide of target.

Just one minute later, Saints took the lead after another good passing move through the midfield. Dean Smith picked up the ball on the edge of the box with his back to goal where a skilful turn created space for a thumping shot which flew past Charlie Smith into the postage stamp corner.

Saints had their tails up now and an audacious lob on the left-hand corner of the box from Lewis Cameron took out three Vale defenders to set up Craig MacEwan for a shot that was deflected behind for a corner.

Lewis took the corner kick and curled it beautifully into the top corner of the net only to see his effort ruled out for an alleged push in the six yard box.

Lewis had his eye in now and tried for the same spot again from a 43rd minute free kick on the left after Craig MacEwan had been brought down. This time the keeper got both hands on it and pushed the ball over the bar for a corner.

Eager for another attempt on goal, Lewis made for the corner flag on the Saints left much to



IMPRESSIVE: Young Matty Kelly turned in a mature performance against the Vale for such a young player

the ire of the Vale keeper whose protestations were upheld by referee Scott who correctly ruled that the kick should be taken from the Saints right. The Vale keeper may now wish he had kept his mouth shut as Lewis picked out Martin Bonar eight yards out for the big full-back to bullet a header into the net to give Saints a deserved 3 - 1 half time lead.

The away side tried to harness the advantage of the wind in the second half employing long balls to try and get in behind the Saints defence, but the back four of Martin Bonar, Marc MacCallum, Willie Gemmell and Scott Maitland, coped well with everything the Vale could throw at them.

The visitors had the ball in the net in the 56th minute when a long ball looked to have finally caught out the Saints rearguard, but as the Vale striker rounded

This proved to be Craig's final contribution and he was replaced on the left of the front three by Kevin Keen. Keen was quickly involved in the action when his strong run at the heart of the Vale defence was halted by a crude challenge 25 yards from goal.

Allan MacKay steered his low free kick towards the left-hand post where the keeper got down well to make a good save. The keeper couldn't hold onto the shot and Matthew Kelly pounced on the loose ball directing it back on target where the keeper completed an excellent double save.

Saints excellent passing and movement continued right to the end and in the 87th minute Allan MacKay and Lewis Cameron combined to set up Donnie Campbell for a terrific run along the 18 yard line culminating in a fierce left foot shot which had the keeper at full stretch to tip round his right-hand post.

Referee John Scott, who had enjoyed an easy afternoon, brought a sporting encounter to a halt giving new Saints manager, Alex Craik, a win in his first 90 minutes in charge.

Alex said: 'I thought we played some excellent football, especially in the first half against an experienced team. The boys are getting used to the new system I want to play and we are improving with every game.'

Saints continue their pre-season programme with a home game against Central Scottish premier division team, East Kilbride. The game will take place at Glen-cruitten 1 (rugby pitch) with a 1.30pm kick-off. Referee in charge is Jimmy Litster.

Catriona is national time trial champion

A BARCALDINE woman has won a national cycling competition, only four months after taking up the sport.

Catriona Gunn, 29, became the Scottish national 50-mile Time Trial champion at the event, held in Laurencekirk on July 12, with a winning time of 2:08:12.

Catriona, who works as a duty officer at the Corran Halls, Oban, beat the 2013 champion, Lyndsey Curran, who came in second place, by 30 seconds.

Catriona said: 'I was delighted, I didn't expect to win, so it came as a bit of a shock. I started cycling last year as a hobby with my husband, then I started to

Cycling

really enjoy it and got involved in some local time trials. I had my first national race in March and came second.'

Having beaten several experienced cyclists since she began competing in March, Catriona's efforts have gained her a sponsorship deal with Team Thomsons Cycles.

She will be back in action again in September, where she will race in her last two time trials of the season, before going into winter training for next year, when she plans on competing for the 10, 25, 50 and 100 mile titles.

Michael Mols visits Argyll

FORMER Rangers star, Michael Mols, had the club's Campbeltown fans in blue heaven when he played in a charity match in aid of Yorkhill Hospital recently.

Dutchman Mols, who played six times for his national side, was invited by Campbeltown's Glasgow Rangers supporters' club, to play in the Jimmy Taylor memorial match.

Mr Mols said: 'I had a really nice welcome in Campbeltown and the hospitality was excellent. It was my first time here and everyone was really friendly.'

A collection at the gate and a raffle, the prizes presented by Mols, helped raise £700 for Yorkhill Children's Hospital in Glasgow.

Football



Michael Mols in action

Disabled carriage driving holiday

THE Scottish Riding for the Disabled Carriage driving holiday 2015 was held recently at Argyll RDA in Oban in wonderful weather. The sun shone every day and the views during the drive outs were magnificent.

Eight disabled drivers from all over the country were able to drive every day without their wet weather gear. During the holiday, all had an opportunity for long, short drives, cones and obstacles, as well as a drive down to the beach.

The 40th anniversary of RDA Carriage Driving birthday celebrations were held including a cake with spectacular candles, a

Carriage driving

hilarious birthday themed newspaper game and much fun and amusement enjoyed by all.

Busy week
Other evenings were spent watching a driving demonstration, toy horse racing, a ceilidh and a barbecue rounded off a very busy week.

A very big thank you to the Argyll group for the use of facilities, help and support to all the organisational team as well as those who loaned the horses and ponies to make the holiday such a success.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £600

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. 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, mistaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.
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

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

- D Holyoake, Port Ellen, Islay
- &
- C Maxwell, Tighnabraich



Please tape your £1 coin here

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Glen-cruitten

THE second round of the Club championship was played on Saturday in blustery conditions, Robert MacIntyre scoring 62 to add to his previous 59, giving him a total of 121. David MacCuish scored 64 to add to a previous 65 making his total 129.

The second round of the George Smith also took place on Saturday, Ian McCuish leading the way with a score of 65 + 69 = 134. In second place was Martin Tait with a score of 71 + 64 = 135.

Last weekend, the Senior championship and Junior championship took place, Ian McCuish winning the Senior championship and his son, Aidan, winning the Junior championship.

In the Stableford last Tuesday, Allan MacPhee was the overall winner with 35 points and Cameron Milne followed with 34 points.

On Saturday, the Ginty trophy and monthly medal takes place and on Sunday the Wilson trophy and Britannia cup final take place.

Dalmally

RESULTS for Dalmally golf club's summer meeting and medal, held on Monday, July 13, were: 1, Colleen Brown 87 - 21 = 66; 2, Ann Colthart 97 - 23 = 74; 3, Sheila Tolan 95 - 19 = 76.

Gents leisure sport trophy, round one: 1, Billy McKay 42pts; 2, Gerry Davies 40pts; 3, Shaun Squire 38pts.

The club's gents open tournament takes place this Sunday, with late entries invited through the club's website.

Fort William

RETURNS from Fort William golf club's annual golf week, from Monday July 13 until Friday July 17:

Two person Texas scramble 1 Graeme Worsdall and Neil Worsdall 32 point (bih); 2 Andrew Brown and Cal Brown 32 points.

Strokeplay competition 1 Derek Laing 42 (55-13); 2 Frank Sweeney 42 (52-10).

Three person scramble 1 Willie Hendrie, Stephen Howden and Marc MacDonald 36 points; 2 Alistair MacIntyre, Robert McCover and Alan Ritchie 35 points.

Singles stableford 1 Paul Brian 30 points; 2 Stephen Howden 28 points.

Three clubs and a putter 1 Willie Duncan 21 points; 2 Stewart Duncan 20 points.

The MacIver cup 1 Graeme Worsdall 131 (69+62); 2 Eric Wallace 132 (64+68); 3 Keith Duncan 134 (70+64).

Par ladies competition: 1 Iona Cameron, three down; 2 Ann Lovatt, four down; 3 Helen Brian, six down.

Isle of Skye

ROUND four of the Strath cup, played on Wednesday July 8: 1, Kenny Gallon 40pts; 2 Gillies Nicolson 37pts. Overall Strath cup winners: 1 Gillies Nicolson 113pts; 2 Alasdair Grant 103pts.

Sligachan Scramble, played on Saturday July 11 winners: George Neill, Martin Bird, Bill Barney and John Marshall.

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Fixtures

Saturday July 25
Artemis Macaulay Cup Semi Final
 Oban Camanachd v Inveraray
 Lachie Wood
 at Mossfield Park, Oban
 Newtonmore v Lovat
 Deek Cameron
 at Beaully

Marine Harvest Premiership
 Fort William v Kingussie
 John MacGregor
 Kyles Athletic v Kinlochshiel
 Robert Baxter - 3pm
 Lochaber v Glenurquhart
 Innes Wood

Marine Harvest National Division
 Ballachulish v Caberfeidh
 Billy Wotherspoon - 3pm
 Kilmallie v Glasgow Mid Argyll
 Ron Kennedy
 Skye v Inverness
 Evan MacRae - 3pm

Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Glenurquhart v Strathglass
 John Matheson
 Kinlochshiel v Beaully
 John Angus Gillies
 Lochcarron v Kingussie
 Graham Cameron
 Lovat v Newtonmore
 Martin MacLean - 12pm

Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Bute v Lochside Rovers
 Ewen MacDonald - 3pm
 Inveraray v Strachur
 David Mitchell
 Kilmory v Glenorchy
 Duncan Kelly
 Kyles Athletic v Aberdeen
 Robert Baxter - 12pm
 Oban Celtic v Taynuilt
 Alex MacVicar - 10am

Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Boleskine v Kilmallie
 Andy MacLean
 Glengarry v Aberdeen Uni
 John Wood
 Inverness v Lochaber
 Jim Barr

Lewis v Strathspey
 Archie Ritchie
 Skye v Caberfeidh
 Evan MacRae - 12pm

Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Ballachulish v Glasgow MA
 Billy Wotherspoon - 12pm
 Bute v Oban Lorn
 Jon Gallagher - 12pm
 Col Glen v Aberdeen
 Euan Pearson

