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TIREE
SHOW

Tributes paid to 'precious, fun-loving' Kayla, eight

LOUISE GLEN

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AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD girl who died during an incident near Benderloch at the weekend has been described by her parents as loving 'music and dance as well as doing hair, nails and make-up'.

Kayla MacDonald, a pupil at the Rockfield Gaelic-medium unit in Oban, died at the scene of the incident on a forestry path on Sunday. She was a fluent Gaelic speaker.

The well-loved daughter was home for the weekend after spending most of the summer holidays on the island of Tiree.

Last Friday the youngster won the much-coveted prize for young stockperson's best cross-bred ewe lamb suitable for breeding, the Annie Cameron Cup for the overall champion in the cattle and sheep sections.

Kayla also won the reserve prize for the best young handler at Tiree Agricultural Show.

People who knew Kayla have talked about her beauty, her kindness and the joy it was to be in her company both as a pupil at school and as a childhood friend.

Kayla, who has two younger brothers, lived in Dunbeg, though her family has a long association with Tiree.

Families and friends, who said they will 'miss her dearly', were joined by people from all over the world who mourned the loss of the 'fun-loving' youngster who passed away in the tragic accident.

Kayla's family said: 'Kayla was a precious, fun-loving eight-year-old who was loved by everyone around her. Kayla's smile would light up a room.'

Her family issued a statement saying: 'Our wee girl loved music and dance as well as doing hair, nails and make-up. Kayla has two younger brothers who, along with the rest of her family and friends, will miss her dearly.'

A statement from Police Scotland said: 'Around 2.20pm, police and emergency services were called to a report that a young girl had been trapped under logs in a forest area at Benderloch and that another 12-year-old girl had also been injured.'

'Kayla was pronounced dead at the scene.'

'The 12-year-old girl was taken to Oban hospital before being transferred to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow for treatment.'

'Medical staff describe her condition as stable.'

'A joint investigation between Police Scotland and the Health and Safety Executive will take place to establish the full circumstances surrounding the death.'

'However, it is not being treated as suspicious.'

'A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.'

'It is understood the 12-year-old, who remains in hospital, is a relative of Kayla.'

'The youngsters are believed to have been on a walk with family when the incident happened.'

A spokesperson for Forest Enterprise Scotland said: 'Our thoughts are with the family and their friends at this very difficult time and we offer them our deepest condolences.'

'We will now focus on working with the site contractor, Tilhill Forestry, and the Health and Safety Executive as investigations into this tragic incident continue.'



Little Kayla MacDonald was pictured as Friday at the Tiree Show with her dad Alastair 'Ettie' and her brother Ruairidh.

GAELIC singer and songwriter Claire Jordan, who was Kayla's teacher, wrote a poetic tribute to Kayla, entitled *Sleep Tight, Little Angel*.

Nighean bheag, bhòidheach, bhàin,
Làn beatha, aighear 's spòrs,
Pearsantachd cho mòr ris a' bheinn,
'S tu bha cho coibhneil, còir.
Sùilean dealrach ris na reultan,
Gruag mar a' ghrian òir-bhuidh'
Fiamh-ghàire mhòr, èibhneas,
Cadal socair, sàmhach nis, a' luaidh.
'S muladach sinn as d' aonais,
Do bhàs air ar leòn,
Sgèith cho àrd a-nis, a' luaidh,
Cho àrd ris na h-eòin.
'S tu a-nis nad rionnag, àrd
Shuas anns na speuran,
Tha nèamh air aingeal eile
fhaighinn,
Chan urrainn dhuinn a' creidsinn.
Cha bhith faclan idir ann,
As urrainn dhuinn a ràdh,
Ach bidh thu na ar smuaintean,
Gu sìor-siorraidh - Oidhche Mhath.
Sleep tight, little angel

Beautiful little fair-haired girl
Full of life, joy and fun,
Personality as big as the mountain,
You were so generous and kind.
Eyes bright as the stars,
Hair locks like the golden sun
Great, joyful smiles;
Sleep peacefully, quiet now, loved one.
We are sad without you,
Your passing has wounded us,
Fly so high now, loved one,
As high as the birds.
You are now a star
High up in the sky,
Heaven has gained another angel.
It is hard for us to believe it.
There are no words at all
That we can say,
But you shall be in our thoughts,
Eternally - good night,
Sleep tight, little angel.

INSIDE YOUR
OBAN TIMES
THIS WEEK

Vandals strike

THE OWNERS of Kilchurn Castle have hit out after anglers left cans and bottles and damaged trees so badly they had to be felled. Full story - page two.

Appeal for help

OBAN'S MS Therapy Centre is recruiting volunteers to join its committee, fundraise and operate its barochamber. Full story - page three.

Fundraising

TWO PARENTS from Oban have given up their jobs to raise money for private medical treatment for their son, who has multiple sclerosis. Full story - page four.

Support grows

ALMOST 400 people have signed a petition asking Argyll and Bute Council to find an engineering firm a new yard, after it was evicted. Full story - page five.

Best for shinty

UNRIVALLED shinty coverage with reports and pictures from all the weekend's games, as well as this weekend's fixtures. Turn to pages 30 and 31.

Scrumming down

GLASGOW Warriors rugby squad brought their pro stars to Oban last week for their summer camp. Photograph special - page 32.



Screen Machine

Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Lochaline 28 - 29 July
Tobermory 30 Jul - 1 Aug
Buerness 2 Aug

Despicable Me 3 (U) 90 mins
28/07 at 5.30pm, 29/07 at 2pm, 30/07 at 5.30pm,
01/08 at 2pm, 02/08 at 5.30pm

Whisky Galore! (PG) 98 mins
28/07 at 8.30pm, 30/07 at 8.30pm, 01/08 at
8.30pm, 02/08 at 8.30pm

Wonder Woman (12A) 141 mins
"gloriously badass breath of fresh air"
Guardian 29/07 at 7pm, 31/07 at 7pm

Alone in Berlin (12A) 103 mins
"strong performances, handsomely
produced" Guardian 31/07 at 8.30pm

The Red Turtle (PG) 81 mins
"simply magnificent" Observer 31/07 at 2pm

Made by the Sea (PG) 90 mins
Join curator Shona Thomson for a fascinating
big-screen presentation of life on Scotland's
coasts and seas with a unique selection of
archive films. 01/08 at 5.30pm

Scotland's Far North: prior to screenings of *Alone in Berlin* and *Whisky Galore!* we will be screening a photo presentation of work from the 1970s and 80s, which provides a unique insight into Scotland's remote landscapes, islands and people. This presentation complements a major exhibition at Street Level Photoworks, Glasgow, 24/06 to 27/08. So please arrive 15 mins prior to scheduled start times to be sure of catching this.

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



Viewpoint is littered with rubbish

POLICE have agreed to do regular foot patrols of the viewpoint at Pulpit Hill after complaints from residents about the state of the area.

Crannag A Mhinister resident John Calderwood says the area is strewn with broken bottles and empty beer cans that tourists have to step over.

The view across the islands and north to Lochaber is renowned as one of the finest on the west coast.

Mr Calderwood explained: 'Last Sunday I took a walk up to the viewpoint and was disgusted by the mess which had been left recently by people using the area as a drinking venue.'

'The area was strewn with broken bottles which had not just been dropped but had been thrown with force which resulted in numerous pieces of broken glass lying around.'

'I have previously picked up the remnants but I'm afraid the pieces were so small I would have been there for many hours.'

'In addition, empty cans of lager had also been left.'

'The area was very busy with visitors and I apologised for the mess. A couple of holidaymakers went to their car and came back with a dustpan and brush and despite my efforts to dissuade them, they swept up the majority of the broken glass.'

The visitors were on holiday from Galloway and had been making a return visit to remind them of a previous tour so I can only imagine their thoughts on seeing this mess.'

'This area is very popular with both locals and tourists with children and animals, so it must only be a matter of time before someone is seriously injured.'

'Police have been informed of the problem in the past. It is an offence under the bye-laws prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in designated public places in Oban, which came in to being in 2012.'

'I do not know what the answer could be but perhaps

regular police patrols on foot. Even leaving their vehicle a short distance away and walking the remainder might just deter those responsible.'

Mark MacCann, who takes a walk up the hill most days, added: 'There are people who like to drink themselves silly up here and then just leave everything behind.'

'I often see teenagers drinking bottles of cider and I am worried that parents think they are safe but quite clearly they are not.'

Inspector Mark Stephen at Oban police station said: 'I will make sure the viewpoint gets more attention from ourselves, including foot patrols.'

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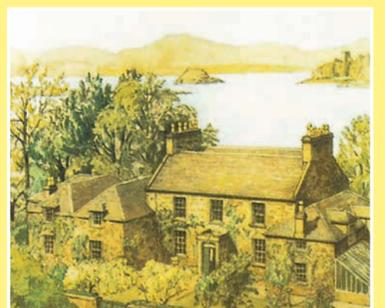
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Vandals cause mayhem and mess at castle

DAVID MCPHEE
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LANDOWNERS at Kilchurn Castle say there is an ongoing problem with campers.

Last weekend Kenny Gray and his wife Kristina were outraged with the mess one group left.

Mr and Mrs Gray said the group of eight, who were on a fishing trip, left behind around 80 empty cans and Buckfast bottles.

They also said that the group damaged the trees so badly, that they wouldn't have survived and had to be felled.

'It's an ongoing problem,' Mr Gray said. 'We own the land around Kilchurn Castle and we keep it as private fishing, which is great, but every so often we get a bunch of people who wreck the place.'

'The bunch that were there on Friday wrecked the trees. They left around 80 cans and bottles of Buckfast. I had to fell the trees as they were so badly damaged. They just left a total mess.'

'It's getting worse because they closed Loch Lomond and people who went there are now coming here.'

Seasonal camping bye-laws were introduced to the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park between March 1 and September 30 each year. The bye-laws were brought in to manage the environmental damage caused by the vast number of people camping in some areas and displaying anti-social behaviour.

People can still stop and rest in lay-bys, including staying overnight if necessary, but

permits to stay in them will no longer be issued.

However, vandalism isn't the only problem the Grays have had to deal with.

'My wife has been threatened,' Mr Gray said.

'That's why I have started wearing a body camera.'

Mr Gray waited until the next day before reporting the incident to the police, owing to fear of retaliation.

He added: 'The police said there was not enough evidence. We had photographs, names, addresses and car registrations.'

'I had a meeting with the inspector before and they said just call us, but when I phoned in the other night, there was no action taken.'

At the time of going to press, Police Scotland were unavailable for comment.



Trees were so badly damaged they had to be felled.



Vailla is presented with her award by Geoff Allan.

Vailla is a real golden girl

A TOBERMORY High School pupil has received 'the world's leading achievement award for young people'.

Vailla Kennedy, an S6 student from Lochaline, was presented with a gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award at the Palace of Holyroodhouse last week.

After sharing her experiences with the Earl of Wessex, Geoff Allan, author of the Scottish Bothy Bible, presented the certificates to her group.

To obtain a gold DofE Award, the successful young people will volunteer, learn a skill, get fit, take part in a week-long residential project and plan and undertake an expedition in wild country.

Speaking about her DofE experience, Vailla said: 'I have thoroughly enjoyed participating in the DofE scheme. My gold expedition in Snowdonia was my most challenging experience.'

'I would like to thank everyone

who has supported me, especially Morvern Community Trust, and people who have taken the time to write my assessors' reports. I am very grateful. Today has been a very special day.'

DofE programmes allow young people aged 14-24 to develop skills for life and work, such as confidence, commitment and team working.

There are currently more than 300,000 young people taking part in a DofE programme across the UK.

Islay man plans to start rum business

ISLAY'S first rum distillery could be up and bottling by the island's whisky festival next May.

Ben Inglis, a 25-year-old entrepreneur born and bred on Islay, hopes to spark a 'rum revolution' on the whisky isle by starting his own craft rum distillery at Glenegeadale. If all goes to plan, the High Road Rum Company could become the first rum distillery on Scotland's West Coast.

'There is not a lot of history of rum distilling in Scotland, but that does not mean you cannot start it,' Ben said, after a day's work driving for a building supplier. 'I have a passion for having a business that I can hand down to my family. I have always been interested in distilling. I found rum was my drink from early on.'

Rum is considered to be the world's oldest distilled spirit, and is created by fermenting its base ingredient, cane molasses. Ben plans to use traditional methods onsite, double distilling molasses in a 1,000-litre wash still and then in a 500-litre spirit still. First to trickle through for sale will be a special golden rum, flavoured by natural ingredients, and later batches will be matured in barrels.

Ben also hopes to make the distillery an extra attraction to visitors to the island, by showing how rum is made. 'We want to show people the whole process,' he said. 'It will all be done by hand. Scotland has such a reputation with spirits, and that needs to be upheld. There are no half measures. It has to be done the right way: take the high road.'



Michael Russell MSP signs the Glen Iosal petition.

MSP gives backing to care home

ARGYLL and Bute MSP Michael Russell has shown his support for the Save Glen Iosal campaign.

Mr Russell signed the petition to 'save' the 25-flat sheltered accommodation in Tobermory.

The Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) is looking to withdraw funding from the Trust Housing Association, the organisation that runs the care home.

This will result in warden support at the 25-flat complex being cut from 35 hours to 25.

A petition asking for the decision to be reversed has now been signed by 957 people.

Mr Russell wrote to the Trust Housing Association opposing the changes to supported living on Mull.

Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

Cantilena festival

LOCAL and visiting classical music aficionados were more than amply catered for between the July 9 and 14 when the annual Islay Cantilena festival attracted encouraging numbers to concerts in various venues throughout the island.

The opening event took place in the St Columba Gaelic Centre where all enjoyed Schubert's *Trout Quintet*, along with Mozart's *Piano Trio in G Major* and Beethoven's *String Trio*.

Laphroaig Distillery was the setting for the young musicians showcase concert with the students providing their own introductions. The programme also featured a Mozart Quartet, and among those making a pleasing sound were six students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

On the following night, audience members at the neighbouring Lagavulin Distillery were treated to the music of Bach and Mendelssohn as well as Rossini's *String Sonata No 1 in G*. Not to be outdone was Mozart whose *String Quartet in C* shimmered.

Next evening the orchestra was back at the Gaelic Centre where the accent was on piano and violin.

Seated at the former were pianists Havilland Willshire and Scott Mitch-



Cantilena musicians take a bow.

ell, and the programme also featured as guest artiste, the Swedish violinist and conductor Tobias Ringbord, whose musicianship mesmerised the island audience.

A varied programme included works by Granados, Chopin, Tchaikovsky, and adding contrast were Beethoven's *Piano Sonata Les Adieux* and Cesar Franck's *Violin Sonata*.

An evening at Ardbeg Distillery brought the Blue Danube to mind as the musicians presented a Viennese selection of Strauss waltzes and polkas performed on both piano and strings. Adding to the Viennese merriment

was the Swedish guest violinist's interpretation of works by Austrian maestro Fritz Kreisler.

Bringing the curtain down on this year's festival was an evening in the Bruichladdich village hall where a Mendelssohn Octet became part of a jolly classical ceilidh.

Concert goers were given a foretaste of the delights in store when the musicians presented an evening of light classical music in the Rhinns Hall at Portnahaven on the evening prior to the festival's official opening.

An afternoon event took place at the Islay House Hotel where local

resident and whisky writer Martine Nouet presented a 'portrait of an artist' programme where she paired whisky and music along with festival artistic director Angus Ramsay and the Cantilena musicians.

Cantilena was formed in 1970 by the late Adrian Shepherd, then principal cellist with the Scottish National Orchestra. Sadly, Adrian died four years ago but the continuing success of the island festival is a fitting memorial to a celebrated musician who delighted in bringing chamber music to the people of Islay.

Beach mission

MEMBERS of the Scripture Union are holding a beach mission at Port Ellen from Monday July 31 until Friday August 4 and will welcome children from all parts of the island.

The beach activities will be led by Sue and Calum Macfarlane, who will use Arctic expeditions methods to teach the youngsters the message of the Gospels.

Support for the mission, both in cash and kind, comes from St John's Church at Port Ellen, the Round Church at Bowmore and the Islay Baptist Church.

All will culminate with a family service at St John's on Sunday August 6 at 11.30am.

It is likely that a number of polar explorers will be present.

Head's dual role

MAUREEN MacDonald has been officially appointed as the joint head teacher for the primary schools at both Port Ellen and Bowmore.

Previously head teacher at Port Ellen, she had been acting head at Bowmore, which includes the island's only Gaelic unit, since last year. She will take up her new dual responsibilities when the schools re-open after the summer break in mid-August.

Maureen is of Lewis stock and is married to John MacDonald, an Ilead employed by the drinks giant Diageo at the Port Ellen Maltings.

They have twin daughters, Anna and Eilidh, who are well-known as winning duettists at both local and National Mòds.

All wish Maureen well at the more chalkface.

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

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£800 fine for strangling woman in an Oban pub

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A BUS driver has been fined £800 for 'a moment of madness' in which he strangled a woman in an Oban pub.

Gavin McKeating, 42, of 7 Kerelaw Road, Stevenston, pleaded not guilty to assaulting Tracy Gilmour by seizing her by the throat and pushing her against a wall at an Oban bar on January 5 this year, and pleaded a special defence of self-defence.

A barman, Andrew Duncan, told Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday July 19 he heard 'some banging' outside in the vestibule and, on opening the door, saw a man 'strangling' a woman with both hands.

'She was really scared,' Mr Duncan said. 'I could see that she was trying to push him away. The second I opened the door he let go and ran away.'

A second woman with 'red hair', he recounted, shouted to the man to come back but he replied: 'I am not coming back or I will get done.'

'I believe there was an incident later between the woman with red hair and the woman who was being strangled,' Mr Duncan continued. 'By the time I had phoned the police a fight had kicked off.'

Ms Gilmour told the court McKeating 'was acting aggressively. I remember the man going out for a cigarette. I said to the girl I would go out to talk to him.

I remember saying I can calm him down.' She recalled telling him 'I do not want any trouble', and his response: 'I do not give a ****.'

'I remember getting rattled against the door and then I remember him strangling me,' she said.

Ms Gilmour's attitude had changed, McKeating said, when he told her he was with his fiancée. 'I think she got the knockback and it got nasty,' he said. 'She got a bit nasty in her comments: I was not a proper Scotsman because I was with a foreign woman [and] she was only with myself because of my money. I asked her to leave. I decided to go out and have a cigarette to get away from her.'