Throw ups 2.30 unless stated

Results

Thursday July 16 2015
Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Kilmory 1 - 2 Inveraray

Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Newtonmore 2 - 1 Kingussie

Saturday July 18
SSE Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 3rd Round Replay
 Fort William P - P Lovat
 Due to bereavement

Balliemore Cup Final
 Glasgow MA 3 - 5 Beaully

Marine Harvest Premiership
 Glenurquhart 2 - 3 Lochaber
 Kyles Athletic 4 - 1 Inveraray
 Newtonmore 2 - 0 Kinlochshiel

Marine Harvest National Division
 Ballachulish P - P Skye
 Unplayable Field
 Caberfeidh P - P Kilmallie
 Due to Bereavement

Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Fort William 3 - 1 Glenurquhart
 Kinlochshiel 1 - 6 Strathglass

Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Bute 11 - 0 Kyles Athletic
 Glenorchy P - P Aberdeen
 Unplayable Field

Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Aberdeen Uni P - P Boleskine
 Unplayable Field
 Glengarry P - P Caberfeidh
 Due to Bereavement
 Kilmallie P - P Inverness
 Unplayable Field
 Lochaber P - P Skye
 Unplayable Field

Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Aberdeen 2 - 5 Oban Lorn
 Ballachulish P - P Tayforth
 Unplayable Field
 Bute P - P Col Glen
 Unplayable Field

Macaulay Cup semi finals take centre stage this Saturday

Oban Camanachd manager decides to stand down

Macaulay Cup

Gussie Campbell has announced he will stand down as manager of **OBAN CAMANACHD**, with immediate effect.

Ian Hay, who has been a member of the coaching staff during Campbell's three-and-a-half years with the club, will take the reins, with his first game in charge against Inveraray on Saturday at Mossfield, in the Macaulay cup semi-final.

Campbell said: 'I'm very sad to be leaving the club, which is for several reasons. My health played a big part in my decision.

'I'm obviously disappointed that I've decided to leave the management at Oban Camanachd now, rather than at the end of the year as I had originally planned.

'Ian Hay has been a fantastic coach alongside me, as have Peter McCuish and Paul Kersley. Those four guys have served the club fantastically alongside me in my years here and I can't thank them enough.

'I'd like to thank all the boys who have played, and the guys who continue to support the club every week.

'I'm confident Camanachd will beat Inveraray on Saturday and I think the boys will go on and win the Macaulay cup.'

Saturday's tie with Inveraray takes place at Mossfield and will throw up at 2.30pm.

INVERARAY face Oban Camanachd this Saturday in the semi-final of the Macaulay cup, having lost to Kyles last week in the league.

The cup tie, to be held at Mossfield, will decide who meets the winner of the other semi-final, between Newtonmore and Lovat, also on Saturday.

In the league, Inveraray and Camanachd are the two bottom sides, with the Oban club a point behind their Argyll rivals, but having two games in hand.

Their only previous meeting this season, a league tie at the start of the month, ended in a 1-1 draw.

Saturday's game throws up at 2.30pm.

NEWTONMORE face Lovat this Saturday in the Macaulay cup semi final, with the winner to meet the winner of the Oban Camanachd vs Inveraray semi, also this Saturday.

Newtonmore remain the side to beat this season, with only one league defeat back in March, although they are out of the MacTavish cup, losing to Glenurquhart in their only other defeat this season.

Saturday's tie throws-up at 2.30pm at the Eilan Park.

LOVAT will face Newtonmore in the Macaulay Cup semi final this Saturday at Beaully.

John MacRitchie's side had no game last weekend as their Camanachd cup third round replay against Fort William was called off due to a bereavement.

Saturday's tie throws-up at 2.30pm

Premiership

GLENURQUHART lost out to Lochaber at last Saturday's home game. The Glens have been dropping down the table lately,

Shinty

but they will hope to get back to winning ways when they face Lochaber again on Saturday at Spean Bridge playing field.

LOCHABER have climbed to second place in the Premiership, after chalking up a 3-2 win against Glenurquhart on Saturday.

The goals from Shaun Nicholson, Stewart Callison and Kevin Ferguson saw them leapfrog Kinlochshiel into the number two spot, but the Spean Bridge side are three points behind first-place Newtonmore who have three games in hand.

This weekend, Lochaber welcome Glenurquhart for a repeat performance and look set to play even better than last week with home advantage.

FORT WILLIAM'S Camanachd cup quarter final against Lovat was postponed due to a bereavement.

The game, a replay after a 2-2 draw on July 11, has been postponed until August 8 and will be played at An Aird.

After a free weekend, the Fort are looking forward to welcoming Kingussie for a Premiership clash on Saturday.

Co-manager, Victor Smith, said: 'This will be another tough game, but we're hoping for a win. They're in the same boat as us with losing players for festivals, holidays and the like, but I think most teams are the same this time of year. We're looking forward to it after a weekend off and I'd like to see us win.'

The Fort will be without Bryan Simpson, Aaron MacPhee and Cameron Grant this weekend, but will welcome back Alex MacMillan, who missed the team's last clash with Lovat.

KINLOCHSHIEL will take on Kyles this Saturday in the league,

Marine Harvest Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	10	9	0	1	36	9	18
Lochaber	13	6	3	4	24	29	15
Kinlochshiel	13	5	3	5	22	27	13
Lovat	11	5	2	4	27	24	12
Kyles Athletic	8	5	1	2	24	11	11
Glenurquhart	10	5	1	4	20	18	11
Fort William	12	4	2	6	18	23	10
Kingussie	11	3	3	5	16	23	9
Inveraray	10	1	2	7	10	25	4
Oban Camanachd	8	1	1	6	8	16	3

in a game both sides will hope to win to keep their championship hopes alive.

Kinlochshiel sit third, two points behind second place Lochaber and five behind league-leaders, Newtonmore, who have three games in hand on Lochaber and Kinlochshiel.

Kinlochshiel lost away to Newtonmore on Saturday, two first half goals enough to seal the win.

Saturday's tie will throw up at 3pm in Tighnabraich.

KYLES ATHLETIC play hosts to league rivals, Kinlochshiel, this Saturday, in a game which could make or break their league campaign.

Newtonmore are ahead at the top of the table, but Kyles have the most league fixtures still to fulfil, along with bottom side



Inveraray's Allan Macdonald gets his block in against Kyles Athletic's Dunkie Kerr during last Saturday's Marine Harvest Premiership game. The Tighnabraich side won 4-1 thanks to goals from Roberto Zavaroni (2), Dunkie Kerr and Roddy Macdonald. Euan McMurdo scored a consolation goal for the yellow and blacks. Photo: Stephen Lawson

Oban Camanachd, having played just eight games.

Kyles saw off Inveraray on Saturday, goals from Dunkie Kerr, Roddy Macdonald and two from Roberto Zavaroni enough to see off Inveraray, who managed a consolation nine minutes from time through Euan McMurdo.

The tie against Kinlochshiel will throw up at 3pm in Tighnabraich.

KINGUSSIE travel to Fort William this Saturday in the Marine Harvest Premiership, having had no fixture at the weekend.

With seven league fixtures still to fulfil, Kingussie trail top team, Newtonmore, by nine points, so are all but out of league running this season, and have suffered disappointing defeats in the MacTavish, Macaulay and Camanachd cups.

Saturday's tie throws-up at 2.30pm at An Aird.

National Division
KILMALLIE'S league clash against Caberfeidh was postponed last Saturday due to

last weekend's National division game between BALLACHULISH and Skye was called off after a pitch inspection found the

bereavement. The team now look forward to this weekend's home game against Glasgow Mid Argyll, but know they will have to be at the top of their game to secure a win.

Manager, Mark MacPherson, said: 'Mid Argyll lost at the weekend, so they'll come up fighting this weekend but we need to win to keep up our chances of winning the league.'

'I saw them play last week and they weren't up to standard in the first half, but played really well in the second. If they play the way they did in the second half on Saturday, they'll be hard to beat.'

MacPherson will also be playing with a weakened team as Liam MacDonald, Seb MacMillan and Brian McKay will all be missing, but the manager said he enjoys giving the younger players more experience on the field.

LOCHSIDE ROVERS manager, Gareth Evans, will be looking for a good performance from his team before the Sutherland Cup final against Newtonmore on August 8 when he takes his team over the water to play Bute in a league match.

SOUTH DIVISION ONE
BUTE thrashed Kyles second team 11-0 in a South Division One match last Saturday to lift the island team into fourth place in the league. This weekend they host Lochside Rovers at the Meadows.

KYLES ATHLETIC second team suffered an 11-0 defeat at the hands of Bute last Saturday. This weekend, the blue and whites will be hoping to get back on track when they play host to Aberdeen.

TAYNUILT get back in action on Saturday when they make the short journey to play Oban Celtic at Mossfield. Throw-up is 10am

SOUTH DIVISION TWO
OBAN LORN made the long journey to play Aberdeen last Saturday and returned home with a fine 5-2 win under their belts thanks to goals from Daniel MacKinnon (2), Alan Duffy, David Martin and Lennon Campbell.

This weekend, the Oban side travel to play Bute with a 12pm throw-up. Lorn are presently lying in fourth place in South Division Two, six points behind leaders Tayforth.

NORTH DIVISION TWO
GLENGARRY'S home match against Caberfeidh was postponed last Saturday due to bereavement. This weekend, the Glens are at home to Aberdeen University



The successful Beaully squad with the Balliemore Cup Photo: Donald Cameron

Jubilee pitch to be unplayable after the heavy overnight rain on Friday night.

This Saturday, Balla have a home game against Caberfeidh with a 3pm throw-up

South Division One

LOCHSIDE ROVERS manager, Gareth Evans, will be looking for a good performance from his team before the Sutherland Cup final against Newtonmore on August 8 when he takes his team over the water to play Bute in a league match.

South Division Two

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This weekend, the Oban side travel to play Bute with a 12pm throw-up. Lorn are presently lying in fourth place in South Division Two, six points behind leaders Tayforth.

North Division Two

GLENGARRY'S home match against Caberfeidh was postponed last Saturday due to bereavement. This weekend, the Glens are at home to Aberdeen University

Balliemore Cup goes to Beaully after 5-3 win over Mid Argyll

BEAULY are the 2015 Balliemore Cup winners after a breath-taking first 45 minutes. On a bowling green surface at The Dell, Kingussie, Connor Ross scored four goals in a 24 minute spell midway through the first half. Sean Stewart also scored for Beaully who led 5-1 at half time with Angus MacKintosh scoring for Glasgow Mid Argyll.

Glasgow Mid Argyll restored pride in the second half when John Don MacKenzie scored followed by an injury time penalty from Craig Anderson.

Bottom of the table **KILMORY** host Glenorchy this weekend. A win for the Lochgilphead team would lift them above the Dalmailly side who are only a point ahead in the league.

STRACHUR travel to near neighbours and table-toppers, Inveraray, on Saturday. Throw-up is 2.30pm with referee David Mitchell in charge.

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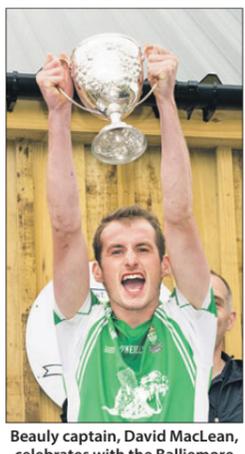
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Beaully captain, David MacLean, celebrates with the Balliemore Cup Photo: Neil Paterson

Contrasting wind conditions make for interesting sailing

'This race is always varied and one of the most popular on the west coast'

OBAN Sailing Club's recent Round Mull circumnavigation was a race of complete contrasts and winds varying from zephyrs to a full gale on the Saturday.

Sponsored by Owen Sails and Ardfern Yacht Centre, the island circumnavigation of around 100 miles had an entry of 41 boats and the Friday start off Oban Sailing Club looked promising with a steady breeze in the bay.

However, outside in the Firth of Lorn it was a very different picture, with windless conditions prevailing to Lismore Light.

Principal Race Officer, George Seaton, opted to take the fleet out to start near the Light but, with a lack of breeze, had to motor further north to Fuinary before starting the four competing classes.

A short race to Tobermory Bay was better than none at all and the wind filled in to a moderate breeze with a run all the way.

It was to be Brian Wiseman's Sor of Appin that took the coveted Mishnish Bucket for the best corrected time of the fleet.

Brian and team, which included Mark Cameron of co-sponsors Ardfern Yacht Centre, also won Class 2 with John MacKenzie's Stoirm Mhor second and Colin Crawford's Dehler 32 Nimrod third.

In Class 1, John Fraser's Dufour 40 Wookie II was first with Scott Chalmers in Sunrise, the Sigma 400, second and Ewan Mackenzie's Elan 40, Ceol Beag, third.

Class 3 was won by Marian Austin in Scintilla of the Sea from the Lochaber Yacht Club with Oban's Derek Greer and team in Al Harija second and Iain Gibson's Nicholson 32 Tegumai taking third place. Alan Gent-White's An Sulaire took the restricted sail class with Paul Moorhead's Tupelo Honey second and Brian Robertson's Celtic Spirit third.

Saturday dawned breezy with a run for the fleet from Tobermory

Sailing

to past Caliach. The building breeze saw challenging conditions with spectacular broaches and some retrials back to Tobermory. After kites were dropped for the long beat into Bunessan, the breeze was gusting up to 40 knots and some sails blew in the building breeze.

In the slow handicap class, it was the Moody Whigmaleerie of Donald Philips that revelled in the conditions to take first place with Scintilla of the Sea keeping the results up with a second and the Contessa 32 of Alistair Pugh in third. Sor of Appin sealed another victory again making light of the conditions with Amber Haze second and Colin Crawford's Dehler 32 Nimrod third. Fast class honours went to Sunrise with Requiem placed second and Roxanne from Skye third. In restricted sail it was Mystic Sun taking the honours with Celtic Spirit second and Ionare third.

The majority of the fleet made it to Bunessan where the village hall committee laid on an excellent buffet and entertainment raising funds for the Ross of Mull Historical Society.

The last leg of the race on Sunday saw a brisk spinnaker start with the fleet on a run to the Sound of Iona, then a tight reach through the Torran Rocks.

The wind held for the majority of the passage until a mile or so from the finish at Frank Lockwood's Island. Frustrating conditions prevailed as places were lost and won in the last hour or so of the race, contending not just lack of breeze, but a strong and adverse tide.

Sor of Appin came through to complete the hat-trick of three firsts and lift the overall Bank of Scotland Cup for the medium class handicap yachts. In



FAIR WINDS: Yachts competing in the 2015 Round Mull Race under spinnaker off Camus.

Photos: Jon Lloyd

second place on leg 3 was Sarah with Alan Moore's Delinquent third. In the slow handicap class, Marisca won from Scintilla and fellow Contessa 32 sailor, Mark Hillman, in Milly Brown in third. This gave the class overall to Marisca from Scintilla of the Sea and Milly Brown.

Ionare won the restricted sail class with Celtic Spirit second and Calvador third. This ensured a win for Damon Lindsay's Dufour 44 Ionare overall lifting the Brian Shellcock Memorial Trophy.

Class 1 was taken by David Walters with his Arcona 430 Requiem winning the Glencoe Trophy for the best corrected time from Bunessan to Oban, the fastest circumnavigation on both elapsed time and corrected time - the Mull Plaque and the Torran Rock as well as the fast handicap class - the Antique Schwebbes Trophy.

The Bilgewater Shield for the fastest circumnavigation on

corrected time went to Kevin McGrath's Calvador.

Race organiser, Billy Forteith, said it had been a very successful event despite the varying winds and welcomed the new boats that took part.

'We hope to see everyone back next year with even more entries - this race is always varied and

one of the most popular events on the west coast,' he said.

'Congratulations to all the winners and a big thanks to Forteith Food Service for the buffet preceding the race as well as the Village Hall committee in Bunessan for their hospitality.

'Thanks also to our other sponsors including T Barbour Fuels,

Forteith Refrigeration and Heat Pump Solutions and Dimension Polyant. Last, but not least, to Dave Sturrock for providing the committee boat, and our race officers, George Seaton, David Preston and Duncan Martin.'

The main trophies are awarded at the OSC prizegiving in November.

Oban Lorne and Argyll and Bute pre-season programme confirmed

Rugby

OBAN Lorne will be taking on tough opposition in preparation for life in West Division 1 and the BT Shield next season.

The Green Machine start their pre-season matches this Saturday when they travel to Colonsay for the islands annual 10-a-side festival.

Home games against Murrayfield Wanderers and Highland RFC will follow on Saturday 1 and 8 of August before an away trip to Caithness on the 15th.

These matches will give coach, Corrie Louw, a good opportunity to test his players against high quality opposition prior to the season's opening game against Isle of Arran in the Shield on September 5 and the start to the league campaign the following week.

Meanwhile Argyll and Bute RFC will take on Aberfeldy RFC at home on Saturday August 1 and will return the fixture two weeks later.

A match has also been planned with Caithness 2nd XV on the 15th. Argyll and Bute will be playing in West Division 4 this season along with Argyll rivals, Isle of Mull and Cowal.

Both sides have been working hard in pre-season training and will be aided by the input of former Scotland International captains, Jason White and Chris Paterson. More details regarding the visit of these former pro players will be on the club's Facebook page.

Training continues every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6.45pm at Glencruitten.

All new players are welcome to attend regardless of experience and ability.

Glasgow Warriors' fun activities

GLASGOW Warriors will be coming to Oban on Monday August 3 to deliver a 'Young Warrior Camp' for all P4-U15 players.

The camp will provide an opportunity for young players to meet and join in fun activities with Glasgow Warriors players.

To book, please go to glasgow-warriors.org/warriorcamps

Training sessions for budding female footballers

Women's football

LADIES, if you are interested in getting fit, socialising and want to get involved with the beautiful game, then come along to Oban high school community all-weather pitch on Monday July 27 from 7pm - 8pm.

Argyll and Bute Council's football development service is running women's football training sessions for ladies aged 16+.

Training will take place every Monday for a 15 week period with a view to starting a women's football team in the area.

For further information please contact football development officer, Martin Rae, on martin.rae@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Shinty on show at Hampden park



Hugh Dan MacLennan

SHINTY is to be showcased for six months from October in the award-winning Scottish Football museum at Hampden Park, Glasgow. The partnership will celebrate the historic links between the two sports and promote an awareness and understanding of shinty to a new and wider audience.

The exhibition is being organised by the shinty's ruling body, the Camanachd Association, in partnership with the Scottish Football museum. A significant part of the Scottish Football museum has been offered to shinty for the six-month period and a working group has begun deliberating how best to use the opportunity.

The group is being led by shinty

historian and broadcaster, Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan, who is already familiar with the steps of the famous stadium, having worked with Alzheimer Scotland on the Shinty Memories project, also based at Hampden Park.

He said: 'The opportunity to hold the exhibition in Hampden arose directly out of our partnership with Alzheimer Scotland and the hugely successful Shinty Memories project.'

'We will be able to mount the exhibition using the Hampden staff's wealth of experience and as a facility for this kind of thing it is unmatched.'

'Some of the exhibition will last for six months and some parts of it will be changed and rotated to allow us to maximise the oppor-

tunity and show as much as we can of shinty's past, present and future.'

Many of shinty's great trophies will be on display on a planned rotation, and clubs and associations within the game are to be offered the opportunity to be part of the six-month long event.

Interesting and unusual objects are also being sought for display and club's views will be invited on the content.

Jim Barr, president of the Camanachd Association, said: 'The exhibition offers shinty a unique opportunity to celebrate our historic links with football and reach new audiences from across Scotland and beyond.'