'She went for me, like a cat's claw into my face. I put my hands up to stop her, but I was intoxicated and pushed her back. Not grabbed her by the neck - more on the chest to push her away.'

McKeating's fiancée said in the witness box she saw him outside with 'scratchings and blood', and asked him what happened: 'She attacked me,' he replied.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'Rather than staying outside to help him you went back inside to attack this lady. A minute later you punch her in the face. Why did you not go to the police? Is it not the case you were worried about police involvement because you were both involved in being aggressive?' McKeating's fiancée shook her head.

Ms Gilmour denied defence agent Kevin McGinness's suggestion that: 'You intended to continue your obnoxious and unpleasant behaviour and that is why you went outside.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'To a degree, all the evidence has had a self-serving element, except Mr Duncan's. I find his evidence compelling. If Mr Duncan's evidence were not in this trial, I would be in reasonable doubt.'

'There has been a degree of confrontation and aggression from the complainer. I accept some kind of injury was involved but that was through her self-defence. I am not without sympathy. It seems like a good night out wasted by drink. It seems to be a moment of madness.'

Sex offender guilty of threatening officer

A SEX offender who threatened to visit the home of a police officer, and shouted at her with her children in the street, has been fined £750.

Darren Napier, 28, now of 34 Angus Crescent, Fort William, pleaded not guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner, likely to cause a reasonable person fear or alarm, towards a female police officer on the offender management team while he was on bail.

Two occasions were cited: the first on April 22 this year at Oban police office when Napier threatened to attend the officer's home address, and on May 3 when he shouted at her in the company of her children in Oban's Station Square.

Oban Sheriff Court heard on Wednesday July 19 that Napier was subject to a sexual offences order and was managed in the Oban area by the female officer.

PC Beata Baldyga, on duty at Oban police office on April 22, said Napier came in to inform them he was going to stay at another address. She said: 'I checked with a police officer and these were not part of the bail conditions.'

'He was concerned he had nowhere to go. He became agitated and angry. He said he would not leave the office until he got the answer he wanted.'

'He said: "I will go to [the female officer's] house and sort it out with her. I told Darren Napier at no point should he go to [her] house."

Defence agent Joanna Mortimer said: 'It was not threatening enough for anything other than having a word with Mr Napier to tell him not to go to the house.'

A second witness, a taxi driver, told the court that on May 3 he was talking to Napier in Station Square when he saw the female officer walk past with an adult and three children. He said: 'She looked back and something was

said. Darren said: "I hope you are not discussing me in public."

'I did not feel it was right,' the taxi driver said. 'Darren should not have gone off at her when she had kids, young kids, with her. Her kids must have been alarmed. He did roar. He was a bit angry, but not aggressive. I have never known him to have an outburst like that.'

'He took his mobile phone out and said he would report her. I says: "For what?" I was under the impression she had done nothing. He thought she was looking back at him.'

The officer denied speaking about Napier in public.

The taxi driver added he saw the female officer at the esplanade: 'I did check if she was okay. I stopped and asked her what that was about. I did not have a clue. She said [she] would have to report it in the morning because of her job.'

In the witness box, the officer told procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty she was concerned about her children following the incident at Oban police office, saying: 'I thought, "Is he going to come to my house?" I called the office to say that I was not going to be at the house. There would be extra patrols in the area looking out for him.'

Asked what she saw and heard in Station Square 11 days later, she said: 'As I walked past he shouted something. He was staring at me, laughing. I knew if I stopped the children would have to stop so I carried on. It is in the context of our dealings that it is alarming for me. It was not the first incident.'

Mr McGinty summed up: 'In the context, it is intimidating to go to an off-duty officer's home address and shout at her in the street. The accused would have been well aware that these were intimidating acts.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes found Napier guilty and imposed a fine of £750.

Oban MS centre appeals for more volunteers

Oban's MS Therapy Centre is recruiting volunteers to join its committee, fundraise and operate its oxygen barochamber.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a neurological condition which attacks the nerves in the brain and spinal cord. MS is a lifelong condition affecting around 100,000 in the UK - about one in every 600.

There is no cure for MS but there is a wide range of possible treatments, one of which is having oxygen delivered under pressure in a barochamber, like a diving decompression chamber, which helps the sclerosis, or scarring, to heal.

This treatment is offered at the

MS centre in Oban, along with advice, assistance and support to sufferers, carers, families or anyone affected by MS.

The MS Therapy Centre is a local charity with a team of dedicated volunteers, but is reliant on donations and fundraising activities for its income. Full training will be provided.

Anyone interested in volunteering is welcome you to an open session on Saturday August 19 from 11am to 1pm at the MS Therapy Centre, Glencairn Road, next to Mossfield Stadium. For inquiries or information, contact centre manager Nicola MacKechnie on 01631 566602.



Manager Nicola MacKechnie is recruiting volunteers to help give oxygen treatment to MS sufferers.

Journeys launched at the Rockfield Centre

JOURNEYS to the Little Bay - An-t-Oban is the Rockfield Centre's latest Heritage Lottery-funded oral history project which follows the successful interviews and events project 'Memories Matter' in 2016.

Oban Communities Trust has employed a part-time heritage officer, Jamie Yates, who will co-ordinate the Heritage Hunters volunteer group in delivering this project over coming months.

Mr Yates said: 'A series of interviews will be conducted with current and former Oban residents to find out more about their lives and what brought them here, be it family ties, employment or otherwise.'

'The intention is also to find out more about the history of transport in the town and how it has impacted on the growth and prosperity of Oban and the surrounding area over the years.'

'These interviews will form part of an evolving archive of Oban history which will be housed at the Rockfield Centre once renovation of the main building has taken place.'

'The aim is to gain further insight into the make-up of the population of Oban and open new doors to its social history and stories which may otherwise have been lost to the sands of time.'

'The project will also collect related images illustrating the

theme of Oban: Then and Now and engaging with the public via events and exhibitions linking to the project and developing from the interviews and research conducted.

'I am thrilled to have the opportunity to join the team at Rockfield and help deliver the Journeys project. I'm looking forward to working with our volunteers who between them possess an incredible wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm for all things Oban.'

'It will be exciting to get the interview schedule up and running and I am honoured to have the chance to be involved with recording and preserving these stories for future generations.'

The Rockfield Centre continues to be a hub of creativity for all ages and abilities with group meetings, workshops and events.

The recent Wurdplay spoken word night hosted by local writer Jamie Livingstone saw a range of talented individuals perform with Glasgow rapper Loki as the star attraction.

The night also saw the launch of the Wurdplay project's first collection of work, produced in partnership with Hope Kitchen.

'In the meantime, the Wurdplay writing group meets every Tuesday at Hope Kitchen, from 2.30pm to 4pm.'

obancommunitiestrust.org

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

Break-in attempt Speeding

BETWEEN 11.50pm on Friday July 14 and 12.20pm on Monday July 17, an attempt was made to force entry to the rear door of Oban Whisky and Fine Wines, in Stafford Street.

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

Fireraising

BETWEEN 4am and 4.25am on Wednesday July 19, a Suzuki Vitara car was allegedly set on fire in the coach park in Lochavullin Road, Oban. A short time later, a man aged 24 was detained in relation to the offence. The man was later arrested and charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Theft from sheds

BETWEEN Thursday and Friday, July 13 and 14, two separate unlocked sheds at Kilbride, Lerags, were entered and some tools were stolen. Police are investigating the incidents and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

Car blaze

ABOUT 8.30am on Friday July 21, in Drummore Road, Oban, a silver Fiat van which was to be scrapped was found to have been set on fire. Police are investigating and are appealing for anyone with any information to contact them.

Assault

ABOUT 3am on Sunday July 23, following a report of a man having assaulted a woman in a flat in Shuna Terrace, Oban, a 37-year-old was detained. The man was charged with assault. He was held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

IF ANY member of the public has information in relation to the above, or any incident, they can call police on 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Oban basks in warm summer sunshine

THANK goodness the sun has come out at last and let's hope it stays a wee while, writes Bid4Oban town ambassador Kay MacDonald.

What a difference it makes to events and there is so much going on this summer. I know on the West Coast you just have to be prepared for anything but a dry day is a plus and a warm, sunny day is an added bonus.

Let's hope for some sun with a nice wee breeze for all the sailors arriving for West Highland Yachting Week, especially as it celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. I hope they get to enjoy the new pontoons and us landlubbers get to enjoy the spectacle of all the yachts setting off.

We also have another Bid4Oban local market on Saturday,

which I think adds to the holiday atmosphere in the town - that and watching everyone sitting outside the cafes and restaurants enjoying the views and the wonderful wee buskers that have been entertaining us. It gives the town a lovely buzz.

I also like the sound of the Magic Fairy Fun at Waterstone's this Saturday but I think it may be aimed at children. I might have to pop by, though, with my wings and wand in my bag.

The impressive sounding Mendelssohn on Mull String Ensemble are going to be performing in St John's Cathedral on Sunday, which would be a wonderful musical way to end a summer weekend.

It's really not hard to find something to entertain you just

now. I know I'm determined to squeeze every last drop of enjoyment I can out of this summer and so far it's not been too difficult.

If you're struggling, don't forget to have a look at Oban town diary online and, if you have something you want to advertise, you can do it the same way.

Not forgetting our new picture frame on George Street. Have you spotted it yet? It's not just for visitors wanting holiday photos - it can frame the beautiful views not to mention the boats of all shapes and sizes but it does look good with people in it too and don't forget to share your photos with the hashtag #LoveOban.

Now to a different sort of photo. Did you spot where last

week's photo came from? The doorway to Argyll Mansions next to WH Smith. And this week's is one you probably see on a daily basis, but are you paying attention?

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OT
Progress on new Kerrera ferry

SIGNIFICANT progress has been made on the construction of the replacement ferry for the link between the island of Kerrera and the mainland south of Oban at Gallanach.

The new ferry, named MV Carvorra, is being constructed by Malakoff Limited at its shipyard in Shetland for Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL).

Steelwork fabrication is now drawing to a close after a period of intensive construction and work is turning towards fitting out the vessel in preparation for sea trials, due to begin on August 7. Kevin Hobbs, chief executive of CMAL, said: 'The ceremony marks the official start of the build of the new ferry and we're delighted to see construction get under way. We will work closely with Malakoff to maintain progress on the build and we look forward to bringing the new vessel to the islanders on Kerrera later this summer.'

The 12-metre vessel will be called MV Carvorra and will replace the existing ferry MV Gylen Lady. Although similar in size and design, a number of improvements have been made to ensure passenger comfort and greater cargo carrying capacity to the island. It will be operated by CalMac, which took over the route on July 1 this year.

MP backs stem cell register initiative

ARGYLL and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara joined a cross-party Parliamentary event on Tuesday July 18 to celebrate the number of people who are registered as stem cell donors.

The all-party parliamentary group on stem cell transplantation, supported by blood cancer charity and stem cell register Anthony Nolan, held the event to mark the progress made by the transplant community in the past year.

In Argyll and Bute, the number of potential stem cell donors registered with Anthony Nolan is 2,139 and the average age is 34.

Apology

IN AN article on page four of *The Oban Times* of July 13 concerning a meeting of Soroba Residents' Association, our headline stated 'Soroba tenants voice concern about cladding'. This was incorrect. An owner occupier raised the concern. We apologise for this error.

Mum and dad quit jobs to raise cash for son with MS

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

TWO parents from Oban have given up their jobs to raise money for a private medical treatment for their son, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at the age of 16.

John and Helen Forteith have so far helped to raise £5,000 so their son Guy, 24, can undergo stem cell therapy, which is currently only available privately.

They have estimated that they will need to raise between £25,000 and £100,000 for the therapy.

In order to achieve this, they came up with an idea to walk the Rob Roy Way, the West Highland Way and the Great Glen Way. The project is titled '3 Ways for Guy'.

So far they have completed the first two, as has their eight-year-old dog, Ben. And the three of them are preparing to head off on the Great Glen Way on Saturday July 29.

'We have both given up our jobs to give that time to our



John and Helen Forteith with Francesca and Ashley Bichard, and Lindsay and Emma Aitken, and Ben the dog, doing the West Highland Way.

youngest son,' John Forteith said.

'[He] was diagnosed with MS at the age of 16 and he has been in this cycle of going nowhere in the medical world.

'The past few years, there's been an explosion in stem cell therapy, but the UK has not grasped that explosion – they are not doing it in the UK on the NHS.

'We have got to raise the funds to be able to do it. The minimum is going to be £25,000, but it's likely it will be £60,000, and we are potentially looking at £100,000. In the

UK it's about £100,000 to do it privately.

'We have a lot of money to try to raise and pull together one way or another.

'Guy, being an independent individual, started putting on concerts to raise funds towards the cause.

'So far we have raised just over £5,000.

The hope is we can try to get the treatment in early 2018 – with our own funds and a combination of fundraising.'

Once John, Helen and Ben complete the Great Glen Way, they will have walked more than 300 miles.

During the West Highland Way, they were joined by four others – Francesca and Ashley Bichard, and Lindsay and Emma Aitken.

Jacqueline Hoey has also helped raise money for Guy, raising £1,000 for the cause by undertaking a 81-mile cycle.

To donate toward Guy's fund, visit <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stemcells-forguy>

RNLI goes to aid of vessel

OBAN lifeboat launched on Monday July 24 to assist a vessel just west of Tralee bay.

The launch was the latest in a busy period for the lifeboat, following a number of call-outs last week.

The Mora Edith MacDonald was requested to launch by Stornoway Coastguard at 6.54am on Monday to help a converted fishing boat with four people aboard, which had broken down off Camas Nathais, just to the west of Tralee bay.

The volunteer crew arrived on scene by 7.11am and assisted with passing a tow to the vessel. Once secure, the lifeboat proceeded back towards Oban where the vessel was safely tied up on a mooring. Oban lifeboat then returned to station where she was refuelled and ready for service again by 8.32am.

Last week saw the lifeboat launched to help a yacht which ran aground at the south end of Kerrera on Tuesday July 18.

At 5.52pm Stornoway Coastguard requested the lifeboat to assist the yacht with which had grounded in Castle Bay.

The lifeboat departed the berth and arrived on scene shortly after at 6.17pm to find the yacht hard aground with a heavy list. The volunteer crew launched the daughter craft to assess the situation. With the tide still falling, the decision was made to secure the vessel and return later once there was enough water to refloat. The lifeboat then returned to station to wait for the tide to rise enough for the yacht to refloat, launching again a few hours later at 9.30pm.

Once back on scene, the lifeboat's daughter craft was used to put a crew member aboard to assist the solo yachtsman with the refloating of the vessel. She was then taken under tow to Oban where she was safely back on her own mooring and the owner safely ashore by 11.50pm.

And the Oban lifeboat was out again on Wednesday July 19, with the Tobermory RNLI crew, to assist in a search.

The lifeboats were requested by Stornoway Coastguard at 9.44pm following the activation of an EPIRB device towards the south-east side of Mull. An EPIRB is an emergency device that sends a distress signal.

Oban lifeboat was requested to search the area south-east of Mull, with Tobermory lifeboat searching the western side of the island. It turned out to be a false alarm.



Inner Wheel ladies harness cash for disabled riding charity

Oban Inner Wheel ladies undertook various events throughout the year including a pizza party, strawberry tea and an award-winning sunshine stall at the Oban street fair in order to raise money for the local RDA Carriage Driving branch. This valuable charity provides opportunities for people with disabilities to drive a horse-drawn carriage in a supported environment, to enjoy the challenge and have loads of fun. Inner Wheel president Ivy Smart handed over a cheque for £1,355 to group organiser Jane Isaac to help towards the cost of a new lightweight carriage.

Young farmers donate to Oban charities

THE North Argyll Young Farmers' Club has chosen Oban Hospice and Oban Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre to receive cheques for £300.

The money was raised during fundraising events held over the past year.

The club wishes to thank the Falls of Lora Hotel for the regular use of a meeting room and the many other local business and individuals who have helped and who offer continued support. The next fundraiser is the Lorn Show Dance in the Victory Hall, Benderloch, on August 5.

Money raised on that night will go to cystic fibrosis, and tickets are available at Oban Veterinary Surgery and at the Young Farmers stall at the Lorn Agricultural Show on August 5, where new

members can have a chat with the team about joining.

Beth Menzies of Corrylorn Farm, along with some other members of Argyll Young Farmers' Club, presented Fiona Young with a cheque for Oban MS Therapy Centre.

Fiona was invited to receive the cheque as a founder member of the Oban MS Centre, which started in 1989, where she was an operator and latterly manager.

Margaret MacLean, vice-chairwoman of Oban Hospice and chairperson of the Friends of Oban Hospice, along with John Mackenzie, board member, accepted a cheque from young farmers' chairperson Niall Menzies at the Falls of Lora Hotel Connel on Friday July 21.



Beth Menzies with members of Argyll Young Farmers' Club present Fiona Young with a cheque for Oban MS centre. Also seen are Margaret MacLean from Oban Hospice and John Mackenzie, board member, accepting a cheque from Niall Menzies.

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WHITE VAN Man

IS THE culture we live in changing the way we work, the way we think?

Nowadays, the word 'litigation' is very much a part of everyday life.

Litigation is 'the process of bringing on or contesting a lawsuit' for those determined to profit at the cost of an employer, neighbour or someone they do not know. It is simply, in many cases, what is known as 'the blame game'.

We are constantly bombarded by the media with adverts offering legal services to make claims for incidents, often on a no-win, no-fee basis.

motorways in order to recreate accidents. This is causing more fraudulent claims than ever before, while also affecting our vehicle insurance.

Or, to make it even easier, the mopping of a shop floor can become the ideal opportunity for someone who wants to make a few quid to stage the perfect accident: down he or she goes on a damp floor, and the word 'claim' is the first thing they think of.

At one time in days gone by, when something went wrong in life – be it at work or in leisure time – people made every effort to sort the problem out, usually with an amicable agreement, which suited both parties. Nowadays injury lawyers are laughing the whole way to the bank.

Are we a nation adopting the American way of life, a country which seems to thrive on lawsuits? I make no apology for that comment as the official claim figures in America run into countless millions of dollars every year.