'The Scottish Football museum is a five-star visitor attraction

Shinty

and thousands of people will pass through the facility during this period, providing us with a unique opportunity to tell shinty's story and win new friends and supporters for the sport.

'The project dovetails with our strategic commitment to reassert participation and profile for the sport in the central belt.'

'It also complements our long-term aspiration for an archive of the game's riches, and we hope to be in a position to take elements of the exhibition around the shinty playing areas in the future.'

The exhibition will be bilingual with a strong Gaelic element throughout, being supported by Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

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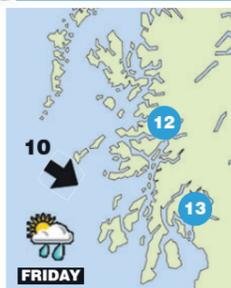
Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy with light rain showers
Winds moderate westerly
Temperatures 10°C to 14°C.

Friday Heavy rain showers
Winds light west north westerly
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

Weekend Outlook Light rain showers on Saturday
Light rain showers on Sunday
Winds moderate west north westerly
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, July 23, 2015 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm								
Thur	04.21	1.7	09.56	3.2	16.22	1.6	22.00	3.3	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	05.11	1.9	10.45	3.0	17.12	1.8	22.48	3.1	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	06.11	1.9	12.01	2.9	18.11	1.8	** **	1.8	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	00.01	3.0	07.19	1.9	13.49	2.9	19.16	1.8	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	02.00	3.0	08.29	1.7	14.58	3.1	20.24	1.7	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	03.12	3.2	09.28	1.5	15.48	3.3	21.29	1.4				
Wed	04.05	3.4	10.16	1.2	16.32	3.6	22.27	1.1				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate



RETURN OF CAOL GALA DAY AFTER A DECADE



TIRRE MUSIC FESTIVAL PICTURE SPECIAL

Hotel faces shut-down as owner stripped of licence

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A HOTEL in Lochaber could be closed for up to six months as the owner had his alcohol licence suspended after being found drunk in charge of the hotel bar on numerous occasions.

Police even found Graham McMenemy slumped in a store room of the Ben View hotel in Strontian, while residents were left waiting for a meal last month, causing 'serious concerns' about public safety and fire risks.

Highland council's licensing board held a special meeting on Tuesday and members agreed to suspend McMenemy's personal licence for six months. The hotel still holds a premises licence, but without its personal counterpart, the owner can't sell alcohol.

The only way the Ben View can continue to trade is if McMenemy finds a manager with a personal licence within

six weeks. If not, the hotel must remain closed for the duration of the six month suspension.

A report provided to the licence review meeting, which McMenemy chose not to attend, outlined times police had carried out checks at Ben View and found the owner, who also runs holiday cottages in Strontian, 'heavily intoxicated', 'staggering' and 'slurring his words' with residents present.

The statement by chief inspector, Mairi MacInnes, said of the first inspection on May 16 this year: 'Graham McMenemy was traced to the hallways between the lounge and the public bar where he was speaking to patrons.

'He was wearing his chef's attire, he was staggering and holding on to the walls to prevent him from falling over. Mr McMenemy was slurring his words and claimed to be sober, however it was evident he was heavily intoxicated. He was advised to go to his bed and leave a member of his staff in

charge which he refused to do.' On another three inspections in May and June, McMenemy was found to be drunk, including at a menu launch night attended by 35 customers.

The issue reached a peak when a police officer attended on June 24 and couldn't find any members of staff, but found two hotel residents waiting on a meal.

A report on the incident said: 'On carrying out a further check of the premises Constable Swift located Graham McMenemy slumped behind the door of a storeroom, apparently unconscious through drink. Constable Swift was unable to rouse Mr McMenemy who was slurring his words and unable to stand unaided.'

As no other staff members were working, the hotel had to be closed for the night and the customers relocated to new accommodation.

Inspector MacInnes said McMenemy was 'incapable of looking after himself, let alone ensuring the safety of the public'.

She continued: 'Graham McMenemy was so drunk he could barely stand. He was seen to be wearing his chef's attire. This causes serious concerns for the safety and fire risk of patrons, staff and the licensee himself in the fact he may attempt to use kitchen equipment.'

Ian Cockburn, chairman of Highland council's licensing board, heard there had been further incidents since the report was submitted. He imposed a six month suspension, effective immediately.

He said: 'He will no longer be able to use the premises licence without a personal licence. If he can't find a licence holding manager within the six weeks he will have to shut the hotel.'

Mr McMenemy was unavailable for comment.



All smiles for Caol gala day

CAOL GALA DAY: Gala queen, Morgan Bisset, middle, with attendants, Erica Peden, left, and Erica MacKay. For more on Saturday's fun-filled event at Caol community centre, see page 10

21_30frontpic01

Hartson's Heroes return to tackle Ben

FORMER old firm footballer John Hartson will walk up Ben Nevis for the fifth time this weekend, with more than 50 supporters - dubbed 'Hartson's Heroes'.

The 40-year-old, and wife, Sarah, from Spean Bridge, are taking part in the BraveHart Challenge to mark the sixth anniversary of John's battle with testicular cancer and raise funds for his charity, the John Hartson foundation.

The ex-Celtic star said last year would be his final time on the summit of the Ben, but enthusiasm from his supporters persuaded him to return to add to the thousands of pounds he has already raised through the annual challenge. This year's walk will take place on Saturday (July 25).

Mr Hartson, who also played for Arsenal, West Ham and Wales, said: 'The BraveHart Ben Nevis challenge has

become one of our flagship events.

'Although I said last year would be the last time I went up the Ben, the feedback from all those fantastic supporters who came along persuaded me that we should come back again this year.

'I'd like to thank everyone for coming and look forward to a great weekend raising funds and awareness of testicular cancer.'

Court shame of holiday pair jailed for three nights

A COUPLE'S weekend visit to the Highlands didn't quite go as planned when they ended up spending three nights in jail.

Lauren Alexander, 30, and Darren McCabe, 37, appeared at Fort William sheriff court on Monday after they were arrested for being drunk and disorderly on Friday afternoon.

The couple were travelling from their home in Bridgend, near Falkirk, to Skye in a minibus with a group of friends when they began arguing over a lost phone. But the crowd soon got sick of the drunken pair's rowing and kicked them out of the bus, leaving them stranded

on the A87, close to Fort Augustus. Alexander and McCabe were arrested and spent the weekend in a cell, instead of their planned trip camping at Fairy Braes on the island.

Sheriff Richard Davidson admonished the couple on Monday morning, but asked if they could be trusted to travel home together without arguing.

He added: 'The course of true love did not run particularly smoothly this weekend but I'm not entirely sure why the police had to become involved. For your stupidity you spent a weekend in custody and you're now admonished.'

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CHEERS: A garden party at Fort William shinty club raised more than £2,000 for cancer treatment for Kelly MacDonald. From left: Organisers, Rebecca Grant, Mavis Valentine, Kelly's brother, Shaun MacDonald, Leanne Kelly and Susan Bell 21_30kelly01

Garden party proceeds boosts Kelly's fight

MORE than £6,000 has been raised for a Fort William woman suffering from cancer following a garden party in the town on Sunday.

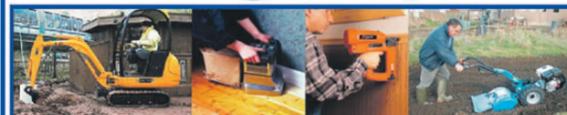
Friends of 29-year-old Kelly MacDonald have set up an account in her name to fund private healthcare for the hairdresser's liver cancer, if she can't be cured through the current NHS treatment she is undergoing.

The group had previously raised £4,000 through donations and a bake sale, but added a further £2,224 at the garden party at Fort William shinty club on Sunday.

If Miss MacDonald doesn't need specialist treatment, the funds will be donated to a local cancer charity of her choosing. Susan Bell, a friend and colleague of Miss MacDonald, has been organising the fundraising activities and said she is 'so grateful' for what has been raised so far. Miss MacDonald is currently undergoing treatment so was not well enough to attend the event.

The group are also set to embark on 'Kelly's Klimb', a walk up Ben Nevis on August 30 to raise more money.

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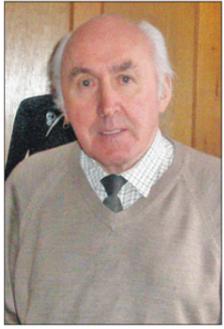
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LONG SERVICE: Plockton community council stalwart, Charlie MacRae, is to step down after 40 years

Stalwart calls it a day after decades

A COMMUNITY council stalwart is stepping down from his role as chairman after more than a quarter of a century.

Charlie MacRae has been a member of Plockton and district community council since its inception 40 years ago and took on the role of chairman 26 years ago, but has decided it is time for a new lease of life.

The 77-year-old is also involved with Plockton hall committee, the Lochalsh branch of British Legion Scotland, Skye and Lochalsh sports council and a local poppy convener.

He said: 'It's kept me going and I've enjoyed it, but it's time for someone new. I'm still involved with all of my other activities.'

But there are concerns for the future of the community council as four members - vice chairman, Joy MacKenna, long-serving secretary, Gill James, and members, George Glasgow and June Sanderson, - will stand down at the elections in November.

Mr MacRae added: 'I hope they can find more people to take over. Gill was a great secretary for 26 years, so she'll be a big loss and young people don't seem as keen to take over.'

Tourism booking system saves cash

BUSINESS owners in Fort William have saved £20,000 through a local tourism booking system, a marketing group has said.

Providers of the not-for-profit Fort William accommodation marketing group (FWAMG) said hotel and bed and breakfast owners in the town have saved thousands in the two years since the website's launch due to cheaper commission fees than international companies. The group was set up in 2013 and since then has taken direct bookings for its 25 members.

Andy Keen, chairman of FWAMG said: 'It felt like a bit of a David and Goliath situation going up against these industry giants. The first bookings came in quite quickly, though and after that, it just began to grow and grow.'