So my message is very simple: as you go about everyday life, take care because there will always be somebody out there willing to benefit from your misfortune.

George Berry

Almost 400 people back bid to save North Connel business

DAVID MCPHEE

dmphee@obantimes.co.uk

ALMOST 400 people have signed a petition asking Argyll and Bute Council to find an engineering firm a new yard, after it was evicted from its North Connel premises.

Sara Stephenson started the campaign after PMG Services was told that it would have until September to find a new site.

The council issued the business with a 'planning enforcement notice to vacate the premises' earlier this year, following a number of complaints, after the business was established in 2010 without the required planning permission.

Ms Stephenson, who lives in Australia with her boyfriend, said: 'My partner has worked with PMG since early on. He served his apprenticeship with them, and has worked with them since. They have also kindly kept his job open for when we arrive home.'

'The council go on about wanting to keep young people in the area, and the majority of those who work for PMG are young.'

PMG Services employed eight members of staff, two of whom were apprentices.

'It would be awful for these skilled young guys to lose their jobs,' Ms Stephenson added. 'Especially in an area where similar jobs are few and far between.'

'The council would be making a huge mistake not helping PMG out as it's a growing business and therefore plays a vital part in the local economy.'

'The petition gained a good amount of support the first week, sitting at about 400 supporters just now, but I would love to get to 500.'

'I'd like to see the council putting in a real effort to find a solution, either by finding PMG new premises



Peter MacGregor, right, with some members of staff at the yard in North Connel.

or allowing them more time in their current premises.

'It would be a great shame to see this, young, successful business have to close its doors due to Argyll and Bute Council being unable to assist.'

Peter MacGregor, who owns the company, said that nothing has changed,

and he is no closer to finding an alternative site. He was originally told that there would be place for him in Oban airport, but this fell through.

'They [the council] have left me with three months to move somewhere and there are no other sites,' he said. Argyll and Bute MP Brendan

O'Hara said: 'I pledged to put the economic regeneration of Argyll and Bute first and foremost prior to the general election and that remains my commitment.'

'I will do everything I can to assist our local businesses to thrive, particularly in these turbulent times. I am

very keen that all stakeholders have open dialogue and I remain certain a solution can be found for PMG.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesman added: 'We have been in discussions with the owner of the business and continue to offer appropriate support and assistance.'

Motorists support our A85 campaign

THE problems surrounding the A85 is still a hot topic with people in Oban, with many issues being highlighted by members of the public.

As part of The Oban Times' Stay Alive on the A85 campaign, we spoke to people about what they thought about the road and traffic through the street.

Julie Goodman said: 'The road is shocking. People drive too fast, people think they know the roads, people overtake on the white lines and don't consider motorbikes.'

'The traffic through the street is bad as well. I don't what it is, but when the traffic lights start - it's like gridlock. You can't do a bypass road to Oban, but we need a better road system.'

However, not everyone has that opinion regarding a bypass. 'The traffic is dreadful. They need a bypass or a multi-storey car park,' Ronald Graham and Betty Clark said.

Eddie Mayhew, a motorcyclist from Fife, who also drives for a living, said: 'The traffic is horrific. The amount of lorries makes it hard to get past.'

'It's easy for us [motorcyclists] to get by, but you always get so many cars with massive queues and people take chances. The surfaces are not equipped for it. Another problem is you get someone going 30 miles per hour - with the roads being so winding, it's hard to get past.'

'People are just ignorant. If I see someone behind me, I pull into a lay-by and let them past.'

'In the summer everyone wants to see Scotland and you get people stopping if they want to take a picture - if you get people who want to look at stuff, there aren't enough lay-bys.'

Memories sought of Highlands film guild

MEMORIES of a unique travelling cinema that toured the Highlands and Islands from the 1940s to the 1970s are being sought by a team of researchers based at the universities of Glasgow and Stirling.

This major research project is the first to explore people's memories of the Highlands and Islands Film Guild, and the team of researchers - led by Dr Ian Goode at Glasgow University - want to hear from anyone who remembers the guild or was involved in its operation.

The Highlands and Islands Film Guild was an Inverness-based mobile cinema service set up after the Second World War. The guild was a precursor to the current service provided by the recently-refitted Screen Machine, and was established in 1946. The guild's fleet of specially-equipped vans travelled the Highlands screening movies in



One of the film guild operators with his equipment.

village halls, schools and even people's homes.

'The Highlands and Islands Film Guild was a unique moment in Scottish cinema - and Highland and Island life,' said Dr Goode. 'We have already conducted a number of interviews with people who

remember the guild, and it's wonderful to hear people's memories.'

'It is clear that the guild is remembered very fondly, particularly by people who experienced the film shows as children.'

The team has committed to

completing a series of 'case studies', corresponding to the areas that the guild covered throughout its 25-year lifespan.

Dr Goode and his colleagues have already conducted some research in the Inverness-shire area, and are embarking on trips to the Western Isles, Shetland and Orkney before the end of the year.

'We are still keen to speak with anybody who experienced the film guild. No matter how brief anyone's experiences of the guild are, nor how long ago, we would love to hear from them.'

If you remember the Highlands and Islands Film Guild and the films that it showed, or were involved in any way in its operation, the team is keen to hear from you.

You can get in touch with Dr Goode 0141 330 6500 or Ealasaid Munro 0141 330 6944

Further details about the project can be found at www.hifilmguild.gla.ac.uk.

Dunbeg study reveals mystery of the deep

AN EXPERIMENT conducted in a Scottish loch has revealed how a microscopic animal - the main food source for many larger marine species - schedules its day using its own genetic clock.

The 'body clock' of the copepod *Calanus finmarchicus* shapes its metabolic rhythms and movement through the water column.

This, in turn, has an enormous influence on the entire food web in the North Atlantic and Arctic oceans where *Calanus finmarchicus* is a central plankton species.

As part of the study, which has been published in the journal *Current Biology*, scientists from the Dunbeg-based Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) carried out research on Loch Etive, where one of the only known isolated populations of *Calanus finmarchicus* is found.

In the world's oceans, countless zooplankton species, such as copepods and krill, rise to the surface at dusk to gorge themselves on single-celled algae that can only thrive where there is sufficient sunlight.

The cover of night offers the zooplankton protection from predators such as fish, which

SAMS doctor leads £5m seaweed project

A DOCTOR from SAMS will lead a £5 million project that aims to protect the seaweed industry in developing countries.

Dr Liz Cottier-Cook, pictured, and colleagues at Dunstaffnage-based SAMS will be using their algal expertise to help train producers from developing nations in how to identify disease and improve biosecurity measures.

Scientists from seven international research institutes will be involved in the global seaweed project.

Dr Elizabeth Cottier-Cook said: 'Worldwide, seaweed farming provides income to millions of families in rural coastal communities and provides a source of food. The industry has also enabled women to become economically active in areas where few opportunities exist.'

'But many seaweeds grown in developing countries are intentionally introduced from other parts of the world and they can bring with them a whole host of pests and disease, which go on to have wider environmental consequences.'

The seaweed industry is worth more than \$5 billion worldwide, annually, and it is growing by around 10 per cent each year.



need light to hunt. When dawn approaches however, they sink back into the dark depths

where they can hide from their predators throughout the day - completing a cycle that

likely represents the largest daily movement of biomass on the entire planet. Researchers are still working to decipher which signals these marine organisms use to decide when to rise and when to descend.

The SAMS team, alongside the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) and the University of Oldenburg in Germany, showed that *Calanus finmarchicus* possesses an internal genetic clock, also called the circadian clock, which produces a 24-hour rhythm that functions without a day/night cycle. This could be important during the constantly dark polar winter and in the deep sea.

Co-author Dr Kim Last of SAMS added: 'We have long looked to uncover the mysteries of zooplankton migrations and it appears that the circadian clock, much like our own, has a very important role to play in helping the animals be in the right place at the right time.'

'Such fundamental mechanistic understanding is crucially important if we want to predict how marine ecosystems will respond to the complexities of future climate change.'



DIOPLÒMA ANNS NA MEADHANAN GÀIDHLIG

"Tha an cùrsa Dioplòma anns na Meadhanan Gàidhlig a' tairginn bogadh anns na diofar roinnean obrach agus sin ann an dòigh a tha cho coltach ris mar a tha obair anns a' ghnìomhachas."

AIRSON FOIRM-IARRTAIS CUIRIBH FIOS GU

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DIOPLÒMA ANNS NA MEADHANAN GÀIDHLIG

Anns a' chùrsa seo, gheibh thu cothrom air caochladh sgilean sna meadhanan a leasachadh a tha riannach airson dreuchd fhaighinn sa ghnìomhachas. Neartaichidh tu na sgilean sgrìobhaidh is labhairt agad sa Ghàidhlig le bhith stèidhichte an dà chuid aig a' Cholaiste agus anns an àite-obrach. Gheibh thu taic is cuideachadh bho eòlaichean craolaidh aig a' bheil eòlas ioma-cuspaireil agus cothrom air na goireasan craolaidh aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig a chleachdadh.

Tha an cùrsa làn-ùine thar dà bhliadhna, leis a' chuid bhliadhna stèidhichte aig a' Cholaiste, agus an uair sin cuiridh an luchd-trèanaidh 10 mìosan seachad air greis-obrach cuide ri craoladair stèidhichte no companaidh riochdachaidh neo-eisimeileach. Tha ìre fastaidh fìor àrd aig luchd-ceuma an Dioplòma, le còrr is 70% a rinn a' chùrsa seo a-nis a' dèanamh am beòshlaint anns a' ghnìomhachais.

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The course is delivered full-time, over two years with the first year being college-based and following this, trainees will spend a further 10 months on work placement with an established broadcaster or independent production company. The Diploma has a very high employment rate, with over 70% of students who completed this course still working in the media industry today!

OT

Mull

PHOTOGRAPHY club Mull Through the Lens has announced a new competition to get people from all walks of life taking photos.

The bi-annual competition will celebrate local photographic talent with entries welcome in three categories – amateur, professional and student. Photographers must be aged 18 and over and be linked to Mull or Iona by birth, education or residence. There will be a separate ‘Bairns’ competition for under-18s.

The theme of the first competition is ‘Black and White’ and a prize of £150 will be awarded in each category. Independent professional photographers and editors from across Scotland will judge the entries, which should be submitted between August 14 and 31.

An exhibition of all submitted works will be held at venues on Mull still to be announced. The exhibition will run from Friday September 8 to Friday October 20.

For full details, visit www.mullthroughthelens.org.uk/2017Open or contact Natalya, Mull Through The Lens chairwoman, on 07593 418324 or at taljl980@gmail.com

BOOK your tickets for Mull Theatre’s new production of *TWO* from award-winning playwright Jim Cartwright (*The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*).

TWO is a fast-paced comedy filled with twists and turns. Taking place over the course of one evening, the play highlights the rocky relationship of the landlord and landlady of a busy, typical local pub as colourful regulars pull up a stool and let the audience into their lives, loves, triumphs and tragedies.

The play features Fletcher Mathers and Alasdair McCrone playing all 14 characters.

Opening night was Wednesday July 19 but there is still time to see the play on Wednesday August 2, Saturday August 5, Wednesday August 9, Friday August 11, Monday August 14 and Saturday August 19 at Mull Theatre at 8pm. Tickets £12/£10.

The play is also being staged on Friday July 28 at Iona Village Hall and Saturday July 29 in Bunessan Hall, both at 8pm, £10/£8.



Fletcher Mathers and Alasdair McCrone.

Killin

THE KILLIN 10K race, sponsored by Portnellan, takes place on Saturday August 26.

The annual event, now in its seventh year, will see runners take on a slightly different route to accommodate its growing popularity.

The race will start and finish in Breadalbane Park, set against the backdrop of the impressive Tarmachan mountain range and a stone’s throw from Loch Tay.

Runners will head through the village and across the spectacular Falls of Dochart before joining the old railway line, which runs parallel to the river. After crossing the river for a second time, participants will emerge back into the village and run an undulating loop of beautiful Glen Lochay, tracing the Lochay River, before finishing in Breadalbane Park.

Entry is just £17, which includes a medal and goody bag for all runners. A fun run for people of all ages of approximately 1km will also take place in Breadalbane Park during the 10K. Be sure to return to the village hall after the event for a lunch provided by Killin Cancer Research Committee. The event is generously supported by Portnellan and Wheels Cycling Centre, Callander. To enter, visit killin10k.co.uk



Clachan pupils and staff celebrate their award.

Caring Clachan pupils honoured

BAKING more than 40 Christmas cakes for retired residents in their village has won Clachan Primary School pupils a top award.

The youngsters won the Active Participation in the Community Award from Argyll College UHI (University of the Highlands and Islands). In a tradition dating back more than two decades, the school, which has just eight pupils, bake Christmas cakes for every retired member of their community.

Clachan was honoured alongside Calum Ellis of Dalintober Primary and Emma Bannatyne of Campbelltown Grammar School, who both won Inspirational Young Person of the Year awards.

Starting in November, the children bake around 44

cakes, which are individually wrapped, personally labelled and hand delivered. The Parent Council pays for the ingredients and staff give up their own time to ensure the baking challenge is completed.

Head teacher Lucy Blake said: ‘This award focuses on our Christmas cake activity which we have been running in the school for more than 20 years. We feel we are trustees of a tradition. The award recognises our links to the community and this is hugely important to us at Clachan. We are a school in the heart of the community and in the hearts of the community. I am very proud of our very small school.’

Argyll and Bute Council’s policy lead for education, Councillor Yvonne McNeill, congratulated the school,

saying: ‘Very well done to everyone at Clachan on winning this prestigious award. Their Christmas cake project keeps traditions alive. Just as importantly, it links the children to the older members of their community and helps everyone in the village feel included.’

‘I’m delighted, too, for Calum and Emma.’

‘This is richly deserved recognition as they have shown themselves to be role models for their fellow pupils and a real inspiration to others.’

Ann Marie Knowles, executive director of community services, said: ‘These are terrific achievements and Emma, Calum and the Clachan staff and pupils should be incredibly proud of their efforts.’ The awards were estab-

lished by Argyll College UHI’s Campbelltown centre to recognise the efforts of individual pupils and groups and promote the college.

Emma was nominated by her school for overcoming sudden and serious ill health, remaining positive even when very unwell and excelling in her exams to win a place at the Royal Conservatoire Scotland.

Calum won for his positive attitude, his volunteering activities and being a good role model and ‘playground buddy’.

Argyll College UHI principal Fraser Durie, who presented Emma with her award at the grammar school prize-giving, said the new scheme was a fantastic way for the college to further engage with the local community.

Helensburgh

ARGYLL and Bute MP Brendan O’Hara, with other guests including Deputy Lord Lieutenant Eric Thompson and representatives from the emergency services, joined people from Helensburgh and its twin town of Thouars in France to celebrate Bastille Day at a special ceremony in Helensburgh Parish Church on July 14.

For more than 30 years, the Helensburgh-Thouars Twinning Association has been welcoming each other to their respective towns and this year Helensburgh played host to group of 50 visitors.

Mr O’Hara said after the ceremony: ‘I am honoured to be part of this year’s Bastille Day celebrations. They have been particularly poignant as we remember those who lost their lives in the Nice terrorist attack and the people who have been affected

by it. The ceremony was beautiful, the choir was wonderful and my congratulations go to everyone involved, particularly members of the twinning association who work so hard all year round raising funds to make these visits happen. I have met many people who have told me of the lifelong friendships formed over the years, with families and young people set to continue this link.’

THE NATIONAL Trust for Scotland’s Hill House in Helensburgh provided the backdrop to a stunning photo shoot by acclaimed Scottish designer Christopher Kane last month.

Kane was launching his Resort 2018 collection which took its inspiration from Scotland.

He approached the National Trust for Scotland about using the Hill

House as the location for photographs of the collection as it was influenced by the work of Scottish designers and artists, Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Margaret MacDonald, who collaborated on the Helensburgh home.

Christopher Kane said: ‘I came across a photograph of the Glasgow Four and it got me thinking about the works of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his wife Margaret MacDonald and how their work influenced modern art and design.’

‘It also made me feel proud and patriotic of this highly important movement which originated in Scotland and I wanted to celebrate that. This collection has subtle nods to this movement while also looking at my domestic working class roots.’

The photographs showcase the stunning and unique design of the Hill House to a global audience.

Ardchattan

PREPARATIONS are well under way for the Ardchattan fete on Sunday July 30 between noon and 4pm.

Ardchattan Priory is the setting for the annual community event and this year the Beavers and Cubs will be assisting with the smooth running of the day.

This is an important fundraising event for the local Guide and Scout groups, along with Scotland’s Garden Scheme and other local charities. There is something for everyone with a selection of games and sports for children of all ages.

Popular soup lunches will be served from noon until 1.45pm and delicious homebaking with tea from 2.15pm to 4pm.

Volunteers and local bakers give generously to this event and last year more than £3,000 was raised.

This is a great family day out. Everyone is welcome and admission is £4 with children under-15 admitted free.

IN AN effort to curtail the spread of Japanese knotweed along the Bonawe Road, some spraying of the invasive plant has been undertaken. The areas sprayed are clearly marked off with red and white tape and people are advised to avoid contact with these areas.



From left: James Wilson, Neil Morrison and David Ward from the fish counter in Oban’s Tesco.

Oban digs deep for Fishermen’s Mission

THE OBAN fishing fleet is much smaller than it used to be but it still has a huge place in the heart of the town.

People were overwhelmingly kind when the Fishermen’s Mission held a Fish Friday collection in the town’s Tesco store on July 7, raising £296.

The mission thanks everyone for their generosity and the staff at the store for supporting the event.

Older people were reminiscing about the days of the mission on the south pier and the Sunday night socials for a singalong, cups of tea and a good blether.

One woman remembered: ‘We used to go down to the shore at midnight to watch all the fishing boats sail out. They would not fish on the Sabbath and it was a splendid sight to see them all set sail.’

There may not be a mission building in the town but the mission’s work still continues, supporting fishermen at work, or retired, and their families.



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At Random

MARTIN LAING
milaing@obantimes.co.uk

Games on!

THIS week’s *Oban Times* is, I would suggest, unrivalled for its coverage of Highland games taking place at various venues across Argyll, the isles and Lochaber.

Over the past week or so, we have had reporters and photographers at these marvellous sporting events at Lochaline, Inveraray, Mull, Taynuilt and Kilchoan, and we will be at more.

Thankfully, the weather has been excellent, with warm temperatures and some bright sunshine.

And didn’t the crowds turn out in numbers to watch fantastic traditional sports and other competitions?

Some people may see these games as something of an anachronism but I would disagree fervently.

Highland games are an important part of our culture and heritage and it is significant there is such a high level of interest among the public, as is manifest by the large attendances.

As ever, I am a huge admirer of the selfless souls who toil away behind the scenes to make sure these fabulous games are staged in the first place.

Without them, these events would not take place.

Nor, it must be said, would they happen without the generous sponsors who provide the necessary financial backing.

I tip my tile to all of you.

Games on!

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It is time to act

I WROTE recently about a woman tourist whom who was struggling to cross Lochavullin Drive between Tesco and Homebase because she was in a motability scooter and there was a dropped kerb on only one side of the road.

Then we were approached last week by a blind regular visitor, John McQuade, who complained of a lack of tactile paving at crossing points.

Argyll and Bute Council has said it has an ongoing programme of maintenance and that it will consider the complaint from Mr McQuade and decide if remedial action is required.

That comes on the back of the laudable upgrading works to the town centre that were completed last year. Indeed, the council is to be highly commended for its efforts to improve central areas of Oban.

But these are two crucial road safety issues where people’s well-being is compromised.

It is important council officers act swiftly to rectify these shortcomings. Three weeks after I first highlighted the Lochavullin Drive problem, nothing has been done.

Staff deserve better

WHAT on earth is going on at Glensanda quarry?

We have reported over the past couple of weeks about the threat to as many as 25 jobs at the quarry by the new Spanish operator, Oban Earth Works.

Staff at the quarry and their trade union, the GMB, have slammed Oban Earth Works for its behaviour recently in putting people’s jobs in jeopardy.

The company has said it is ‘unlikely’ there will be any compulsory redundancies at what is Europe’s biggest granite quarry, but this reassurance has been dismissed by GMB officials.

Furthermore, the company said ‘it is likely 23 or more members of staff will remain from 38’.

It seems there is no doubt some members of staff will be made redundant but there is dispute about the numbers. This is a highly unsettling time for people working at Glensanda, whose future is being squabbled over. The workers deserve far better treatment than this.

It’s a snip

SO THE island of Ulva, just off Mull, is up for sale at a starting price of £4.25 million. Given that it includes more than 4,500 acres, a magnificent mansion house, tea room, shop, restaurant, church and nine other residences, am I alone in thinking this sounds like a bargain?

What do you think?

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



Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders parade at Stirling Castle, which is home to their regimental museum and its priceless collection. Among the many artefacts are, below, left to right, a 19th-century field surgeon's equipment, an 18th-century uniform and an officer's ram's head snuff box dating from the 19th century.

Argylls' regimental museum lands £40,000 new funding

MUSEUMS Galleries Scotland, the national development body for the museum sector, has awarded the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Trust £40,000 to enhance the preservation of its unique collection.

The announcement came as the Argylls' museum at Stirling Castle launched a major public consultation to help design its activities following its forthcoming renovation.

The activities will involve the display of its historically important and fascinating artefacts throughout its traditional central Scotland recruitment area: Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Stirlingshire, Renfrewshire, Dunbartonshire, Inverclyde, and Argyll and the Isles.

The museum will use the MGS grant to create new storage area, with environmental controls and proper facilities to ensure the preservation of the collection well into the future.

Currently about one-third of its priceless collection of militaria and artworks is stored ad hoc within the 400-year-old



King's Old Building at Stirling Castle.

Gillian Simison, investment manager at Museums Galleries Scotland, said: 'We are pleased to be able to award Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders museum this funding, which follows a grant of £36,930 in 2016 to carry out a collections review and documentation project.'

'This second award will help them to build on the work achieved through that first project, ensuring that not only will the information about the collections be more complete and accessible, but the collections themselves will be better cared for and easier to access.'

Museum chief executive Rob Layden said: 'The primary



purpose of any museum is to care for its artefacts in an environment that will allow these objects to be conserved for future display and research. 'This generous grant will allow the museum to apply best practice to objects in our reserve collection, ensuring that they are properly managed by reducing damage to the collection resulting in a reduction of future conservation costs and of course allowing objects to be put on future display, so that future generations can enjoy these unique artefacts.'



The award comes as the museum embarks on a major public consultation to gauge public opinion about its future activities and to inform a programme for future public engagement outside of its castle home, following the refurbishment due for completion in 2019.

A survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Argylls> is being conducted by consultants Heritage Project Support, who were appointed to develop the project's activity plan, a critical part of the museum's submission to HLF.

Sarah Bronsdon, director of Heritage Project Support, which is conducting the outreach work, said: 'It is not just the building that is changing,

it's the whole way the museum works.'

'We appreciate that not everyone knows the historical context of the collection, or is able to visit the museum itself for various reasons, so we are reaching out across the recruiting areas to get ideas about bringing the collection out them and sharing its unique contents with local communities.'

'The collection offers many different themes that will interest people. We need to know what is most important to people and how best to get it to them.'

'Responses to our simple 10-minute questionnaire will help shape the content and the activity of the refurbished museum. Anybody, whether they have a connection or an interest in the museum or not, can respond and have a chance to win tickets to visit Stirling Castle.'

The consultation continues until August 25. Paper copies are available from the museum by calling 01786 475165 to request a copy.

Lisa has designs on the windows at No 8, much to Mike's surprise

Mike, the front door is great but we really need to upgrade the windows to match.



I thought this might happen, so I've given Cairngorm a call and they are sending someone round.

These are just a few of the window ranges that would suit your home

There's such a choice but I think this one will look the best, what do you think honey?



Martin from Cairngorm shows Mike and Lisa a specialised computer programme which lets them choose from a massive range of styles and see how they would look on their property.



Hmm... I wonder what we can do next?

I agree, they will really improve the look of the house, we'll go for them Martin.

MORVERN lines

The most talked-about stag in Europe

ON AUGUST 25, 1893, the sound of a rifle shot echoed round Coire nan Gall, a remote and wild place lying between Loch Quoich and Loch Nevis.

The man who pulled the trigger was Michael Arthur Bass (1837-1909), first Baron Burton, and the stag he killed became more famous than Landseer's *Monarch of the Glen* – not because it had 20 points, but over the question of whether it was born in the Highlands or an English deer park.

Lord Burton leased Glenquoich for 33 years and, in that period, 2,599 stags were killed. The stag has often been described as the Glenquoich 20-pointer. In fact it was shot on the adjacent Glenkingie forest, rented from Donald Cameron of Lochiel from 1874 to 1905.

The stag was killed during an excursion Lord Burton made over the hill to Loch Nevis with his daughter Nellie (later Baroness Burton), James Baillie of Dochfour (his future son-in-law), two other guests and two stalkers, James Henderson and his son Robert.

There was no plan to stalk but James Henderson told his son to take a rifle 'just in case'. Near the watershed they disturbed some sheep that ran off down into the corrie taking about 35 stags with them. The stags stood for a moment and, to please his daughter, Lord Burton took a shot at what appeared to be the best of them, little knowing at what he was firing.

The body must have rolled a distance because Lord Burton and his party carried on their way leaving the stalkers to do the necessary. It was only in the evening, on returning home, that he learned of the magnificent trophy he had acquired.

The Glenkingie head was shown at the Glasgow International Exhibition of 1901 and, later, in Germany. It attracted great attention and no-one raised any doubt that it was a genuine



The silver model of the famous stag. Photograph: Iain Thornber

pure-bred Scottish stag. That came two years after Lord Burton's death when Frank Wallace (1881-1962), a Scottish-based sporting painter, said in an article in *Country Life*, that there was more than a suspicion that it might not have been a true 'Highlander'.

So began a furious exchange of letters. Lochiel, a member of the Deer Forest Commission, was the first to wade in. He reminded Wallace that Coire nan Gall was nowhere near a deer park, that the head was of an ordinary type of Highland stag and it was difficult to imagine how it could have been any other but one born and bred in Knoydart.

Unsure of himself now, Wallace began

quoting John Guille Millais (1865-1931) the naturalist and gardener specialising in wildlife and flower portraiture, who wrote, in his *British Deer and their Horns* (1897): 'The clumsy-looking tops [of Lord Burton's 20-pointer] are not the least like those of a typical wild Highland head, but on the other hand, closely resemble the formation which is found in certain parks.'

In his *Mammals of Great Britain and Ireland* (1906) Millais went further by admitting that he had not included Lord Burton's stag, because he did not believe it to be genuine. Examining the head 'in the flesh', he told his readers that he found it to be an old worn beast suffering from decline with horns only

weighing about a pound or two and were not such as would be carried by a Highland stag in its prime.

He concluded: 'The lessees and owners of Highland forests are without doubt perfectly right in introducing fresh blood from the south, but these stags, if not confined, wander off into the forests and become perfectly wild and the stalkers, to please their masters, never say a word when they are shot.'

Allan Gordon Cameron, author of *The Wild Red Deer of Scotland* (1923) and a keen stalker who lived near Connel and should have been more cautious, joined the fray and began tying himself in knots about which English park the 20-pointer might have come from, and when. But neither James Henderson, who was the head stalker during the greater part of Lord Burton's tenancy, nor George Malcolm, who had been the factor throughout, were having any of it.

Meticulous records had been kept and, although some stags had been imported from three different English parks, they could account for all of them. Moreover their ears were marked with a particular cut to prevent them being shot if they got out of the purpose-built deer park. No such mark can be seen on the head today.

The long correspondence was brought to a close by George Malcolm in April 1913, when he wrote that Lord Burton had never doubted the purity of the 20-tined stag's descent and, as no man was ever more sensitive and scrupulous than he about fictitious claims or unfounded assertions, there was little more to be said.

When Nellie Bass married James Baillie of Dochfour in 1894, the people of Glenquoich and Glenquoich presented them with an exquisitely scaled model in Scottish silver of the much-discussed stag they had witnessed being killed the previous year.

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#MeetTheCairns

High praise and thanks for Mull games stalwarts

LOUISE GLEN
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MULL Highland Games is considered by many to have one of the best natural amphitheatres in Scotland – and this year did not disappoint.

While the grass was a little soft in areas due to torrential rain the evening before, the joy of the games was evident in the number of competitors who took part and the ability to challenge existing records. A good number of competitors took part in all events.

In commemoration of the 70th

year of the Scottish Highland Games Association, certificates of appreciation were given to stalwarts of the Highland games on Mull. Quartermaster Alastair I Maclean MBE, William MacCallum MBE and Alec Livingstone received awards from the Mull games president, Andrew Alexander Kain, alongside hereditary chieftain Sir Lachlan MacLean of Duart and Morvern, chief of the Clan MacLean.

Honorary chairman William Hume QFSM said thank you to everyone who helped make the games what they were.

He said: 'It was a superb

day. Real thanks to all those people who are dedicated to the games. We were a bit worried about the weather the night before due to torrential rain. But the volunteers pulled out all the stops and managed to set up the games field by working well into the night.

'Without the volunteers, there would be no games. Huge thanks also go to the sponsors, the people who help with the games, stewards and judges. A huge thank-you to everyone who makes the games work for everyone.'

More pictures at www.obantimes.co.uk.



The under-11 boys dash for the line. 29_t30 mull games 11



The under-11 girls sprint to the finish. 29_t30 mull games 10



The girls' under-nine race was a close affair. 29_t30 mull games 9



Oban High School Pipe Band entertains the crowds. 29_t30 mull games 2



Iona MacKinlay is presented with her dancing trophy by Sir Lachlan MacLean of Duart. 29_t30 mull games 22



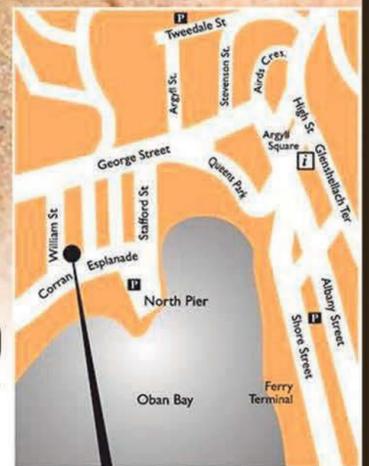
Jamie Cadzow about to unleash the hammer. 29_t30 mull games 1

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Mums and dads dash for the line. 29_t30 mull games 15



The winning senior dancers. 29_t30 mull games 12



The start for the men's one-mile race. 29_t30 mull games 16



Alastair I Maclean MBE, William MacCallum MBE and Alec Livingstone received awards from William Hume, honorary president, the Mull games president, Andrew Alexander Kain, alongside hereditary chieftain Sir Lachlan MacLean of Duart and Morvern, chief of the Clan MacLean. 29_t30 mull games 5



The under-five boys enjoy their race. 29_t30 mull games 8



Lorne Colthart throws in the Dr Clegg stone competition



The under-five girls line up at the start. 29_t30 mull games 7



Two members of Mull and Iona Pipe Band. 29_t30 mull games 21

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The Oban Times and Lochaber Times greatly value your opinion. We are constantly trying to improve our coverage both in print and online. It would help us enormously if you would take a couple of minutes to complete our quick survey. Completed surveys will be entered into a prize draw to win £100 of Argos vouchers. There are two ways to share your feedback with us and enter the competition: **ONLINE:** Complete the survey online at www.obantimes.co.uk/feedback **POST:** Complete the survey below and post it free of charge to: Wyvex Media, FREEPOST RRRHK-JJRB-ULTR, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

1. Please tell us your gender

- Male
- Female

2. What age are you?

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+

3. How often do you buy the paper

- Every week
- 2 or 3 times a month
- once a month or less
- never
- I am a print subscriber
- I am a digital subscriber

4. Which of the following do you read?

- The Oban Times (main edition)
- The Lochaber Times

5. If The Oban Times and Lochaber Times changed its current large (broadsheet) format to a smaller compact (tabloid) size while doubling the number of pages would you be:

- More likely to buy
- Less likely to buy
- It would make no difference

6. Are you aware that the newspaper is now available by subscription in digital format and via our website?

- Yes
- No

7. Can you rank your 3 most read features or categories in the paper 1-3, with 1 being your most regularly read feature (please do not pick more than 3)

- | | |
|---|--|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> White van man | <input type="checkbox"/> Farming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Morvern Lines | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letters page (viewpoint) | <input type="checkbox"/> Births marriages and deaths |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Police files | <input type="checkbox"/> Classified for sale adverts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tide Times/weather | <input type="checkbox"/> Retro Roamer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoors | <input type="checkbox"/> Beachd Ailein |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arena | <input type="checkbox"/> Crossword |

8. To be entered into our prize draw to win £100 of Argos vouchers, we'll need the following details from you. We'll use this to contact you if you win! Closing date is Friday August 11, 2017. Prize is as stated and is not redeemable for cash equivalent. Only one entry per respondent is allowed. You cannot enter more than once. Winner will be selected at random.

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Mob No

9. Would you like to be added to The Oban Times mailing list for offers and promotions?

- Yes
- No

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Viewpoint

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

The ongoing saga of PMG Services, the engineering company evicted from its premises in North Connel, is continuing to rumble on.

Peter MacGregor, who owns the business, said that nothing has changed, and he is no closer to finding an alternative site. He was originally told that there would be place for him in Oban airport, but this fell through.

There has been considerable support for Mr MacGregor and his business, with a petition being signed by close to 400 backers.

It is very understandable that people want to see PMG Services succeed. This is, after all, a local company

employing local people, including two apprentices. Rural areas such as ours need good businesses which provide well-paid jobs.

However, there is no escaping the fact that PMG Services was operating unofficially, having failed to secure the correct planning permission. There was also an inquiry overseen by a Scottish Government reporter which supported the eviction, so there can be little complaint about the treatment.

Notwithstanding that, it is important that Mr MacGregor continues to trade and we would urge Argyll and Bute Council to do all it can to facilitate a solution.



Days gone by – 1995

It was a right royal occasion in August 1995 when the Queen visited Oban. The visit was made all the more memorable for some local girls when Her Majesty stopped to chat to Oban Brownies.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk

From St Kilda to Stuttgart – final part

AFTER an energising and enjoyable voyage to Cushendall in Northern Ireland, with Murdo MacLeod and family, we arrived back at the Ach-na-ba pontoon on Thursday evening, having departed from there 12 hours previously.

Whether somebody is a school teacher, a chef, a circus juggler or, like the MacLeods, running a multi-million-pound construction company, if you love what you do, and concentrate your energy on it, you will excel at it.

Finding that occupation and having the drive to get rid of the clutter and keep focused, is not easy, but people like the MacLeods, who run one of the most successful companies in Argyll, show it can be done.

So I headed off down to Glasgow with increased vigour, and a strong reminder to keep working on what brings satisfaction and fulfilment.

The gig we performed at in York-shire the next night was just one of these satisfying experiences – great audience, lovely organisers and the novelty of our songs being belted out in the accent of Compo from *Last of the Summer Wine*.

Social media

Traffic chaos on the roads last week caused by a wide load moving through the area during the middle of the day prompted widespread condemnation.

James Johnson said: 'This is down to police Scotland the transport company's only move when police escort these loads99% of haulage company's including the company moving these loads want to move loads like this at night for less disruption for every road user. But the police make the final decision on times of movements'

Eleane Tweedly posted: 'Lost count of the number of times I've seen more or less the whole of Oban shut down for several hours so they can take wide loads the opposite direction to the usual traffic flow as it's the only way to get them past the roundabout at Nan-

cy Blacks to the ferry terminal. And it's invariably done at this time of year to the horror of the locals & amazement & frustration of the tourists!'

Iain Davidson responded: 'having lived in Oban for 25 years or so I can give you hours & hours of accounts of what your talking about Eleane, personally I would sack who ever it is that plans Oban's road layout and deals with planning applications as they have landed up with major supermarkets, builders merchants, industrial estates & other businesses with the only access being a badly timed set of traffic lights at the high school leading every car & delivery lorry into this - crazy!!'

Vary Ferguson suggested: 'It should be done at night or later in the day when the roads are quieter.or by boat direct to Glensanda.'

Eventually because of a very amazing and determined customer service lady, after three hours on the phone to different KLM departments and juggling flights about, she managed, just in the nick of time to get us all onto a later flight.