'Why should this money go to multi-national corporations when it can remain in the Lochaber economy? Too many local accommodation providers are paying a fortune every month in commission when it could stay in their pocket.'

Rural school facing rapid drop in number of pupils

AMANDA CRAWFORD
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A RURAL Lochaber school that has defied closure twice before is facing its lowest number of pupils for more than a decade.

According to Highland council's predicted rolls, Roy Bridge primary school will see 20 pupils return for 2015/16, but locals say there are just 11 expected to return.

The school's pupil numbers have been dropping in recent years and it waved seven pupils off to high school at

the beginning of the summer. However, neighbouring school, Spean Bridge primary, is set to have 106 pupils return for the new term in August.

Roy Bridge school was faced with closure in 2006, but after community campaigns to keep it open, Highland council backtracked on the plan.

Then in 2009 - when there were 29 pupils attending the school - it faced closure, but with the support of Scottish Rural Schools Network (SRSN), parents and community groups again campaigned against this successfully.

John Fortheringham, chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry community council, said: 'We would not encourage the closure of Roy Bridge primary school and would support parents in the community if such proposals were raised.'

'There has been an influx of youngsters to the area, so it was hoped that school numbers would increase year on year.'

With Spean Bridge primary school having a nursery, Mr Fortheringham believes this has had an impact on the school roll at Roy Bridge decreasing

over the years. He said: 'The nursery has impacted from what I can gather.'

'When parents send their children to nursery, it is often the case that they settle there and it is easier for them to continue to go to school there.'

'The low numbers may be a blip and there may be more children in the future, but time will tell. I hope that Roy Bridge continues.'

There is just one teacher at Roy Bridge and four at its larger counterpart, Spean Bridge. The schools share a cluster headteacher who

travels the three miles between the villages.

As the Oban Times went to press, the chairman of the parent council, David Dignan, was unavailable for comment.

A spokeswoman from Highland council said there are no plans to close Roy Bridge school, despite the rapidly dropping school roll.

The spokeswoman added: 'Any decision to close a school is a political one, made by elected members following a period of consultation with the community, stakeholders and the Scottish government.'

TIMESLINE

Glencoe Inn fire shuts restaurant

THE RESTAURANT of the Glencoe inn is closed after a fire broke out in the kitchen last week.

Fire crews arrived at the scene last Wednesday morning to find the blaze in the Gathering restaurant had already been put out, but had to return shortly after as the fire, thought to have started under the cooker, ignited again.

The restaurant area remains closed, but a spokesman for the Glencoe inn said a full menu is available from the bar.

Tributes paid to former councillor

TRIBUTES have been paid to a former Western Isles councillor who passed away at the weekend aged 68.

Donald Macdonald was elected to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar in 1990 and served Scalpay, Bays and Harris East until 2007.

Speaking after his death on Sunday, comhairle convener Norman MacDonald said: 'Donald was a good man who cared and worked for his community tirelessly. He was a very active participant in all of the comhairle's processes and served as vice chairman of transportation, chair of contract services and chair of the commercial operations board. Donald was a key driver of the Scalpay bridge project and many other beneficial works for his community. Our thoughts go out to his family and friends at this very sad time.'

Car crash results in closure of A87

FOUR people were involved in a road traffic collision at Dornie on Tuesday.

Only one vehicle was involved in the incident on the A87 and the four occupants are not thought to have sustained life-threatening injuries.

The road, which leads to the Skye bridge, was closed from around 2.30pm until almost 5pm.



PROUD: members of Fort William's town team and community council at the award ceremony

Town team's pride over Fort community award

A COMMUNITY group received an award for the 'uplifting' changes it has made to the town. Fort William town team (FWTT) became the first group in the town to receive the citizen of the year award. During a ceremony last Monday, the award was given to members from the accolade's creators, Fort William community council (FWCC). On behalf of FWCC chairman, Neil Clarke, said: 'The group

has uplifted the town with hanging baskets, by painting chairs and planting near the bypass. We thought it was particularly deserving of the award this year.'

A FWTT spokesperson said: 'Thank you to everyone who helped us achieve our award, supported us along the way, unanimously decided to give it to the town team and came to celebrate with us. We could not be more proud.'

Man scared family in the early hours of the morning

A MAN who scared a family in the early hours of the morning has been given community service.

James Reade, 33, began knocking on the window of a house on Union road in Fort William at 2am on December 27 last year, disturbing a man, wife and child at the property.

Reade declined the householders' offers of help, but did not leave the premises when asked to. He became more aggressive after he asked the householder for a cigarette and was refused, even calling him explicit names. The householder then phoned the police but not before Reade began brandishing a rock outside the property.

He is thought to have dropped the object before the arrival of police on the scene.

On Monday, Fort William sheriff court heard that Reade had consumed so much alcohol prior to the incident that he passed out in a garden nearby and when he woke up he 'did not know if he was in Fort William or Glasgow'.

Reade, formerly from Lochaber, now lives in Glenurquhart road in Inverness where he is studying at college and lives with his partner.

Sheriff Richard Davidson said: 'To do this to complete strangers is just nasty. They would have been alarmed and it is worse that you were in possession of a rock.'

Reade was ordered to carry out 60 hours of community service in Inverness to allow him to continue with his education.

Transport in the spotlight

CONSULTATION into transport in Uist and Barra has moved up a gear.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has asked for public opinion on what services should be available on the islands and locals can give their opinions at two events next month.

The first will be at Castlebay school, Barra, on Thursday August 13 from 2.30pm until

7pm with the second at Sgoil Lionacleit, Benbecula, on Saturday August 15 from 11am until 3pm.

Councillor Angus Campbell, chairman of the partnership, said: 'The Uist and Barra public transport project is using a completely new approach to the way services are commissioned. I strongly urge people to come along.'

Disused Acharacle home given new lease of life



CO-OPERATION: an empty home in Acharacle has been renovated to provide accommodation for a local family

A DISUSED property in Acharacle has been given a new lease of life and will soon become a family home.

The community-owned house, Druim Garbh, was empty for six years, but thanks to help from the Nationwide Foundation and the Highlands small communities housing trust (HSCHT), the Acharacle community company was able to renovate the building to rent to a local family.

Ronnie MacRae, chief executive of HSCHT, said he was 'delighted' to see the completed project. He added: 'The key feature to the success

of the project has been the superb co-operation with the community and the wider partnership of those involved.'

'This project has brought together a welcome and innovative funding stream from the Nationwide Foundation and our well-established contacts with the Acharacle community, resulting in a desirable home being available to rent for people in Acharacle.'

A spokesman from the Acharacle community company said: 'We are delighted to see the renovation work at the bungalow completed to such a high standard and very

pleased to be offering this accommodation back into the community for low cost rental.'

'Many thanks to the Highland Small Community Housing Trust for all their help and support in making this happen.'

Not only will the rural Lochaber village benefit from affordable accommodation, the economy has also been given a boost through the scheme as a local construction firm, S&K MacDonald homes, was used and HSCHT insisted a new apprenticeship for a local teenager was created as part of the renovation.

Kenneth MacDonald, owner of S&K MacDonald homes, said taking on 16-year-old Colin Cameron was an important part of the project: 'We're not a huge firm but taking another apprentice is entirely positive. Getting new blood in lifts everyone's spirits, and local people appreciate the effort we put in with youngsters.'

'It's also important because we need to build a local base of skilled tradesmen so that we can tackle jobs on the west coast without the costs of having to bring in people from hours away. We're training a workforce for the future.'

Lifeline village road to be fixed as part of £300,000 upgrade

A CRUMBLING single-track road connecting a rural community to the rest of Lochaber, is to be repaired as part of a £300,000 upgrade.

The economy of Polloch is reliant on forestry, but timber lorries were banned from the road connecting the village to Glenfinnan last year as the road fell into disrepair.

But funding has now been provided by the Scottish government and Highland council to improve the stretch, including the bridge over Polloch river.

Dr Ben Lennon, head of Forestry Commission Scotland's Lochaber team, said: 'Polloch is a very small

community and the single-track road in and out is a lifeline that everyone relies on.'

'Forestry is also an important element of the local economy, so the damaged surface and its being barred to timber lorries was a bit of a double whammy.'

'This partnership project is a fantastic boost for the community because it will provide residents with a high quality road that will serve them well for years to come.'

'But it also means that around 300,000 tonnes of land-locked timber can be taken to market over the next 30 years.'

Allan Henderson, Highland councillor for Caol and Mallaig, welcomed the announcement: 'This productive partnership approach means that a badly damaged road can be repaired and enhanced and can carry on to serve the local community for many years to come,' he said.

'Good team work has been very effective.'

'I am particularly pleased as much of the existing road materials as possible is going to be used in the reshaping before the overlay work is done.'

'This cuts down on material and haulage costs and also is good news for reducing our carbon footprint.'

Tick removal tool is 'a great idea'

HIGHLAND council is offering a free tick removal tool and information leaflet to prevent lyme disease from bites.

The small spider-like creatures feeds on blood and will bite humans if they make it onto skin. They can often be picked up in long grass or from domestic pets and can cause the bacterial infection.

Bob Murdoch, a Highland council environmental health officer, said: 'This is a widespread issue across the country and we should all take simple precautions like avoiding walking through long grass with bare legs or arms in the tick season of May to September. Tuck trousers into socks and inspect yourself when you get home. If you haven't already got a tick tool, this is a great idea and something we should all have handy in the car, wallet or handbag.'

For a free tick removal tool and information leaflet send a stamped and addressed envelope to Tooled up for tick time, Environmental Health, Community Services, The Highland Council, Town House, High Street, Inverness, IV1 1JJ.

Fèis Latharna Argyll Cèilidh Trail 2015

Cèilidh air chuairt

Ceòl traidiseanta air a chluich le cuid den òigridh as fhearr aig Fèis Latharna
Traditional music from some of the best young musicians and singers from Fèis Latharna

Ceann Latha	Aite	Tachartas	Uair
Date	Venue	Event	Time
Tues 21 July	Iona Village Hall	Ceilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Wed 22 July	Dervaig Village Hall, Mull	Ceilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Thurs 23 July	Inveraray Castle Grounds	Big Day Out	2.45pm
	George Hotel, Inveraray	Ceilidh	9.00pm
Fri 24 July	Connel Village Hall	Ceilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Sat 25 July	Tayvallich Village Hall	Ceilidh/Dance	8.00pm
Tues 28 July	Cullipool Hall	Ceilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Wed 29 July	Creagan Inn, Appin	Ceilidh	8.00pm
Thurs 30 July	George, Inveraray	Ceilidh	9.00pm
Fri 31 July	Lismore Village Hall	Ceilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Sat 1 August	Easdale Island	Ceilidh/Dance	8.00pm
Tues 4 August	Crianlarich Village Hall	Ceilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Wed 5 August	Port Charlotte Hotel, Islay	Ceilidh	9.00pm
Thurs 6 August	Gigha Village Hall	Ceilidh/Dance	7.30pm
Fri 7 August	Ceol Campbelltown - Seafield	Ceilidh	7.30pm
Sat 8 August	Carradale Village Hall	Ceilidh/Dance	8.00pm

Tuilleadh fiosrachaidh www.feisean.org/ceilidh for further information

Sheriff appalled at man's behaviour

A MAN who smashed a glass door in front of an elderly woman has been told his behaviour was 'appalling'.

Sean McCuish, of 4 Banavie Road, Caol, appeared at Fort William sheriff court on Tuesday.

The 24-year-old pleaded guilty at a previous hearing to verbally abusing and behaving aggressively towards a 71-year-old at his home.

The court heard how McCuish

threw his mobile phone on the kitchen floor before walking through to the lounge and smashing the glass door, during the incident on the evening of November 26 last year.

Defence solicitor, Hamish Melrose, said: 'He knows that he acted in a way that was uncalled for. He is also taking active steps to move on from the incident.'

Mr Melrose also told how following

the incident McCuish has begun to address his 'anger issues'.

Sheriff Richard Davidson said: 'This is the first occasion that this man has had anger management issues, but I am keen to get to the bottom of what has caused this appalling behaviour.'

The sheriff requested a background report on McCuish ahead of his sentencing scheduled for September 15.

Pier today and gone tomorrow as cruise ship sets sail

THE MS Prinsendam seemed to favour a walk on the Esplanade rather than take a dignified sail out of Oban Bay on Tuesday morning, writes Louise Glen.

The mid-sized Holland America Line cruise ship is nicknamed by travellers, the Elegant Explorer.

But the handsome ship took her journey too far when she slipped into the sea channel closest to the seafront hotels.

On hand was Eric Dickison, of Wellpark House bed and breakfast in Oban, to take this photograph where the 27-year-old beauty had a close call.

The cruise liner is no stranger

to danger. On February 1, 2007, Prinsendam was hit by two 12-metre tall rogue waves near Cape Horn.

There were around 40 injuries, with some passengers taking to hospital for treatment.

Five years later on March 22 2012, Prinsendam, en route to Portimao in Portugal, received a distress call from a Portuguese fishing boat with eight people aboard.

The Portuguese Coastguard directed Prinsendam to pick up the fishermen and stand by for a helicopter to take the eight men to shore.



Plea to save £15m school building for the community

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

'DON'T throw away a £15 million building' was the plea made by a local councillor to his Argyll and Bute colleagues before Oban's high school is demolished.

Councillor for Oban North and Lorn, Iain MacLean, wants a rethink before the old building is reduced to rubble to make way for a car park and a 'grand' entrance to a new purpose-built school due to open for the 2017/18 season.

A former businessman, councillor MacLean believes the building may be valuable for other

public services or community resources.

But a local authority spokesman said it was 'impossible' to accommodate the new and old schools on the same site.

However, the councillor is backed in his calls by former MP Alan Reid.

Mr Reid, who was ousted from the Argyll and Bute Westminster seat in May, said: 'On the doorsteps, local people were saying time and again that a new school is not needed.'

'Many suggested that, to save money, it might be best not to spend multi-millions on a new school.'

Councillor MacLean said the chance to relocate the school or stop the rebuild was probably past, but there was still time to save the former school building.

Mr MacLean said: 'I have an email from Argyll and Bute council in response to my enquiry about the book value of the existing school building.'

'It is a figure well in excess of £15 million.'

'I have tried for several months to introduce a rethink about demolishing the existing building after completion of the new one.'

'Future uses I have highlighted to justify retention of the present building, at least the majority of

it, include the desperate need for additional local authority office space and rationalisation of existing multiple offices, additional Argyll college space, consideration to sharing with other public bodies such as Police Scotland, turning over the gym hall for general public use such as the youth requirement for a skate park, facilities for bigger musical events such as mods and larger conferences being attracted to Oban.

'If one considers the dire budgeted financial situation Argyll and Bute council is facing, then we need to find ways of making the most of what assets we have

to fulfil future needs where there is no real hope of finding funding to provide new-build alternatives.'

'In short, it's a very, very wasteful approach to demolish such an asset to make way for a car park and new entrance for the new high school.'

'The latter, which intends to divert pupils from Soroba Road into Millar Road, is pretty unlikely to be easily adopted, as it's a long way around.'

Education spokesman for the council, councillor Rory Colville, said: 'This new school will help to equip 1300 children for the future; providing them

with a fabulous facility in which they can learn and succeed, be ambitious and realise their full potential.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council continued: 'Following a site selection process which involved an extensive public consultation, the current school site was chosen as the only possible site for the new Oban High and was approved by our project partners.'

He said the funding was allocated to Oban because the school had been extended over many years and was increasingly unsuitable for delivering high quality modern education.



BURNT OUT: Smoke can still be seen in the ruins of the house

Families are 'devastated' by fire at Skyfall location

POLICE are investigating a fire that destroyed an ancient family home on the banks of Loch Etive, famous for being a location in the last James Bond film, Skyfall, writes Louise Glen.

Alltchaorunn, near Dalness in Glen Etive, was 'burnt to the ground' by the fire last Saturday and highlighted by the popular Facebook page, 'Glen Etive the dirty truth'.

The individuals who started the blaze have been called 'scumbags and mindless morons' by people on the social media site for

destroying the last of a few traditional houses in the rural areas of Glen Etive.

The house is believed to have been used by the Earls of Breadalbane in the 18th and 19th centuries for family holidays at the remote location four miles from the nearest main road.

The house and surrounding bothies were home to various families who are now scattered throughout the world. They were alerted to the fire by Facebook.

Concerns over the loss of their heritage by the destruction of the

building were outlined by Toni Kelly Fleeton, of Tasmania, she said: 'How devastating. I am hoping that it is the two-storey house next door to the little white cottage. I'd like to know which one was on fire as I am coming over to visit in September and have planned a visit to the property to see the birthplace of my great-grandfather.'

If anyone was in the area at the time, Saturday July 15, and noticed anything suspicious, please call 101 and speak to Police Scotland.



HIGH NOTES: Popular band, Cherry Grove, en route to the Tìre Music Festival, delighted the audience at the Tàynùit ceilidh last Thursday with a lively and rousing programme of music

TIMESLINE

Not a full chamber to discuss budgets

A CRUNCH budget meeting to discuss scathing cuts to Argyll and Bute council's services and staffing was attended by 25 out of a full council of 36 members.

The day in May was planned weeks in advance, but 11 elected members were absent.

Members attending from Oban, Lorn and the Isles area were councillors Mary-Jean Devon, Neil McIntyre, Iain MacLean, Roddy McCuish and Elaine Robertson, while councillor Duncan MacIntyre is on an agreed long-term absence.

A new date fixed for Connel sailor

ANTI-piracy crewman, Billy Irving, is to appear before the Indian supreme court on August 3, which may bring an end to his three-year ordeal.

The Connel man has been held since October 2012 after his ship strayed into Indian waters. Cleared of any charges, the Indian authorities still hold his passport.

Watchdog to take a look at concerns

AUDIT Scotland confirmed it is undertaking a review of Argyll and Bute council with a report due before the end of the year.

A spokesman for the statutory body confirmed it had received concerns from a councillor and a Holyrood politician, which it said it would address in the second follow-up report.

Work to start on esplanade hotel

DEVELOPERS of the Argyll hotel on Oban's esplanade have confirmed an application for a building warrant was made this week. Owner, Alan MacLeod, said he hoped work would start soon.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

IS YOUR 2-YEAR-OLD ELIGIBLE FOR FREE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE?



Early learning and childcare will help young children gain vital language and learning skills, improve their social development and help them do better at school when the time comes. It will also support parents to work, train or study.

Two-year-old children are eligible for 600 hours of free early learning and childcare if their parent or carer receives:

- Income Support (IS)
- Job Seeker's Allowance (income based)
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Incapacity or Severe Disablement Allowance
- State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit and your income is less than £16,105*
- Both maximum CTC and maximum Working Tax Credit and your income is under £6,420*
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- Universal Credit*

In addition, children aged two or over who are (or have been at any point since turning two) looked after by a local council, the subject of a kinship care or guardianship order are eligible.

*This applies to children who have turned two on or after 1st March 2015.

The income thresholds for Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit can vary annually.

For more info visit

earlylearningandchildcare.scot

ask your health visitor or contact your local council.



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Thieves leave fundraisers with £70k bill

LOUISE GLEN
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THIEVES have struck again at one of Argyll's architectural gems when they stripped £35,000 worth of lead from a lochside church roof.

St Conan's Kirk, the impressive Loch Awe church and cloister which lies just off the A85, was targeted by the thieves for the second time in a year sometime between Friday night and Saturday morning.