What relief! But it was the flight from hell. Directly in front of us were two overly-refreshed women heading for a weekend in Amsterdam, and a few seats up from there, a group of similarly drunken body-builder types on a stag weekend.

We were all in dire need of sleep, or at least a bit of peace and quiet, but the girl who was directly in front of us proceeded to sing loudly and astoundingly badly. Egged on by the rabble of increasingly rowdy stag-trippers, as the flight progressed, the lassie got louder and alarmingly even less in tune.

With a few celebratory trips under my belt this year, I shouldn't be too hard on the overly jolly passengers but it was with great thanks we finally escaped her singing when we arrived in Stuttgart.

The Germans went surprisingly wild for the music and the trip home was hassle-free for all of us except poor Andrew, who, because of knock-on effects from the previous day's debacle, had been booked on the wrong flight home. KLM are off his Christmas card list.

Variety is the spice of life and those six days delivered great contrasts of travel, occupation, people and place.

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We were all in dire need of sleep, or at least a bit of peace and quiet, but the girl who was directly in front of us proceeded to sing loudly and astoundingly badly. Egged on by the rabble of increasingly rowdy stag-trippers, as the flight progressed, the lassie got louder and alarmingly even less in tune.

With a few celebratory trips under my belt this year, I shouldn't be too hard on the overly jolly passengers but it was with great thanks we finally escaped her singing when we arrived in Stuttgart.

The Germans went surprisingly wild for the music and the trip home was hassle-free for all of us except poor Andrew, who, because of knock-on effects from the previous day's debacle, had been booked on the wrong flight home. KLM are off his Christmas card list.

Variety is the spice of life and those six days delivered great contrasts of travel, occupation, people and place.

Peter Taylor wrote: 'Whoever planned that to take place during the day in the peak summertime tourist season should be fired.'

Sandra Jamieson lamented: 'We got stuck in this, why was this being moved during the day, causing ridiculous tail backs.'

Gwyn Moses said: 'It's almost like it's deliberately timed to make it most difficult for people who live here or are just visiting.'

Catherine Macinnes asked: 'Why can't they go through the glen at night?'

Paul Redmond blasted: 'Nitemare. 2 hrs to go from Fort William to Onich then had to follow it up to the barge that goes over to the gleansa da quarry.'

Julie Campbell said: 'Idiots! Ridiculous timing and no communication.'

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

It is time Oban GPs embraced technology

Sir,
I have no problems with BBC staff being well paid as they actually do the job they are paid to do.

In contrast, bureaucrats at NHS Highland cannot organise a drinking party at a distillery.

Some 20 years ago I was using email to contact my GP in Worcester. Then, in 2010, the GP in Derby introduced online appointment booking alongside telephone appointments.

Apparently Oban GPs are thinking about using carrier pigeons as NHS Highlands still has stocks of quill pens to use up. If bureaucrats did what they were paid to do, we would already have repeat prescriptions online or on the phone from the pharmacies. Much cheaper, much faster and less pressure on our overworked GPs.

We can thus only wonder if health-care executives have been replaced by haddock.

Mike Foster,
Pulpit Hill, Oban.

It is time to build a bridge at Corran

Sir,
Accidents happen and I want to applaud the professionalism of the Corran ferry skipper and crew.

However, the absence of the back-up ferry, being away for its spring service at the height of the tourist season, is mismanagement by the council officials. When did it leave?

While Mull and Skye are bursting at the seams with tourists, Ardnarmurchan and Morvern has now effectively been closed to tourists. The alternative is a 35-mile detour, half of which is along a single-track road which has not had its verges cut, and through the traffic congestion in Fort William.

In recent years, the Highland Council has massively raised the fares, despite the ferry being in profit.

It is time for a low level, opening bridge, as proposed in local development plans. Planning and the design for this should be paid for from the City Region deal.

Dr Michael Foxley,
Highland Councillor for
Corran ferry 1986-2012.

Swift response from roads department

Sir,
I was very pleased to see Argyll and Bute Council's roads department cutting the grass verges beside many roads on Islay.

Some of these areas, particularly near the outlying farms, have not had their verges cut in over five years. I had highlighted this problem to our roads department after many local residents contacted me and I'm pleased with the swift response.

I'd like to give my thanks to the local roads department and its management for addressing this issue. I have also spoken to many local residents that are happy with the work that has been done.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

BHEIL CUIMHN' AGAIBHSE air droch aimsir nuair a bha sibh òg? Bha a h-uile latha air am bheil cuimhne agamsa tioram, grianach.

Car mar a bha am bàrd ainmeil Cuimreach Dylan Thomas anns a' bhàrdachd Fern Hill nuair a thill e a thadhail air tuathanas air an do chuir e seachad mòran ùine na òige. Bha a chuimhneachain làn sonais, spòrs, agus iongnaidh, ach nuair a thill e na inbheach bha na fhuaire e cho eadar-dhealaichte.

Ach cha robh adhbhar gearrain sam bith againne a thaobh na h-aimsire fad seachdain san Eilean Sgitheanach, bha i dìreach sònraichte a' mhòr-chuid den ùine agus b' e call a bh'ann gun robh uimhir de dhleastanasan obrach rin coinneachadh.

Bha na craobhan na choinneamh an taighe na dlùth-choille agus thug an sgioblachadh fad latha dhan dithis againn. Eadar gàirnealairachd, saorsainneachd, is plumaireachd cha robh cus ùine dhiomhain againn ged

The Green Party is anything but insipid

Sir,
In reply to W B Coutts (Letters, *The Oban Times*, July 13), I find it strange that he uses the insulting word 'insipid' about the Green Party.

What is insipid about 'working to promote a caring, confident society that works for all people'?

He can easily see the party's manifesto by clicking Google as I just did.

And, no, I did not vote for them.

Lorna Cammock,
Uddingston.

Is it legal to impose parking fines?

Sir,
I think Argyll and Bute Council is committing an offence in taking money from people in parking fines, when it does not provide them with the means to pay for the ticket in the first place.

I got a ticket as I couldn't get the machine to accept my two £1 coins, so I left a note explaining, with my two coins, visible on the dashboard, to show that I had tried to pay, yet still a hard-hearted warden gave me a ticket.

I will see what the response is from Kilmory as I wrote to object and explain. But the council should not have meters that don't take the currency of the country.

Mary Brown,
by email.

Corran ferry crew deserve high praise

Sir,
Full credit must be awarded to the skipper and crew of the Corran ferry who averted what could have been a serious accident on Saturday July 15.

Without steering, they managed to berth the boat at Nether Lochaber slipway, an almost impossible task with a gale blowing and a swift tide running.

Their quick thinking and adaptability should be highly appreciated by all ferry users.

Well done, chaps.
Morag MacKintosh
Corran, Nether Lochaber.

ACHA puts emphasis on tenants' wishes

Sir,
I write to you in relation to a letter you published in your issue of July 6 in which a lady claimed that, as a tenant of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), she found she was at their mercy with no choices surrounding the investment and regeneration programme.

I must point out, that I am in no way affiliated to ACHA and nor am I carrying out any work for them, or likely to be doing so, and as such am not biased in any direction.

ACHA manages in excess of 5,000 houses and, over a four-year period, I personally was in at least 60 per cent of these houses. I can confirm the

emphasis that was placed on tenant choices and any considerations or additional support that was required while the work was carried out. This included contacting additional agencies where necessary.

These visits were always with ACHA representation, and tenants were all given the chance to participate in any decision-making. It should also be pointed out that some chose not to participate.

All tenants were spoken to about the proposed works and the implications.

Having worked in all but one of the ACHA areas, I can also confirm that the level of commitment from the area teams on checking the work was stringent, and this was monitored on a regular basis.

I feel that given the commitment of these people, and the time and resources that I have seen put in – I felt the comments published were very unfair, and in no way reflect what I saw happening throughout.

I would actually applaud the investment and regeneration team for pushing the work carried out to date.

Name and address supplied.

Newsreaders on the BBC are 'talent'?

Sir,
I am spectacularly under-concerned at the level of the BBC's remuneration for popular entertainers whose programmes are no doubt marketed by the corporation at a profit.

What is hard to stomach is the proportion of my licence fee being spent on mere newsreaders when surely such 'talent' can be sourced cheaply from regional programmes.

Even better, with Brexit in prospect, the BBC should look to recruit more broadcasters from our former colonies in the West Indies where wages may be low but the standards of literacy and spoken language seem infinitely superior to those currently obtaining in this benighted land.

John Eoin Douglas,
Spey Terrace, Edinburgh.

Where have all the air weapons gone?

Sir,
The Scottish Government said there were 500,000 air weapons in Scotland and that owners had to acquire a licence from Police Scotland or hand in their weapons before January 1, 2017.

This put Police Scotland under even more pressure as no additional funds or manpower were made available.

The latest figures indicate that nearly 21,000 weapons were handed in and that 12,384 licences were issued. That is only 33,000 out of the reputed 500,000.

Clark Cross,
Springfield Road Linlithgow.

Clarification

In *The Oban Times* (Thursday July 6), we published a letter from ACHA tenant Margaret MacKay, Barcaldine, questioning whether 'polystyrene' was being used on ACHA buildings. *The Oban Times* accepts that there is no evidence to support this in fact.

Ailean Caimbeul

a ghabh sinn cothrom a dhol a-mach gu biadh dà fheasgar.

Bha sin air leth math agus feumar a ràdh gum bheil ìre thaighean-bidh na Gàidhealtachd air togail gu inbhe àrd thar an bheagan bhliadhnaichean a dh'fhalbh.

Eadar gach nì a bha sin thòisich mi cuideachd blàr! Blàr nam Buaghallan-Buidhe! Chan eil ach aon mhathas air an luibh chroiseil seo agus 's e sin gum bheil freumhan staoin air agus gun ghabh e slaodadh às an talamh meadhanach furasta. Bha uair a bhathas a' creidsinn gur e crodh a bha a' sgaioleadh mòran de leithid seo de luibhean nam buachar ach tha cuimhne agam mar gum b' ann an dè a thachair e an latha a bhàsaich deagh mhart oirnn, agus gur e a bhith ag ithe bhughallan a mharbh i.

Chan eil mi den bheachd gun robh fios aig duine sa bhaile againn gu ruige sin gun robh am buaghallan cho puinnseanta, agus b' e am oideachaidh gu math cosgail a bh' ann dha m' athair. Bha sinne nar cloinn brònach ag ionndrainn na bà ruaidhe ged a bha beagan togail anns an othail is muinntir a' bhaile a' cruinneachadh

gus a ciosach a shlaodadh bhon bhàthaich gu ruige toll aig iochdar an lot san deach a tiodhlacadh.

'S iomadh uair bhon uairsin a tha mi fhin 's mo pheathraichean air còmhraidh mun chleachdadh a bh' ann aig an àm sin a bhith a' cur na cloinne a thogail chuisseagan-ruadha agus bhughallan-buidhe às na stàdhan feòir mar a bha na spealadairean gan gearradh. Bhiomaid a' giùlan ultaich dharrbh sin gu oirean an achannan gun foir againn gum faodamaid a bhith gar puinnseanachadh. Nach math an cofhurtachd a th'ann an aineolas aig amannan!

AMONG the chores I tackled during a few days in Skye was a new 'declaration of war' against rampant ragwort, which seems to be ever spreading.

Now recognised as harmful to equine and bovine stock in particular there was no awareness of this when we, as children, were tasked to gather it and dock weed from newly scythed hay meadows years ago.

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

Press policy

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

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

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

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

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

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

Hay bale bid to prevent fatal accident at notorious corner

ELLIE FORBES
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

AN ONICH resident has lined up hay bales in front of his fence to try to prevent a fatal accident at a notorious Lochaber crash blackspot and protect his property.

Colin Campbell, who has a house and croft at Caolas, Onich, has had the fence around his field ripped apart on numerous occasions after vehicles have crashed into it.

Mr Campbell has already replaced the fence four times since December last year after cars tore through it.

He has now put bales of hay in

front of the fence to protect it and his animals in the field.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times*, Mr Campbell said he thinks the cars are skidding as they are going round the corner at Gollanfield.

He said: 'There has just been this spell where there has been a number of cars going off the road in this particular area.'

'The road surface is very bumpy and it isn't safe. BEAR Scotland has been notified about it on numerous occasions.'

'The cycle path alongside the road has turned into the dog-legs.'

'People are scared to walk along the path there - you just want to get past the bit where these crashes have been happening as quickly as possible.'

'The last crash ended up with the car going through our new



The hay bales on the dangerous Onich crash corner.

fence and the passenger side took all the impact. Luckily, there was no-one in the passenger side, otherwise they would have been dead.

'The bales could prevent a very serious accident. For example,

in the latest incident, where the car ended up on the passenger side, if that side had hit the bale it probably wouldn't have been a total write-off.'

'Has someone got to be seriously injured or, worse, die,

for something to be done about the road?'

A spokesperson for BEAR Scotland said: 'Temporary traffic lights are currently in place on the A82 at Onich to keep our teams as well as motorists safe while a defect in the road surface is repaired.'

'We were made aware of local concerns regarding the corner at Gollanfield and, following inspections by our roads team, a small section of localised rutting was identified. Plans are also in place to install additional verge marker posts and bend warning signs in the near future.'

Kinlochleven resident Robert McClymont crashed at the corner last month, resulting in his car being written off.

Mr McClymont said he slipped on spilled diesel on the road, something which he feels is a

regular occurrence around Lochaber. He said: 'Just before the Onich hotel, I spun out of control when I hit oil.'

'The car went off the road and it was a write-off. Had an HGV been coming in the other direction, it would be fatal for my full car.'

'The problem with diesel oil is that you can't see it when it is spilled on the road. It's lethal.'

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes said: 'I am aware of concerns about oil spills on the A82 and have contacted Transport Scotland and Police Scotland to get figures on oil spills and what has been done to deal with the problem.'

'If there is more to be done, I will push Transport Scotland to put a more robust plan in place to ensure there is no threat to road safety.'

New affordable homes for Fort

SCOTTISH Government minister for housing Kevin Stewart was in Fort William yesterday (Wednesday) to visit housing projects and to announce funding for Lochaber Housing Association (LHA) to build affordable homes on a new site in Upper Achintore.

He was joined by representatives from LHA, the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust and the Highland Council.

Mr Stewart also visited LHA's development at Raasay Court where he talked to residents Sintija Zemtura and Vladis Stepanovs about their experience of living there.

See next week's *Lochaber Times* for a full report on the minister's visit.

Views sought on housing plans

THE HIGHLAND Council is looking for the public's views on its draft Local Housing Strategy.

The strategy sets out the council's aims for housing over the next five years.

Councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of the places committee, said: 'We want to know what you think about our strategy and the actions we are proposing. You can find the strategy on our website together with a short survey.'

Head to the Highland Council website to read the strategy.

Responses to the survey must be made by Friday August 18.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



Colin Skeath, left, and his nephew Davis Gould-Duff back home this week after their historic trip.

F30 Canoe round Britain back home 1JP

Strontian paddler back home after historic round-Britain canoe trip

COLIN Skeath admits there were times during his record-setting paddle around the UK in an open canoe when it was far from plain sailing.

Former police inspector Mr Skeath, 50, who was partnered on the 12-week adventure by his nephew, Davis Gould-Duff, 25, from Limerick, made landfall home at Strontian shortly after 7pm on Monday. By the time the intrepid duo were welcomed back by a small gathering of family and friends, they had circumnavigated almost the entire coastline, about 2,000 miles,

including three crossings of the Irish Sea. Paddling a £4,000 open canoe, made by Swift in Canada and named Temagami after a province in Ontario, they encountered winds up to force seven and swells reaching almost four metres. 'People were quite worried about our safety when we rounded Cape Wrath and canoed through the Pentland Firth,' said Mr Skeath.

'But that was one of the highlights for me. There were some other amazing moments - it certainly fulfilled the definition of the word "adventure".'

So far the two paddlers have raised about £2,000 for the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice in Huddersfield.

It is the first time the voyage around the UK has been made in an open canoe and Mr Skeath's wife, Katrina, says the hope is it will have changed the perceptions of what is possible with open canoes.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times* the morning after their return home, Mr Skeath said he would be back on the water soon. 'Although at the moment the furthest trip I'm planning is into Fort William!' he laughed.

Fort William Accommodation Marketing Group

Local B&Bs celebrate over £500,000 bookings

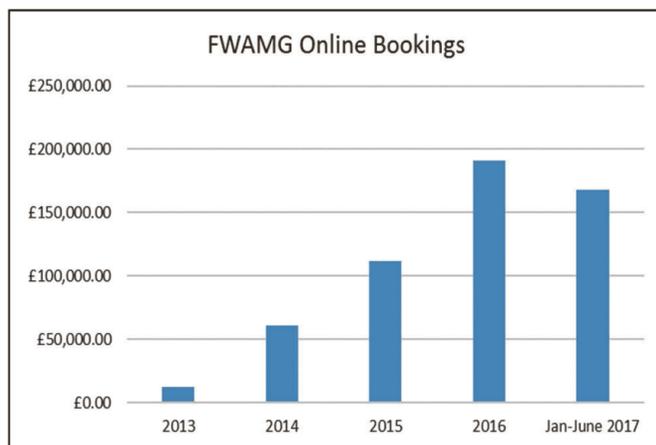
The Fort William Accommodation Marketing Group (FWAMG) is delighted to announce £543k of locally generated, commission free, online bookings to June 2017. FWAMG was started in 2011 by 8 local B&Bs that recognised working together had to be the best way forward for the many independent accommodation businesses in the town.

The group, now with 37 members, share a website at www.fortwilliam-guesthouse.com from which, since May 2013, over 4,000 separate bookings have been directly received (1,600 in the last year alone). High Google rankings, referrals, online availability, online booking and group search facilities now make the site "the place to go" for many of our visitors looking for accommodation in the area. The popularity of the site and the value of bookings continues to grow year on year.

In a local accommodation market becoming dominated by the global Online Travel Agents (OTAs) who demand high commissions and impose increasingly restrictive policies, FWAMG helps members to keep control of their own booking terms and conditions, build direct relationships with their own guests and to retain significantly more margin within their own business.

Working together doesn't stop there though, members and local suppliers all benefit from a series of co-operative arrangements between the group and other local businesses in the Lochaber area. Long standing agreements providing preferential pricing for members operate side by side with co-operative marketing arrangements with local activity providers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the many local businesses who have supported and helped the group become established. There is not enough space to mention everyone but we are very grateful to all of you.