Volunteers, who are trying to raise £1 million to restore the exquisite church, have been hit with an additional eye-watering £70,000 to cover the cost of the thefts and subsequent damage to the building.

After the first theft, the replacement lead roof was marked by an anti-theft device, but the church volunteers don't hold out much hope of the lead being



LAI D BARE: Thieves stripped £35,000 worth of lead from the roof of St Conan's Kirk by Loch Awe last weekend, the second time they have targeted the ornate church in a year

traced and recovered. David MacLeod, a volunteer who opens and closes the kirk for visitors every day and also helps out in the community cafe, said: 'I went over on Saturday morning and opened up as usual. It was devastating to see that it had been hit by thieves again. The last time this happened it cost us £35,000 to repair.

'We are a small charity who are volunteering to bring the

kirk back up to standard. While police are looking for the people who have done this - I want to make sure through the pages of the *Oban Times* that everyone is aware of the damage that these thefts are doing to our buildings.'

St Conan's Kirk was built for the mother of Walter Douglas Campbell, younger brother of the first Lord Blythswood.

Local tradition has it that the elderly Mrs Campbell found the long drive to the parish church in Dalmally much too arduous, and that her son built her a church nearby.

The church was completed in the 1920s and 1930s. Last year, the group started a fundraising campaign to raise £1million, and were awarded £51,000 from the Church Roof Fund.

Anyone with information on the theft should contact police on 101 asking for the Oban office.

TIMESLINE

User old enough to have known better

A MAN seen staggering along a street in Oban was stopped by police after he appeared to be trying to conceal something.

Andrew Docherty of Millpark Place in the town was searched on July 11 last year on Oban's Esplanade and found to have 84 tablets, in eight blister packs, of diazepam worth between £42 and £84.

The groundsman, 45, admitted possessing the drug illegally and was told by Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC at Oban sheriff court this week that at his age he should have put such offences behind him. He was fined £400.

Man denies drugs charges in court

A 35-YEAR-old man has been charged with illegal drug possession and being in a building without lawful authority.

Michael Docherty, of Iona Road, Port Glasgow, has pleaded not guilty to possessing diamorphine, amphetamine and diazepam on July 20 at Albany Apartments in Oban.

He also denied being in Albany Apartments unlawfully, where it could be inferred he intended to commit theft.

Docherty was remanded in custody on Tuesday at Oban sheriff court for trial on August 18.

No return journey to court - sheriff

A FIRST offender at Oban sheriff court on Tuesday was told, 'do not get involved with drugs' after admitting being in possession of cocaine.

Ryan MacAllister, 19, of Colonsay Terrace, Oban, was stopped by police just after midnight on February 2 after they saw him trying to conceal something.

He was found to be in possession of what was later confirmed as £10-worth of cocaine. Fining him £200, Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC told MacAllister: 'I don't want to see you back in this court again.'

Sheriff gives stern advice to boy, 18

'DON'T go down this road; it will wreck your health, your relationships and cost you a lot of money,' Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC warned a first offender who had admitted possessing illegal drugs.

Bailey Taylor, 18, of Colonsay Terrace, Oban, was stopped by police and found to have 0.4g of the drug MDMA, worth £20, and tiny amount of cannabis. He was fined £200 for possession of MDMA and admonished on the cannabis charge.

Reported to fiscal for cocaine abuse

A 39-YEAR-OLD Oban man was detained in police custody recently and charged with supplying a Class A drug, namely cocaine. A report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.

Town traders angry about market

STEVEN RAE
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THE CONTROVERSIAL decision to allow a continental market to trade in Oban's Station Square this week has been dubbed 'a kick in the teeth' by one shopowner.

The decision comes after Bid4 Oban, which represents over 480 local businesses, had its objection rejected by Argyll and Bute council over the plan.

The market was scheduled to begin trading yesterday, Wednesday, until Saturday, under a restricted licence. This means certain goods cannot be traded, namely those in direct competition with local businesses.

In 2013, Dunfermline-based Continental Market Ltd was granted a street trader's licence



DISAPPOINTED: Graeme Bass

on the basis it would not sell the same produce as established shops in the town. However, the enterprise was issued with an enforcement order by a council officer, instructing the owner to close down around half of the

stalls, as they did not comply with the licence, with one man also charged by police.

The council did not confirm the name of the company given the licence to trade this year.

One shopowner to voice his feelings was Alan Cathro, former chairman of Oban chamber of commerce. He has traded in the Iona Shop, next to Station Square, for 50 years.

He said: 'My feeling is that it is in the wrong place entirely, being right in the middle of the town. I don't understand the decision and, in some ways, I think the council might be dictated to by some of the traders.

'Every other business has expenses all year round, yet at the same time, council services are getting taken away to balance the books.



MARKET FORCES: the market in the same location, in 2013, with Oban woman, Adele Duncan

'This is a bit of a kick in the teeth to rate payers.'

Poppies garden centre owner Gary McPherson, who has traded in the Oban area for 24 years, said he was concerned over lack of enforcement of the market's restrictions.

He said: 'The last time it was here, there were restrictions but they weren't adhered to. These restrictions are in place, but they'll come along, set up and just do what they want - I've seen it time after time.

'The trouble is the council is understaffed and underfunded, so it'll grant this licence but won't police it.

'Also, the money will be going straight out of the town so it doesn't benefit Oban at all. 'You'd think the council would be concentrating on keeping the businesses that are here open, paying rates all year, but instead they seem to make it harder.'

However, Alan MacLeod, who

owns the town's Ee-usk and Pizazza restaurants, welcomed the decision.

'Who is scared of the competition from a market?' he said.

'Protectionism is not the way to go forward. Competition is good for everyone.'

Graeme Bass, chairman of BID4Oban, said the group had notified levy payers of its efforts to have the licence refused.

'BID4Oban Limited is extremely disappointed that even this restricted licence has been granted,' he said.

'We do not feel that the legitimate objections voiced by the business community have been properly considered.

'There will still be direct competition with rate-paying businesses in town and there will be a displacement effect with shoppers being drawn away from established business premises.

'We will continue to make representation to Argyll and Bute

council as to our dissatisfaction with this outcome, and will continue to lobby vigorously on behalf of our levy payers.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council confirmed that goods on the list of the licence included Italian handbags, crepes, handicraft from Thailand and Spanish paella.

He added: 'We have taken care to ensure that the operator is aware that the market must comply with the conditions of the licence, including the range of goods sold.

'The licence was granted by our legal services team because it met the relevant criteria.

'We would not expect the market to have any negative impact on local traders, given that the goods to be sold are not in direct competition.

'Well-managed, complementary markets can actually enhance local business by drawing additional shoppers to the town.'

Star spotting on the train



STAR TURN: Margaret Menassa, from Oban, with TV stars, Giles Wood and Mary Killin, from Channel Four's Googlebox

CELEBRITY spotting has become something of an occupational hazard for an Oban woman.

Trolly dolly, or on-board services supervisor, Margaret Menassa, who works on the trains between Oban and Glasgow on the West Highland

Line, has met more than her fair share of A-listers.

On Saturday, she met two of the stars of hit TV show 'Gogglebox' known as Giles Wood and Mary Killin as they returned from a 'magical trip' from Mull.

Margaret who has previously

served Bob Odenkirk, from hit American TV series Breaking Bad and Better Call Saul, says everyone is treated the same way.

Margaret said: 'Of course people are using the train - it is one of the best journeys in the world.'

Survey on the diverse Argyll coastline

A GREEK student at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) in Dunbeg is conducting a survey on the diversity of the Argyll coastline.

Lizy Spanou, 22, is studying ecosystem-based management at

SAMS, in conjunction with the University of St. Andrews.

She is inviting people to complete the survey by Monday, July 27, to gauge the value of the coastal environment in Argyll.

She said: 'Argyll has an increas-

ing number of aquaculture sites and marine protected areas, as well as being beautiful, which makes it the ideal place for my survey.'

To complete the survey visit www.argyllsurvey.org.

Highland drivers hit the high spot for test passes

BARRA is the most successful place in the UK for men to learn to drive, according to new figures released by the Driving and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA).

And the statistics, which covered the past year, also show that eight of the UK's top 10 centres for passing driving tests were in the Highlands and islands.

While the national average pass rate is 47 per cent, Highland and island drivers are enjoying pass rates as high as 83 per cent, with male learners on Barra hitting a perfect 100 per cent pass rate - although just six took the test there in the past year.

When 10 female learners sat their test on Barra the pass rate was still high at 81 per cent.

Drivers in Mallaig recorded a pass rate of 83 per cent, with the next highest at 74 per cent in Kyle of Lochalsh and 71 per cent on Skye.

Centres on Arran, Orkney, Ballater and in Lochgilphead occupied the remaining Highland and island spots in the UK top ten, with driver success rates between 69 and 67 per cent.

Survey reveals demand for homes

PEOPLE on Coll want more houses. That's the overwhelming finding of a recent survey carried out on the island, writes Steven Rae.

Seventy per cent of the island's residents responded, calling for more homes to be built.

The statistics were gathered by Development Coll, with the survey supported by Argyll and Bute council, Rural

Housing Scotland and the Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA)

A spokesman for Development Coll said: 'The evidence indicates a that some additional accommodation provided at affordable prices or rent levels could play a key role in sustaining recent population growth and economic regeneration.

Critically, this would have to

operate in tandem with real and sustainable employment opportunities.

'A small-scale development of mainstream social rented properties could address the current and latent need from young residents and newly-forming families.

'The main requirement, however, for new build housing is likely to be for low-cost home ownership

via self-build, if feasible.' Discussions are ongoing with ACHA, which has indicated its commitment to build two social houses. Argyll and Bute council and the Scottish government have offered funding for the project.

Development Coll is also applying to the Scottish Land Fund which could support land purchase for social housing.

Police had to use CS gas as they tried to break up rowdy party

A HOUSE party in Oban got so rowdy that police had to use CS gas as they attempted to arrest a man.