The group is open to all B&Bs and Guesthouses in the Fort William and Glen Spean area. For more information please email membership@fortwilliam-guesthouse.com.



Above: An illustration of the dramatic increase in Fort William Accommodation Marketing Group online bookings.

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Temperatures soar as crowds flock to Inveraray Games

ARGYLL, as many people know, is a place of extremes – one minute we are soaking wet and the next the heat is unbearable.

For the second year in a row, Inveraray was in the midst of a heatwave. The good weather certainly brought out all the revellers and helped to swell the gate.

In the secretary's tent, it was time for Margaret Mather to lay down her pencil and hand over the reins to Deanne Hagan, who looks keen and enthusiastic to take on the job.

Margaret has been in the post for 26 years and has been a stalwart of the

games and keeping everyone in the right place. Next year, she says, she is going to enjoy the games and 'actually see some of the events'.

There were 13 heavyweight competitors taking part, more than 100 pipers and almost 230 Highland dancers.

There were athletes taking part from Glasgow School of Sport as well as plenty of young locals.

There was even a gold medal Olympian taking part in the cycling.

But the day went to Lorne Colthart, of Lismore and Blair Atholl, for his achievement as the World Caber Champion.



The men who put the grass back together – Peter McArthur, Stephen Rowell and Glyn Toplis, all from Inveraray, and Stephen Barclay from Tarbert. The men all work for the Duke and Duchess, except Mr Rowell, who came out of retirement to help on the day. 27_129 Inveraray HG 5



It was hot, hot, hot for the heavyweight competitors both on and off the field. 27_129 Inveraray HG 8



Members of the Clan Campbell Society of North America felt at home in their ancestral land. 08_a29 Inveraray HG 16



Duncan MacIntyre of Ardfern shares his knowledge of the rule book with two young competitors. 27_129 Inveraray HG 11



The under-10s girls' race. 27_129 Inveraray HG 25



Grace Thomson and friend Poppy race each other while waiting for the next competition. 27_129 Inveraray HG 13



A sprint finish in the men's 400m race. 08_a29 Inveraray HG 21



The international mums and grannies race saw a woman from California, USA, take the prize of a glass of whisky. 27_129 Inveraray HG 27



The under-10s boys' was a hard-fought race. 27_129 Inveraray HG 24



Even the under six-year-olds were determined. 27_129 Inveraray HG 23



The international race saw a man from Wales win the prize. He is pictured in the centre in a blue and white T-shirt. 27_129 Inveraray HG 28



The under-13s boys' race was a grudge match between all of the UK's regions. 27_129 Inveraray HG 26



Lorne Colthart throws his weight behind the weight for distance. 27_129 Inveraray HG 9



It looks like brotherly love but it is actually wrestling. 27_129 Inveraray HG 16



There always has to be a winner. 27_129 Inveraray HG 17



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Friday 28 July - Thursday 3 August

DESPICABLE ME 3 | U | 110 MIN

Fri: 14.45, Sat: 14.45, Mon: 14.45, Tues: 14.45, Wed: 14.45, Thurs: 14.45

The animated film is produced by Illumination's Chris Meledandri and Janet Healy, and executive produced by Chris Renaud. Joining Steve Carell and Kristen Wiig in Despicable Me 3 is Emmy, Tony and Grammy Award winner Trey Parker, co-creator of Comedy Central's global phenomenon South Park and the Broadway smash.

3D: Fri: 12.30, Sat: 12.30, Sun: 12.30, Mon: 12.30, Tues: 12.30, Wed: 12.30, Thurs: 12.30.

KIDS CLUB - DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL | U | 120 MIN

Sat: 11.30.

Children's Classic. Entry £2. Greg convinces his family to take a road trip to attend his great grandmother's 90th birthday as a cover for what he really wants: to attend a nearby gamer convention.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: SALAZAR'S REVENGE | 12A | 149 MIN

Fri: 14.45, Mon: 14.45, Tues: 14.15, Wed: 14.15, Thurs: 14.15.

Johnny Depp returns to the big screen as the iconic, swashbuckling anti-hero Jack Sparrow in the all-new "Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge." The rip-roaring adventure finds down-on-his-luck Captain Jack feeling the winds of ill-fortune blowing strongly his way when deadly ghost sailors, led by the terrifying Captain Salazar (Javier Bardem), escape from the Devil's Triangle bent on killing every pirate at sea—notably Jack.

SILVER SCREEN - ANOTHER MOTHER'S SON | 12A | 123 MIN

Sun: 14.30

Silver Screening - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £3! Based on the true story of Louisa Gould, the drama is set during World War II on the Nazi-occupied island of Jersey. Lou took in an escaped Russian POW and hid him over the war's course. The tension mounts as it becomes clear that Churchill will not risk an assault to recapture the British soil, and the island-community spirit begins to fray under pressures of hunger, occupation and divided loyalty.

SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING | 12A | 153 MIN

Fri: 11.30, Sat: 13.45, Sun: 16.45, Mon: 11.30, Tues: 11.30, Wed: 11.30, Thurs: 11.30.

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

THE BEGUILLED | 15 | 120 MIN

Fri: 20.00, Sat: 19.30, Sun: 19.30, Mon: 20.00, Tues: 20.00, Wed: 20.00, Thurs: 20.00

While imprisoned in a Confederate girls' boarding school, an injured Union soldier cons his way into each of the lonely women's hearts, causing them to turn on each other, and eventually, on him.

TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT | 12A | 169 MIN

Fri: 17.00, Sat: 16.30, Sun: 11.30, Mon: 17.00, Tues: 17.00, Wed: 17.00, Thurs: 17.00.

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

WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES | 12A | 160 MIN

Fri: 20.15, Sat: 20.15, Sun: 14.30, Mon: 20.15, Tues: 20.15, Wed: 20.15, Thurs: 20.15.

3D: Fri: 17.15, Sat: 17.15, Sun: 17.15, Mon: 17.15, Tues: 17.15, Wed: 17.15, Thurs: 17.15.

In War for the Planet of the Apes, the third chapter of the critically acclaimed blockbuster franchise, Caesar and his apes are forced into a deadly conflict with an army of humans led by a ruthless Colonel. After the apes suffer unimaginable losses, Caesar wrestles with his darker instincts and begins his own mythic quest to avenge his kind.



Every centimetre matters when it comes to judging the heavyweight events. 27_t29 Inveraray HG 3



A section of the large crowd enjoys the sunshine. 27_t29 Inveraray HG 10



Retiring secretary Margaret Mather is flanked by some of the senior dancers from Argyll taking part in the Highland dancing competitions. 27_t29 Inveraray-HG-2



Some folk make it look easy. 27_t29 Inveraray HG 15



The Argyll Ceilidh Trail band played a set of traditional tunes for the crowd. 08_a29 Invgames18



Michael and Susane Enders presenting Laura Ferguson with the Clan Campbell Society Germany Trophy for the ladies' 1600m race. 08_a29 Invgames20



Gracious in his defeat, Angus Sinclair from Strachur says he will try again next year to break the event record. 27_t29 Inveraray HG 20



Ben Coates of Oban, who won the 90m sprint. 27_t29 Inveraray HG 12



Gold medal-winner and Olympian Katie Archibald. 27_t29 Inveraray HG 7



Games convener and former heavyweight champion Stephen King. 27_t29 Inveraray HG 21

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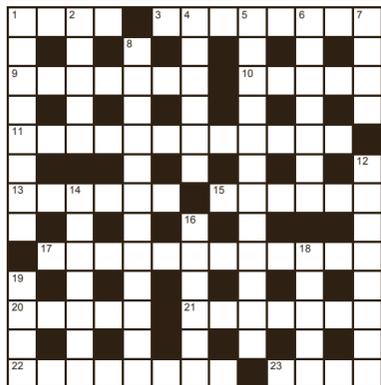
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Fare: Cruise Loch Fyne Adult £21 Senior £19 Child £10.50

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THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



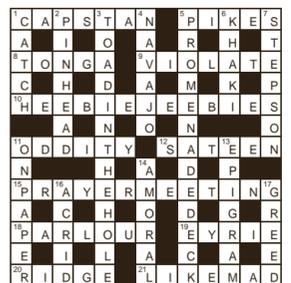
Across

- 1 Ball of yarn (4)
- 3 Free from work (8)
- 9 Score for the other team by mistake (3,4)
- 10 Jumpy (5)
- 11 Personal advisors (5,7)
- 13 Regal fur (6)
- 15 Ratify (6)
- 17 Study of secret writing (12)
- 20 Notches (5)
- 21 Burn (7)
- 22 Wine or a bush to dance round? (8)
- 23 Soon (4)

Down

- 1 One at a casino (8)
- 2 World-weariness (5)
- 4 Succeed (6)
- 5 One who earns and pays rent from the lan (6,6)
- 6 Shaken not stirred maybe! (7)
- 7 Type of bean (4)
- 8 Pick words up and put them down elsewhere on the computer (4-3-5)
- 12 The highest part of the heavens (8)
- 14 Type of law (7)
- 16 See eye to eye (6)
- 18 Seafood (5)
- 19 Floating layer (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



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OBAN Community Radio - your local radio station
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For requests, competitions or questions please email: studio@obanfm.org.uk or call us on 01631 570057

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



Oban Pipe Band.



The Taynuilt Games' hard-working kitchen volunteers, left to right Jessie Servant, Fiona MacFarlane and Sheena Davies.



Runners start the six mile hill race, won by Alasdair Campbell of Luing (far left).



Colin (left) and Tim McIntyre present the Clan McIntyre Trust's award for hard work and achievement in Gaelic to Erin Higgins (left) and Bethan Neil in joint 2nd place.



The solo piping competition attracted world class bagpipers.



TAYNUILT HIGHLAND

Highland games began 1,000 years ago as a means to recruit for the clan chiefs' entourage, and Taynuilt's honorary chieftain this year, Alison Hutchins of Dawnfresh, has gained an impressive retinue of champions.

In the contests to find the strongest man, who would have acted as the chieftain's bodyguard, Lucas Wenta took the £800 prize for tossing the 150lb, 18ft long Taynuilt caber, which is judged on its completion of an imaginary clock-face, and throwing the 16lb Nant Stone the furthest.

In the local heavy events, Andrew Servant just clinched overall champion from Jona-

thon Mackenzie, and Louis MacFarlane clinched the junior cup winning the welly over the bar and putting the riverbed stone.

In the running events, where the fastest men were used for delivering orders in battle and long-distance runners for rallying the clans, Michael Deason won the gents' quarter-mile, half-mile and mile, and Alasdair Campbell of Luing was first gent through the tape in the six-mile hill race, and Clara Horswell the first lady. Storm Evans surged to first place in the ladies 100 yards sprint, while Lacy Peanny won the 220 yards and quarter-mile.

'The true aristocrats of Highland Games have always been known to be the solo pipers,' explains the programme: 'The chieftains of old all had their own pipers. It is said 'to the making of a piper go seven years of his own learning and seven generations before.'

Angus MacColl of Benderloch, himself descended from famous pipers, won the march, Strathspey and reel, and piobaireachd, but was beaten into second place in the jig by Kate Kimove of Nova Scotia. Emma Hill and Innes Munro, both of Connel, shared the piping trophy for best overall open junior.

Wherever Scots gathered,

dancing was sure to follow. The chairman of the organising committee Andrew Gray said: 'We have got a new dance platform and we have doubled our capacity for entries. There was a great demand.'

The Highland dancing this year saw 77 competitors ranging from three to 23 years old. An organiser Isla Munro said: 'Our entries are up on last year. It gets higher and higher every year.'

Some had travelled thousands of miles to compete: 11 dancers from the MacLeod Highland Dance Studio in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, visited on a 'trip of a lifetime'

competing at Loch Lomond, Inveraray, and Taynuilt, before heading up to Lewis. More Highland dancers came from the Dunnett School in New Brunswick, including Katie Campbell, 16, who said: 'The whole atmosphere is more fun and much more relaxed.'

'We are not the biggest, but we are a good, friendly, traditional Highland games,' agreed Mr Gray, who is already looking ahead to next year's games, which sees the world gathering of Clan MacIntyre, with 300 kinfolk expected to descend on the games after a week-long tour of MacIntyre country.



Left to right: Innes Jackson, Mitchell Leckie and Louis MacFarlane, who was eventually crowned champion, throw a smooth, round river bed stone in the junior local heavy events.



A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 27 July - Thursday 3 August 2017

DIARDAIN 27 IUCHAR

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
- 19.00 Gach Creutair Beò: Vets (rpt)
- 19.30 Beul Chainnt (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là - News
- 20.30 Eileanan Fraoich - Heather Dewar visits Mull (rpt)
- 21.00 Angus Sinclair - An Dà Chunnart? (rpt)
- 21.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 22.00 UR | NEW: Belladrum 2016 - Bombskare
- 22.30 UR | NEW: Dhan Uisge - Easdale Island

- 22.40 UR | NEW: Aghaidh ri Aghaidh - The rivalry between Castro and Guevara
- 23.30 Ceòlraidh (rpt)

DIHAOINE 28 IUCHAR

- FRIDAY 28 JULY
- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
- 18.30 Machair (rpt)
- 19.00 An Là - News
- 19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 19.30 O Mo Dhùthaich - a slice of life on the Hebridean Islands of Uist (rpt)
- 20.00 The Megantic Outlaw - An immigrant family and a man on the run (rpt)
- 21.00 Jimmy Johnstone - examines the life of a phenomenal Scottish sporting talent (rpt)
- 22.30 Geamannan nan Eilean - A review of the 2017 Island Games in Gotland, Sweden (rpt)
- 23.00 UR | NEW: An Klondike - Dominion Creek - Drama, S1, Ep2

- 23.50 Dhan Uisge - Easdale Island (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 29 IUCHAR

- SATURDAY 29 JULY
- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
- 19.00 Machair (rpt)
- 19.25 Binneas - Na Trads (Dosca) (rpt)
- 19.30 Craic - Women's panel discussion (rpt)
- 20.00 Togaidh Sinn Fonn (rpt)
- 20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 20.30 Puirt-adhair - S1, Ep7 (rpt)
- 21.00 Ceòl Country - S5, Ep 4 (rpt)
- 22.00 Famous Five - story of Hibs FC's forward line who dominated Scottish football (rpt)
- 23.00 An Klondike - Dominion Creek - Drama, S1, Ep2 (rpt)
- 23.50 Dhan Uisge - Easdale Island (rpt)
- 23.55 Cuirm@Celtic - Le Vent du Nord (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 30 IUCHAR

- SUNDAY 30 JULY
- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
- 18.25 Seachd Là - News Review
- 19.30 Alleluia! (rpt)
- 20.00 Bean a' Mhinisteir - A look behind the door of the Manse (rpt)
- 20.30 Eileanan Fraoich - Heather Dewar visits Mull (rpt)
- 21.00 Farpaisean chon-chaorach - Sheepdog Trials (rpt)
- 22.00 Ceòl Country (rpt)
- 22.55 Aghaidh ri Aghaidh - The rivalry between Castro and Guevara (rpt)
- 23.50 Dhan Uisge - Easdale Island (rpt)

DILUAIN 31 IUCHAR

- MONDAY 31 JULY
- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
- 19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)
- 19.30 Beul Chainnt (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là - News
- 20.30 O Mo Dhùthaich - From Uist with Love (rpt)
- 21.00 UR | NEW: Trusadh - Bhan na Sgìre - a look at a lifeline service for rural Scotland
- 22.00 Hòro Gheallaidh (rpt)
- 22.30 Nationwide an Alba: An Taobh an Iar - stories from Scotland from the Nationwide TV series (rpt)
- 23.30 Cuide ri Cathy - Gregor Fisher (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 01 LÙNASTAL

- TUESDAY 01 AUGUST
- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
- 19.00 Gach Creutair Beò - Vets (rpt)
- 19.30 Beul Chainnt - (rpt)

- 20.00 An Là - News
- 20.30 Puirt-adhair - Highland Airports (rpt)
- 21.00 Farpaisean Chon-chaorach - Sheepdog Trials (rpt)
- 22.00 Trusadh - Bhan Na Sgìre - (rpt)
- 23.00 Craic - Women's panel discussion (rpt)
- 23.30 Alleluia! (rpt)

DI CIADAIN 02 LÙNASTAL

- TUESDAY 02 AUGUST
- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
- 19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)
- 19.30 Beul Chainnt (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là - News
- 20.30 Bean a' Mhinisteir - A look at life behind the door of the Manse (rpt)
- 21.00 Nationwide an Alba: An Taobh an Ear (rpt)
- 22.00 Buskers (rpt)
- 22.30 Hòro Gheallaidh (rpt)
- 23.00 Angus Sinclair - An Da Chunnart (rpt)

- 23.50 Fraochy Bay (rpt)

DIARDAIN 03 LÙNASTAL

- TUESDAY 03 AUGUST
- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
- 19.00 Gach Creutair Beò: Vets (rpt)
- 19.30 Beul Chainnt (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là - News
- 20.30 Eileanan Fraoich - Heather Dewar visits North Uist (rpt)
- 21.00 Ceann an Rìgh - revealing the face of Robert the Bruce (rpt)
- 21.30 UR | NEW: Belladrum 2017 - highlights including Sister Sledge and Feeder
- 23.00 UR | NEW: Aghaidh ri Aghaidh - the rivalry between Chanel and Schiaparelli
- 23.50 Binneas - Na Trads (Dosca) - (rpt)

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Modern-day knights joust in pillow fights.



The start of the half mile race, won by Michael Deason (far left).