At around 11.15pm on January 16, police were called to the address in question after reports of a disturbance and, on entering, were confronted by a house full of people, including juveniles.

While trying to arrest Daniel Nesbitt, 35, for swearing at the officers, his friend Ranold Clark, 29, tried to in-

tervene and stop police from apprehending him.

Clark was arrested for resisting and obstructing police officers and subsequently found to be in possession of cannabis. Corey Telfer, 19 and Craig MacIvor, 17, were both arrested after obstructing and resisting officers by pushing mobile phones in their faces in an attempt to video the incident.

At Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday, Procurator Fiscal

Eoin McGinty said: 'Police were warning everyone to stand back and it got to the point where they had to take out CS gas.'

Representing himself, Nesbitt, of Arcadia Street, Glasgow, admitted threatening and abusive behaviour and claimed he had only sworn at the officer because she had sworn at him first and made a derogatory remark. He was fined £250.

Also pleading guilty, the

court heard that Clark, of Longsdale Crescent, Oban, did not usually drink and would not have intervened in his friend's arrest if he had not been drinking. He was fined £300 and admonished for possession of cannabis.

Telfer, of Hynish Crescent, Oban pleaded guilty to resisting arrest and was fined £300. McIvor, of Soroba Road, Oban, also admitted the same charge and had his sentence deferred until August 18.

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Fort William fight-back comes a little too late

Football

Roths	3
Fort William	2
North of Scotland Cup	

FORT William football club's season got off to a disappointing start when they went down 3-2 to Roths in the North of Scotland cup.

The Claggan side travelled east for their first game of the 2015-16 season, but were 3-0 down by the start of the second half.

Ally Ewen's men pulled it back in the second half with goals from Scott White and John MacLeod. Lewis Campbell almost levelled the scores with an 18 yard drive, but the Roths keeper turned the ball away in a stunning save, ensuring it was the home side who progressed to the next round.

Fort William FC vice chairman, David MacDonald, said: 'Given that it is virtually a new team, it will take them time to get and once all the players have settled in, then we will certainly be a team to be reckoned with.'

Missing from the weekend's line-up was new captain, Martin Kerr. The 28-year-old central midfielder was awarded his captaincy when he signed a new contract last week, but was not with his team when they travelled to Roths at the weekend. He will be helped by new vice-captain, Darren Quigg.

Kerr said: 'I am absolutely delighted to be given the opportunity to captain the side. It is a great honour and I will feel proud leading the team out on a Saturday. Hopefully this season will be as successful and enjoyable as the one past.'

Fort William will begin their league campaign at home this Saturday, when they welcome Strathspey Thistle for the first game of the Highland league.

Harris Texas scramble takes place this weekend

Golf

THE ANNUAL Harris Ross Texas Scramble will be held at Fort William golf club this weekend.

In memory of Harris Ross, who died of a brain tumour at 15 months old in 2010, the competition is a fundraising effort for STAR for Harris, a charity set up by the baby's parents to raise awareness of childhood cancer.

Tanya Ross, Harris' mother, said: 'Thanks largely to this event and the amazing support of our community, STAR for Harris has continued to annually support research into childhood cancer, fund music therapy at Scotland's two children's oncology wards, provide gift sets for children going into isolation and provide resources for the wards. We know from personal experience what a difference these initiatives make for children battling cancer. A truly valuable and special legacy for our beautiful, brave and sparkly son.'

Tee off is from 7.30am this Sunday (July 26). To book a time contact Fort William golf club on 01397 704464.

Mingary hot shot is the new Scottish champion

'It's the first time I've shot a gun since the Commonwealth Games'

A LOCHABER shooting star who lost out on Commonwealth medals during the 2014 games made a comeback last month and won the title of Scottish champion.

John MacDonald, 36, from Mingary was an Olympic trap shooter, but took semi-retirement after a poor performance at the Glasgow games last year.

In 2010 he won the British, Scottish and English open championships, then qualified for his first World Cup in Dorset. The personal best he shot there - 118 out of 125 - was good enough to secure his place in the Scottish Commonwealth Games team.

MacDonald, a self-employed deer stalker, venison dealer and guest house owner, was left disappointed after failing to bring a medal home.

He said: 'I knew what I was capable of and I knew I should have been somewhere in the level of winning medals. Because I slightly under-achieved at the Commonwealth Games I decided to take a break.'

Following the downturn of his shooting career, MacDonald enjoyed 12 months of family life with wife, Emma, 26, and seven-month-old daughter, Megan.

After entering the Olympic trap Scottish championships on a whim last month, MacDonald made an outstanding comeback and went on to win a gold medal and the trophy.

He continued: 'For some

Shooting

strange reason I entered the Scottish championship.

'It's the first time that I've shot a gun since the Commonwealth Games, and to win that weekend was amazing.'

There were more than 40 experienced shooters competing for the title at the North Ayrshire shooting ground in Dalry.

Competitors shot at 150 clay pigeon targets each over the two-day tournament.

MacDonald said: 'I started out on the Saturday quite rusty and was a wee bit behind to begin with. But once I got back into it, I was doing well.'

'I was fifth going in to the final, but my experience pulled me through and I won 5/4. I got 11 hits out of 15 and Douglas Brown who took home silver got 10 hits out of 15.'

With no intentions of returning to the sport full-time, he said: 'Having the baby has just been the best thing for me. I have been able to help Emma out and focus on the businesses, which has been great for her.'

'I probably won't lift a gun until next year's Scottish championship, but I have never been one to train.'

'When I have over-trained, I've found it to have an adverse effect on my performance.'

'I much prefer to just go out there and do it.'



BIG SHOT: Seven-month-old Megan sports dad John MacDonald's gold medal after he won the Scottish championship in Olympic trap



Undefeated Lochaber high school retain MacBean Cup

LOCHABER high school's shinty team successfully defended the MacBean cup following a tournament in Inverness.

The Bught park event featured the Fort William side, Plockton and Portree high schools with each team playing each other twice.

Lochaber were undefeated in the tournament and a 3-0 victory in the

School shinty

final game saw them take home the trophy again.

Cousins Cameron and Darren Whyte kept up the family tradition by being part of the MacBean cup winning team as their fathers, Stuart and Brian Whyte, brothers, played together in Lochaber high school's victorious team of 1994.

Gordon Metheson from Plockton won the Greig Anderson quaiach for player of the tournament.

CUP WINNERS: The victorious Lochaber high school shinty team with the MacBean cup



RIVALS: Fort William and Kilmallie joined hosts Lochaber to welcome guest teams to the annual Joe Toal sixes tournament 21_f30joetoal01

Lochaber defeat Newtonmore to win Joe Toal tournament

Six-a-side shinty

LOCHABER camanachd club were crowned winners of this year's Joe Toal sixes tournament, after hosting the event at Spean Bridge on Sunday.

Joined by neighbours, Fort William and Kilmallie, Lochaber welcomed teams from all over the Highlands for the annual event, but it was the home side who won the trophy after a closely-fought final against Newtonmore.

United only need one point to win league title

Welfare football

THE VOLLEY have pulled out of the Marine Harvest welfare league due to lack of players, leaving six teams to finish the season.

Caol United only need one point from their next two games to win the league for a second year in a row after their closest rivals, Mallaig, lost 3-1 to bottom team Nevis Range on Friday.

But favourites, Caol, also lost their first game of the season on Friday, going down 3-2 to Lochaber in the UMD cup.

Mallaig retained some dignity in their cup game, beating Ballachulish 9-5.

This week, Lochaber were due to take on Mallaig on Tuesday.

Lundavra faced Caol United last night (Wednesday) and Caol United play second place Mallaig tomorrow night.

Next week marks the start of the final two cup competitions, the Duthie cup for the top three teams and the Kinloch shield for the bottom three.

Next week's fixtures (all cup): Lundavra v Nevis Range, Tues July 28, Nevis Range v Ballachulish, Thurs July 30, Caol United v Lochaber, Fri July 31.

League table, as of July 20

Team	P	Pts
Caol United	10	30
Mallaig	10	24
Lochaber	11	18
Lundavra	11	19
Ballachulish	12	12
Nevis Range	12	6

Athletes take part in Snowdon mountain race

Athletics

LOCHABER athletic club was on tour this weekend as 19 runners travelled to Wales for the 40th Snowdon mountain race.

Of the Lochaber competitors, Gavin MacMillan was first home, taking on the highest peak in Wales in one hour, 34 minutes and 06 seconds, earning him 106th place overall. Some 600 athletes took part on Saturday.

First Lochaber lady home was Amanda Blackhall, who ran the 1,805 metres and back in 1 hour, 43 minutes and 20 seconds, taking 208th place overall.

Skye and Lochalsh sports council hands out the cash

Sports council

SKYE and Lochalsh sports council donated grants totalling £2,212 at the group's last meeting on July 6.

Money was given to Kinlochshiel adult and junior shinty clubs, Skye adult and junior camanachd clubs and Skye and Lochalsh junior football association.

The sports council's next meeting will be held in Portree on September 28.

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WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy with light rain showers
Winds moderate westerly
Temperatures 10°C to 14°C.

Friday Heavy rain showers
Winds light west north westerly
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

Weekend Outlook Light rain showers on Saturday
Light rain showers on Sunday
Winds moderate west north westerly
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, July 23, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25						
Thur	04.21	1.7	09.56	3.2	16.22	1.6	22.00	3.3	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Fri	05.11	1.9	10.45	3.0	17.12	1.8	22.48	3.1	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sat	06.11	1.9	12.01	2.9	18.11	1.8	**.**	1.8	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Sun	00.01	3.0	07.19	1.9	13.49	2.9	19.16	1.8	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mon	02.00	3.0	08.29	1.7	14.58	3.1	20.24	1.7				
Tues	03.12	3.2	09.28	1.5	15.48	3.3	21.29	1.4				
Wed	04.05	3.4	10.16	1.2	16.32	3.6	22.27	1.1				

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

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)