GAMES

Taynuilt Highland Games results

Heavy Results: Open Heavy: Light Hammer: 1 L Wenta, 2 S Wenta, R Fraser; Shot: 1 L Wenta, 2 S Wenta, 3 R Fraser; 28lb Weight for Distance: 1 L Wenta, 2 S Wenta, 3 N Elliott; Caber: 1 L Wenta, 2 S Wenta, 3= N Elliott and R Fraser; Nant Stone: 1 L Wenta, 2 S Wenta, 3 R Fraser; Heavy Hammer: 1 L Wenta, 2 S Wenta, 3 R Fraser; 50lb Weight Over Bar: 1 L Wenta, 2 S Wenta, 3= N Elliott and R Fraser; Games Cup for Open Heavy Events: L Wenta; Biggie Cup for Open Caber Tossing: L Wenta. Junior Local Heavy: Stone: 1 L MacFarlane, 2 M Leckie, 3 I Jackson; Welly: 1 M Leckie, 2 L MacFarlane, 3 I Jackson; Welly over Bar: 1 L MacFarlane, 2 M Leckie, 3 Kiera; Bungy: 1 Kiera, 2 L MacFarlane, 3 M Leckie; Leslie Servant Memorial Cup for Best Local Junior Heavy: L MacFarlane; Tug-O-War: Taynuilt Shinty Team. Local Heavy: Light Hammer: 1 Andrew Servant, 2 Jonathon MacKenzie, 3 Nick Charlton; 16lb Shot: 1 Jonathon MacKenzie, 2 Andrew Servant, 3 Nick Charlton; 28lb Weight for Distance: 1 Andrew Servant, 2 Nick Charlton, 3 Jonathon MacKenzie; Light Caber: 1 Jonathon MacKenzie, 2 Andrew Servant, 3 Nick Charlton; Overall: 1 Andrew Servant, 2 Jonathon MacKenzie, 3 Nick Charlton. Gents 100yds: 1 L Richmond, 2 L Morassut, 3 H Sorey; Gents 220yds: 1 J Goodwin, 2 L Morassut, 3 L Richmond; ¼ Mile: 1 M Deason, 2 A Campbell, 3 B Smith; ½ Mile: 1 M Deason, 2 B Smith, 3 R Kidd; 1 Mile Gents: 1 M Deason, 2 A Campbell, 3 J Stevenson; Hill Race - Open: 1 A Campbell, 2 S Crutchfield, 3 E Wolfe; Track Events Gents: Local: Gents 100yds: 1 C MacDonald; Gents 220yds: 1 C MacDonald; ¼ Mile: 1 K Lopez, 2 C MacDonald; ½ Mile: 1 C MacDonald; Hill Race: 1 A Gray; Track Events Ladies: Open: Ladies 100yds: 1 S Evans, 2 C Henstridge, 3 D Henderson; 220yds: 1 L Peanny, 2 M Beermont, 3 S Evans; ¼ Mile: 1 L Peanny, 2 K Pringle, 3 J Harvey; ½ Mile: 1 N Stevenson; 1 Mile: 1 N Stevenson; Hill Race: 1 C Horswell, 2 S MacDonald, K Bloomfield. Inverawe Cup for Open Athletics: M Deason; Duncan MacDonald Memorial Cup for Gents 100yds: Liam Richmond; Ingils Memorial Cup for Best Local Athlete: Calum MacDonald; John Garvie Cup Best Local Junior Athlete: Calum MacDonald; The Iain McIntyre-Younger cup for the Hill Race: Alasdair Campbell. Piping: Open: March: 1 Angus McColl (snr) Benderloch, 2 R Mercier Canada, 3 Caitlin MacDonald Glasgow; Strathspey & Reel: 1 Angus McColl (snr), 2 Angus McColl (jnr) Benderloch, 3 James Dyson Nova Scotia; Piobaireachd: 1 Angus McColl (snr), 2 Kate Kimove Nova Scotia, 3 Raphael Mercier; Jig: 1 Kate Kimove, 2 Angus McColl (snr), 3 James Dyson; Piping Junior - Open: March: 1 Emma Hill Connel, 2 Innes Munro Connel, 3 Jenny MacLean Dunbeg; Strathspey & Reel: 1 Innes Munro, 2 Emma Hill, 3 Jenny MacLean; Best Open Piper: Angus McColl (snr); Best Overall Open Junior: Emma Hill and Innes Munro; Piping Cups: Angiolini Cup Best Overall Piping Competitor: Angus McColl (snr); Games Shield for Open Piping - Strathspey & Reel: Angus McColl (snr); Games Shield Open Piping - March: Angus McColl (snr); Brander Lodge Hotel Trophy - Piobaireachd: Angus McColl (snr); Ardanaiseig Hotel Trophy - Best Junior Piper: Emma Hill and Innes Munro.



Martin Charlton, like a coiled spring.



Andrew Servant won the cup in local heavy events.



Grieg MacFarlane catches Sam's caber.



Nick Charlton, mid swing.



Left to right, Highland dancers Hannah and Elizabeth Clark with their cousins Will, Clara-Jean and Katie Campbell, from the Dunnett School in New Brunswick, Canada.



Innes Munro, 12, and Emma Hill, 15, both from Connel and Oban High School Pipe Band, took 1st in the junior Strathspey and reel and junior march respectively.



Eilidh Shaw came 1st in the Clan McIntyre Trust's award for Gaelic at Rockfield Primary School's Gaelic medium classes.



Chieftan Alison Hutchins leads the parade from the Taynuilt Hotel to the games field.

Phil Jupitus brings stand up comedy to The Nevis Centre

Join stand-up comedian, poet, improviser, and TV stalwart Phil Jupitus for over an hour of tales, laughs and diversions. Watch in delight and/or horror as this experienced funnyman smashes laughs out of the chaos of his own life and the uncertain world that surrounds it.

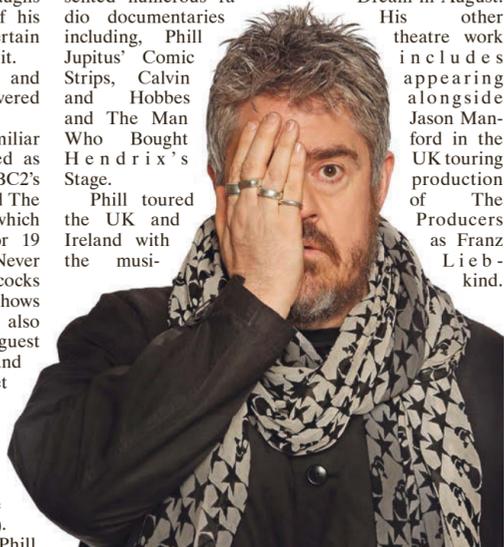
Adult themes and situations, but delivered childishly. Phil became a familiar face when he started as team captain on BBC2's pop quiz Never Mind The Buzzcocks in 1996, which went on to run for 19 years. Aside from Never Mind The Buzzcocks and live stand up shows all over the UK, he also appears as a regular guest on QI (BBC2) and Alan Davies As yet Untitled (Dave), and in 2012 returned to television stand-up for the first time since 2000 with an appearance on Live at the Apollo (BBC1). On BBC Radio 4 Phil

is a regular panellist of the award winning I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue and The Unbelievable Truth and was resident curator on The Museum of Curiosity. In addition, he has presented numerous radio documentaries including, Phil Jupitus' Comic Strips, Calvin and Hobbes and The Man Who Bought Hendrix's Stage.

Phil toured the UK and Ireland with the musi-

cal Chitty Chitty Bang Bang in 2016 starring as Baron Bomburst / Lord Scrumptious and he played Bottom in the Bath Theatre Royal production of A Midsummer's Night Dream in August.

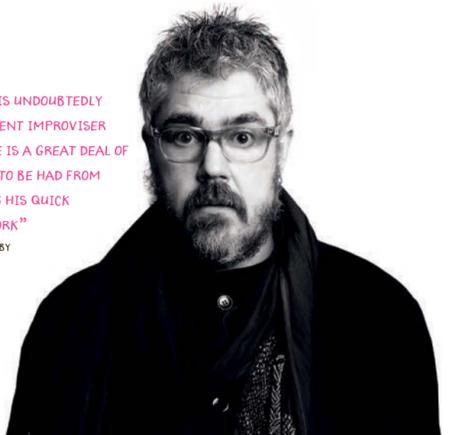
His other theatre work includes appearing alongside Jason Manford in the UK touring production of The Producers as Franz Liebkind.



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Musicians bring their talents to their home audiences

An accordion player from Lismore and a fiddle player from Lochaber are among the eight finest young folk musicians in Scotland – and they are touring their home towns.

Murray Willis from Lismore and Hannah MacRae from Lochaber were both finalists in the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year Competition in 2016.

They have recorded an album alongside the other finalists and the winner Mohsen Amini, thanks to the TMSA (Traditional Music and Song Association of Scotland).

The band have already played in Lismore Public Hall (June 6) and they are set to take the stage in The Nevis Centre, Fort William on Tuesday August 1 for the final concert of the tour.

TMSA convener Fiona Campbell said: 'The annual TMSA Young

Trad Tour and album is always a great opportunity to showcase the rising stars of Scotland's traditional music scene but this year we also get the bonus of featuring at Lorient.

'Lorient is the largest Celtic festival in the world so to have the opportunity to play at the Scotland Pavilion is really exciting for the young musicians and I have no doubt the group will act as fantastic ambassadors for both the TMSA and Scotland.'

Get to know the local musicians a little better:

Hannah MacRae is a west coast fiddle player. Traditional music has been in her family for generations. Hannah has taken time to establish her own personal style and varies her repertoire by playing with accomplished musicians from different places and backgrounds.

Hannah is a strong believer in

keeping up tradition – in particular the culture of traditional music and Gaelic – and has been teaching fiddle for the past year. She is currently studying for a BMus in Traditional Music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Murray Willis is an accordion player. He speaks Gaelic, has a qualification in blacksmithing and works with a welding company.

Murray studied music at Benbecula College in Uist under Anna-Wendy Stevenson which he says was an eye-opener and his lessons and time spent with the brilliant tutors there greatly influenced and encouraged him. Murray is also learning the piano, alto saxophone and French.

For tickets, or further information on the tour, visit www.tmsa.org.uk or contact the TMSA national office, at office@tmsa.org.uk or tel: 0792 253 3915.



ADVERTORIAL

Bar Rio - Stylish dining in the heart of Oban

Bar Rio for relaxed dining in a cosmopolitan setting, Bar Rio Pizzeria, Restaurant and Bar is a favourite of locals and visitors alike. Part of the Columba Hotel, Bar Rio combines chic decor and top-level service in Oban's bustling town centre. 'We don't want people to feel rushed while they are here,' said Columba Hotel general manager Darrel Williams. 'You can relax and enjoy your meal, and people have told us they really enjoy being able to do that.'

Bar manager Hazel Macintyre added: 'Rio has a brand new takeaway service, phone your order direct to the bar. We have delicious burgers, fish and chips and of course our popular pizza / pasta combo, for when you just can't decide between the two.'

'Don't forget we have our extensive range of cocktails and mocktails – why not try one while you are waiting for your take away order. Hope to see you soon.'

The outstanding level of customer service extends to custom-made pizzas – young diners can draw their

own pizza design. And after the diners have gone, Bar Rio becomes a popular bar that is busy without being too noisy. They proffer a wide range of drinks, including 25 different whiskeys, cocktails and Italian beers. For date night, a family meal, late night drinks or a special occasion, Bar Rio is always perfect. Visit them on the North Pier in Oban. Call 01631 569390.



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A warm Scottish welcome awaits you at the Townhouse Aberfeldy. Fully refurbished in 2015 and tastefully decorated throughout, relax and unwind in a luxurious bedroom with stunning views of glorious Perthshire. The winners will dine



in the Upstairs Restaurant which serves delicious food using the best of Scottish ingredients, complemented by a bottle of their choice from the house wine menu. Enjoy a hearty Scottish breakfast the next morning before checking out.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:
What is the name of the restaurant at The Townhouse Aberfeldy?

Valid Sundays-Thursdays and must be redeemed by 23/12/17. Guests must be over 18 years old. Prize is non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash alternative.

To enter, simply answer the above question, complete the form below and post it to Wyvex Media Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL.

Answer.....
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Telephone..... Email.....
 Please tick this box if you would like to be sent offers and promotions from Wyvex Media.
 Please tick this box if you would like to be sent offers and promotions from Townhouse Aberfeldy.
Closing date is August 31 2017. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply.

WIN Four tickets to see



To be in with a chance of winning four tickets to see Little Mix Magic at Caol Community Centre, just go onto the Lochaber Times Facebook page and like and share their post published on Tuesday at 10am. Winner selected at random on August 2 at noon. Enter at www.facebook.com/lochabertimes or www.facebook.com/obantimes

Glasgow Letter ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

Released on October 21, 2016, *Fairich* – the debut album from Whyte – is well worth a listen for fans of Gaelic music and electronica.

Whyte is a collaboration between electronic composer and musician Ross Whyte from Aberdeen, and Gaelic singer-songwriter Alasdair Whyte from Salen on the Isle of Mull, both of whom are based in Glasgow.

I have known Alasdair for years now and have heard him perform in many capacities (I was lucky enough to sing

backing vocals on his debut solo album, *Las*, a few years ago) but nothing I have heard him do is quite like this new venture.

The experimental nature of the music is certainly not to the detriment of the Gaelic songs because this album is far deeper than simply experimenting for experimenting's sake.

Alasdair's huge knowledge of the songs he sings is clear in their musical presentation.

I remember, some years ago, myself and Alasdair were standing at a bus stop in Dingwall having missed the bus to a

morning rehearsal in Inverness. I was in a slight panic trying to work out the quickest way into Inverness.

Alasdair decided his time was best spent reading all the place names on the bus stop's map and waxing lyrical about their ancient toponymy. This, of course, was completely useless in helping us reach our destination but Alasdair was obviously doing something right because, four or five years on, courtesy of his long, hard studies of 17th- and 18th-century Gaelic song and poetry at Glasgow

University, he is now Dr Alasdair Whyte.

This is the background to an album put together with a huge knowledge of, and respect for, the songs with which Whyte is dealing.

The collaboration began as a commission by the organisation Ceòl's Craic which was followed with subsequent performances and a feature on BBC Radio Scotland's Travelling Folk.

The album was recorded in the late summer of this year at the University of Aberdeen but some of the vocals were recorded

in a cave beneath Dunottar castle – providing exactly the ambience and atmosphere on the vocal that the songs and the arrangements require.

The timbre of Alasdair's voice and the evocative quality of the electronic accompaniment convey perfectly the sense of loss in songs such as *Gaoir nam Bàn Muilleach* and *Cumha Ni Mhic Raghnaill*.

If you like to populate your music library with singalong three-minute wonders, then this is definitely not the album for you. The first track is over

10 minutes and the second one is a brief nine minutes 38 seconds.

If, however, you are in the mood for immersing yourself in very old songs with rich history attached, then I really cannot think of a better record than *Fairich*.

You can catch Whyte performing *Fairich* live at the Scottish Storytelling Centre during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe from August 21-28, tickets for which are currently available from their website www.whytnoise.co.uk



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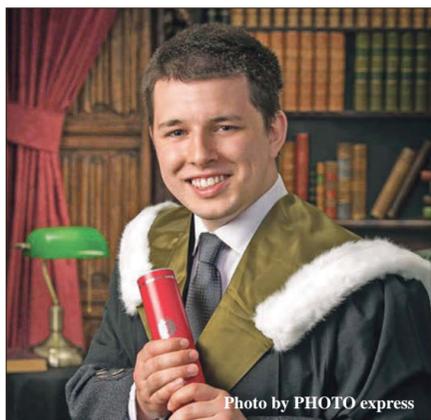


Photo by PHOTO express

CALUM ROSS BENNETT

Graduated from Edinburgh University BSc (Hons) in Geography. Son of David and Jacqueline. Grandson of Agnes and the late Dochie Bennett and of the late Charlie and Wilma Weir, Lochdon, Isle of Mull. Step-grandson of Sheila Weir. Calum went to Tobermory High School and is going on to do a Masters degree in Brewing and Distilling at Heriot-Watt University.



EMMA ROBERTSON

Graduated with a BA Hons in Social Science from the University of the West of Scotland. She is the daughter of Graeme and Janet Robertson, Fort William and is a former pupil of St Brides, Inverlochy and Lochaber High Schools.



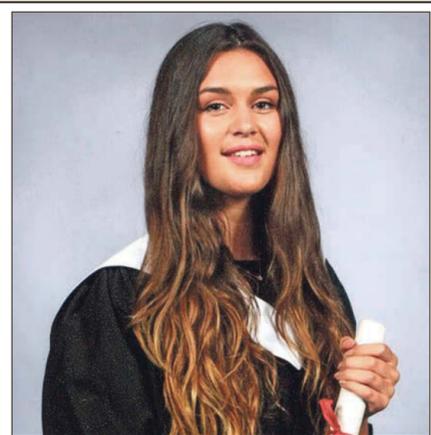
SCOTT BARBOUR

Graduated from Strathclyde University with a BSc in Software Engineering with First Class Honours. Scott is the son of Robert and Anne Barbour, Erskine and grandson of the late John and Margaret Barbour, Dunbeg and Eleanor and the late Ronnie Hamilton, Campbeltown.



SARAH MUIR

Graduated from Glasgow University with an MA First Class Honours in English Language and French. Sarah was educated at Taynuilt Primary and Knox Academy, Haddington. She is the daughter of Laura and Willie and granddaughter of Christine and Tommy Muir, North Ronaldsay and Vivienne and David MacCallum, Taynuilt. Sarah starts a post at Nantes University in September.



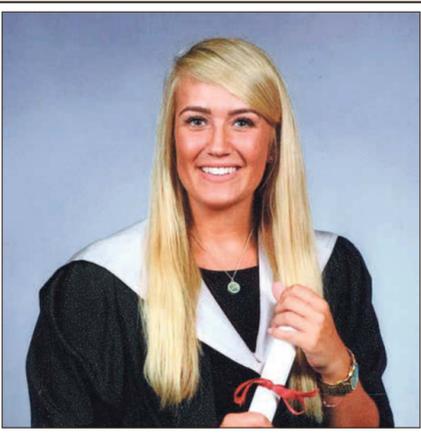
REBECCA ROBERTSON

Graduated with a MA Hons in Architecture from Edinburgh University. She is the daughter of Graeme and Janet Robertson, Fort William and is a former pupil of St Brides, Inverlochy and Lochaber High Schools. Rebecca is now working at Threesixty Architecture in Glasgow.



LAUREN BUCHANAN

Graduated with a BSc (Hons) Earth Science from the University of Glasgow. Eldest daughter of Kenny and Jacqui Buchanan, Oban. Granddaughter of Diarmid and Jean Noel-Paton, Strathyre and Jim and the late Irene Buchanan, Girvan. Lauren is a former pupil of Rockfield Primary and Oban High School.



FIONA CAMERON

Graduated with a BSc Honours in Primary education from Stirling University with a specialism in Modern Languages. Daughter of Iona MacCallum and the late John Cameron. Granddaughter of the late John and Annabel Cameron and the late Jimmy and Janette Milne. Former pupil of Park Primary School and Oban High School.



CIARAN WARWICK CAMERON JACKSON

Graduated from University of Stirling with a First Class Honours degree in Accountancy and Finance. Ciaran, the son of James and Lara, grandson of Pat and the late Jon Cheney and Betty and the late Jimmy Jackson, is a former pupil of Appin and Lochnell Primary Schools and Oban High School. He is currently employed as an Internal Auditor at the RBS HQ in Edinburgh.



ROSS MCLEAN

Graduated with a BA (Hons) in Accounting from Napier University, Edinburgh. Ross is the son of Tommy and Christine McLean, Dunfermline and grandson of Ivor and Betty May, Oban.



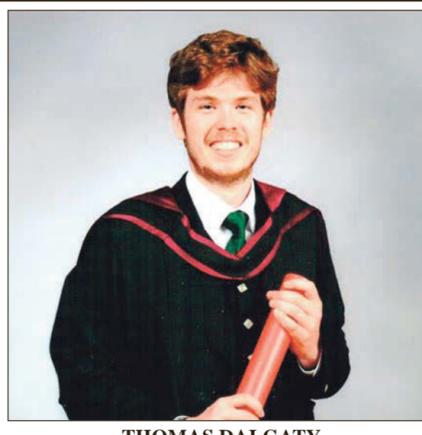
BECKY BAKER-GILLIES

Graduated from Napier University with a Hons Degree in Veterinary Nursing. Becky is the daughter of Tracey Baker and Dougie Gillies and is a former pupil of Lochaber High School and is now working at Oaks Vets in North Ayrshire.



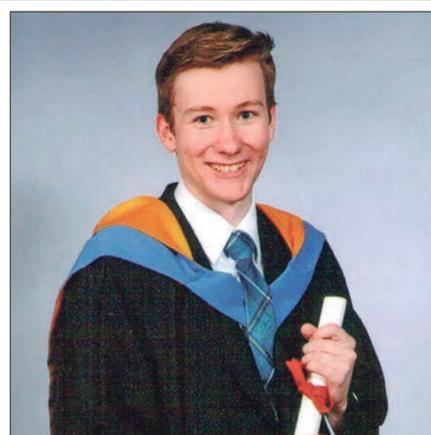
FEARGAL LETFORD

Graduated from the University of Edinburgh with The Degree Of Bachelor of Laws With Honours. Feargal is a former pupil of Achaleven Primary and Oban High School, and the elder son of Sheila & Steve Letford, North Connel



THOMAS DALGATY

Graduated from University of Glasgow with a Masters of first class in Electronic and Electrical Engineering, son of Tony and Ann Dalgaty, Rockport, Bonawe. Thomas is now going to France to pursue a PhD in Neomorphic Engineering. Formerly a pupil of Taynuilt Primary and Oban High Schools.



JAMES BRUCE MACLEOD

Graduated from Strathclyde University with BSc First Class Honours in Computer Science. Son of Alan & Margaret MacLeod, Oban. Grandson of Bruce and Elizabeth MacLeod, Oban and George and Margaret Kirk, Glasgow. James is a former pupil of Rockfield Primary and Oban High School.

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Poultry judges Jo Vale and Iain MacKinnon. 16_T30_Tiree Show_01



Lining up in the horse and pony section. 16_T30_Tiree Show_05



Colin and Hugh MacKinnon of Tiree, reared the overall cattle champion cattle. 16_T30_Tiree Show_14



Tiree's new hockey club played matches for spectators, sporting their new team hoodies sponsored by Tiree Fitness. 16_T30_Tiree Show_17

Quality shines through

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

THE first rain for 15 years at Tiree Show on Friday did not dampen the spirits of the competitors or the all-ladies line-up of judges.

This was the inaugural judging day for all and they were impressed with the quality of the stock on show. Females were also to the fore at the end of the day with an all-female livestock line-up in the champion of champions. Jan Paterson's impressive Friesian mare Tallina, ridden by Julie Donn, won the coveted sash from the strong horse and pony section judged by Amber Cameron of Kilmalieu.

Judge Morag MacCorquodale of Achnaba selected the winner of the new suckler cow and calf class which had won right

through to lift the supreme in cattle section. This Limousin cross cow with her spring-born Charolais calf from Colin and Hugh MacKinnon of Kilkenneth is no stranger to the show ring, having won here before.

Reserve in the crossbred cattle also went to Colin and Hugh MacKinnon with a spring-born Charolais cross bull calf out of Inverloch Go-Johnny-Go, a Crofters' Commission bull.

The pure-bred cattle were led by Alastair and Iain MacInnes of Ruaig with a British Blue heifer, Ruaig Jewel by Ruaig Exfactor and out of Ruaig Destiny, a previous winner here. The MacInnes also stood reserve with Ruaig Morven, a British blue heifer calf by Bernard Ernie out of Ruaig Heidi. Supreme from the sheep sections was a Beltex gimmer on her first outing from Alasdair

MacLean, Heylipol. Tiree Blossom is by Callacrag Wise Crack out of Tiree Spice, and is a full sister to Tiree Benchmark sold at Lanark last September.

Judge Kirsty Morton, Lochend, Denny, selected as reserve in the pure-bred section another from the same flock, a March-born Beltex ewe lamb. The male champion went to Ettie MacDonald, Roadside, with a Bluefaced Leicester tup bought from Kildalloig, Campbeltown.

Fiona Shedden, Balgerran, Crossmichael, had the task of judging the prime lambs, blackface and cross sheep. A pen of Suffolk cross lambs from Sandra Brown, Balevullin, lifted the prime lamb award. Champion was a home-bred mule ewe lamb from Ettie MacDonald, Roadside, who also lifted the Blackface champion ticket.

Tiree Show winners 2017 were as follows.

Home industries: Tiree Agricultural Society Cup: Most Points for Children - Pre School: Niamh MacLean; Tiree Agricultural Society Cup: Most Points for Children 5-7 Years: Charlotte Vale and Josh Milne; Tiree Agricultural Society Cup: Most Points for Children 8-11 Years: Neil Hugh MacKinnon; The Macdonald Memorial Cup: Most Points for Children 12-16 Years: Kathleen Munn; The Lady Peggy Hoare Salver: Best Knitted Article at Show: Fiona MacLeod - Hat and Scarf Set; Tiree Agricultural Society Cup: Most Points in Handcraft Section: Monica Smith, Crossapol; Tiree Agricultural Society Cup: Most Points in Produce Section: Ann Cameron; The Rural Cup Most Points in

Home Industries and Produce Section: Monica Smith; Bruton Challenge Trophy: Most Points in Horticulture Section: Rhoda Meek; Special Prize Most Outstanding Item in Produce Section: Ann Paterson - Quiche; Special Prize Best Exhibit in Handcraft Section: Monica Smith - Crochet Cushion Cover; Special Prize Best Exhibit in Horticulture Section: Jo Vale - Fresh Flower Arrangement using 5 Flowers; Special Prize Most Outstanding Item in Local Children's Section: Lani Milne - Tiree Show Picture; The Christina Maclean Cameron Memorial Salver Most Points in Visitors' Section: Marion McMaster, Girvan; Tiree Agricultural Society Prize Most Points Visiting Children - Pre School: Melissa Hendry; Tiree Agricultural Society Prize Most

Around the markets

STIRLING - Caledonian Marts Ltd on Monday July 24 sold 546 store cattle including seven young bulls.

An excellent entry of cattle forward for numbers met the dearest trade so far this year.

Beef bred bullocks averaged 229ppkg selling to 275ppkg for Sim X's from Langholm, Campbeltown, and to £1230 for Charolais from East Kerse, Lochwinnoch.

Heifers averaged 220ppkg selling to 298ppkg for Limousins from Craigievern, Balfon Station, and to £1230 for a Limousin from Holm Park, Ballantree. Black and White bullocks averaged 174ppkg selling to 200ppkg from Holm Park and to £1060 for the same animals. Young Bulls averaged 140ppkg (mainly black and whites) selling to 220ppkg from Westhills, Lochwinnoch and to £1000 for a Hereford from Whitehill Kennels, Crossgates.

Leading prices
Bullocks per head;
£1220 Knocknain, Stranraer
£1210 Ardgate
£1200 Bailant Struth, Kippen
£1190 Millhall Grazing

£1180 Graystale, Holm Park, Ardgate and Bailant Struth.

£1170 East Kerse, Holm Park and Glencraigs, Campbeltown.

£1160 Glencraigs and East Kerse

£1140 Glenside Stranraer

Heifers per head;

£1190 Knocknain

£1160 South Auchinbrain

£1140 Holm Park

£1130 Mains of Burnbank

£1070 Glenside and Holm Park

Black and white Bullocks per head;

£960 Glenside and Low Barbeth

£810 Knocknain

£780 Low Barbeth and Graystale

Bullocks p/kg;

271ppkg Millhall Grazing

262ppkg Westhills

261ppkg Langholm

257ppkg & 252ppkg Offers

253ppkg Burnbrae & Walton

250ppkg Westhills & Burnbrae

249ppkg New Peninver & Kepdarroch

247ppkg Craigievern & Kepdarroch

Heifers p/kg;

260ppkg Offers

253ppkg Mains of Burnbank

249ppkg Offers

242ppkg South Auchinbrain

240ppkg Walton & Burnbrae

Black and White Bullocks p/kg;

191p Glenside & Low Barbeth, Stranraer

184p Low Barbeth

175p Knocknain

168p Graystale

STIRLING - Caledonian Marts on

Friday, July 21, conducted the displen-

ishing sale of vehicles and implements

at Shaw of Touch Farm, Stirling by kind

permission of Ewan Campbell.

Leading prices.

John Deere 2056 Combine £18,500

John Deere 6300 Tractor £11,600

Massey Ferguson 3095 Tractor £7900

John Deere 2140 Tractor £4800

Amazone AD-P 303 Seed Drill £13,000

Matbro Telehandler £7400

Kverneland 4 Furrow Res Plough £6800

Chieftain Low Loader £3200

John Deere 575 Baler £3200

Land Drive Lime Spreader £3000

John Deere Mower £3000

Claas Liner 680L £2800

Easterby Tipping Trailers £2600 & £2300

Opico Cambridge Rollers £2600

Mobile Sheep Dipper £2400

ERF Lorry & Trailer £2400

Twin Axle Fraser Dung Spreader £2000

Leading Input prices.

Class 3200 RS Quadrum Baler £27,000

New Holland TL100 Tractor £10,000

Marshall Dung Spreader £5000

Dominator 66 Combine £4000

DP120 Livestock Trailer £3000

K Trailer (10 Tonne) £3000

Hi Spec 600 Dung Spreader £2600.

STIRLING - United Auctions on

Thursday July 20 sold 4882 prime sheep

including 3316 new season lambs selling

to an average of 206.9ppk, and 1566 ewes

and rams.

Spring lambs (3316) Wester Middleton

(Tex) £122; High Cattadale (Suff) £112;

Wester Mye (Btex) £109; Oatridge (Mule)

£94; West Park (Char) £89.50. Muirpark

(BF) £79.

Spring Lambs (3316) Oatfield (Tex)

251p; Wester Mye (BTex) 238p; South

Flanders (Suff) 230p; West Park (Char)

208p; Burnhouse (X) 204p; Auchenvivoch

(Mule) 201p. Keppulloch (BF) 183p.

Ewes (1566)- Cateune (Tex) £121;

Kilbucho (Suff) £106; West Gormack

(BFL) £91; North Balloch (Chev/mule)

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Morag MacCorquodale judged the cattle helped by chief steward Donald Morrison. 16_T30_Tiree Show_03



Kirsteen MacKinnon, 17, took home an impressive haul of cattle trophies for Park House. 16_T30_Tiree Show_19



Tiree's Erin Byfield, 13, of Cornaig, won best young handler on horseback. 16_T30_Tiree Show_18



Left to right 'Granny Tish' and Aonghas Kerr, Katie Jane MacKechnie, John MacKechnie, Olivia Bruce, George Bruce and Jarlath MacKechnie. 16_T30_Tiree Show_10



Best dogs of any breed, left to right, are 2nd Gracie the Great Dane (champion pet) with Katie Reid of Oban; 1st Maori (reserve) and Iain Pirie of Newton Mearns; 3rd Minnie and Ruth MacLean of Glasgow. 16_T30_Tiree Show_07

at successful Tiree Show

Points Visiting Children 5-7 Years: Macy MacMaster; Tiree Agricultural Society Prize Most Points Visiting Children 8 - 11 Years: Nicole Campbell; Tiree Agricultural Society Prize Most Points Visiting Children 12 - 16 Years: Ruth MacMaster; Special Prize Most Outstanding Item in Visitor's Section: Sarah Clark's Something New from Something Old; Special Prize Most Outstanding Item in Visiting Children's Section: Nicole Campbell - Painted Stone; Pets: Macdonald Langley Quaiach: Best Golden Oldie Dog at Show: Neil Connor, Brock; Hadley Shield Champion Pet at Show: Katie Reid, Oban; Poultry The Main Road Farm Cup: Poultry Champion: Tearlach MacDonald, Main Road Farm; Riding Horses And Ponies: The Christin Quaiach: Champion

Horse or Pony at Show: Jan Paterson, Balinoe; Tiree On Horse Back Shield: Best Young Handler: Erin Byfield, Cornaigbeg; Tractors: The MacPhail Shield Champion Tractor at Show: Iain Mackinnon, Kilmoluaig; Tiree YFC: Tiree Young Farmers Club Challenge Quaich: Sheena Mackinnon, Kenovay and Stewart Barr, Connel; Tossing The Sheaf: Omand Motors Shield: Gavin Omand, Renfrew; Cattle Section: Nigel Gunnis Cup: Champion Purebred Cattle Section: A & I MacInnes, Ruaig; Cameron Calves Cup: Best Suckler Cow: Kirsteen MacKinnon, Kilkenneth; Druimfhraoich Cup: Champion Breeding Animal: C & H MacKinnon, Kilkenneth; The Society Cup: Best Beef Bullock: Ann Paterson, Crossapil; Belgian Blue Society Cup: Best Crossbred British Blue Sired

Calf: Kirsteen MacKinnon, Parkhouse; MacLennan Motors Salver: Champion Male Crossbred Suckled Calf: Kirsteen MacKinnon, Parkhouse; ID MacKinnon Memorial Cup: Champion Female Crossbred Suckled Calf: C & H MacKinnon, Kilkenneth; Bernard D Smith Cup: Overall Champion Crossbred Calf: C & H MacKinnon, Kilkenneth; I A MacKinnon Haulage Cup: Overall Crossbred Champion: C & H MacKinnon, Kilkenneth; Cameron Livestock Prize: Reserve to Overall Crossbred Champion: C & H MacKinnon, Kilkenneth; Parkhouse Cup And Norbrook Pharmaceutical Prize: Supreme Champion in Cattle Section: C & H MacKinnon, Kilkenneth; Corson Cup: Best Cattle Animal Bred By Exhibitor: C & H MacKinnon, Kilkenneth; Stafford &

Flora Elgin Shield: Most Points in Cattle Section For Crofters: Kirsteen MacKinnon, Parkhouse; Tiree Agricultural Society Prize: Most points in Cattle Section: A & I MacInnes, Ruaig; Annie Cameron Cup: Champion From Cattle and Sheep Young Stockperson: Kayla MacDonald, Benderloch; Heylipol Farm Cup: Best Young Handler in Sheep Section: Ruairidh Macdonald, Benderloch. Sheep Section: D A MacLean Cup: Champion Pen of Crossbred Prime Lambs: Sandra Brown, Balevullin; Robert Nisbet Memorial Salver: Champion Blackface Sheep: Ettie MacDonald, Roadside; Lachie 'Druimfhraoich' Quaiach: Best Scotch Mule Sheep: Ettie MacDonald, Roadside; United Auctions Cup: Champion Crossbred Female Sheep: Ettie MacDonald, Roadside; MacLeod Construc-

tion Ltd Cup: Champion Pure Bred Ram: Ettie MacDonald, Roadside; Tarff Valley Cup: Champion Pure Bred Female Sheep: Alasdair MacLean, Heylipol; Tiree Agricultural Society Cup: Overall Champion Pure Bred Sheep: Alasdair MacLean, Heylipol; Druimfhraoich Cup and Norbrook Pharmaceutical Prize: Supreme Champion Sheep: Alasdair Maclean, Heylipol; Tiree Agricultural Society Cup Most Points in Sheep Section: Sandra Brown, Balevullin; Stafford & Flora Elgin Shield: Most Point in Sheep Section For Crofters and Tiree Association Prize: Sandra Brown, Balevullin; Champion Of Champions: The Royal Bank Of Scotland Trophy: From All Livestock Sections: Jan Paterson, Balinoe. More pictures at www.obantimes.co.uk

£90; Derry Farm (Mule) £86.50; West Lundie (BF) £60. Tups - Wester Clunie (Char) £120; Island View (Tex) £119; Island View (BFL) £102; Muirpark (BTeX) £95.

STIRLING - Caledonian Marts on Thursday, July 20 sold 143 cattle, comprising 88 prime bullocks, heifers and young bulls, 55 cast cows and bulls. Numbers once again exceptionally short of requirements with all classes taking a large rise on the week. More than 30 Cattle sold in excess of 240ppkg well ahead of many deadweight centres. Prime Bullocks Averaged - 225ppkg Prime Heifers Averaged - 235ppkg Young Bulls Averaged - 212ppkg Beef Cows Averaged - 140ppkg Dairy Cows Averaged - 112ppkg Bullocks sold to 250ppkg on three occasions for a Limousin from Moorfield, Kilmarnock and two British Blues from Classlochie, Kinross and Brockwoodlees, Canonbie purchased by T Johnston, Butcher, Cow Wynd, Falkirk and G Kirk & Son, Butcher, Denny and to £1664 from

Todhall, Cupar to Malcolm Allan & Sons, Falkirk. Heifers sold to 252ppkg for a Limousin from Faskine, Airdrie purchased by T Connor Butcher, Troon and to £1663 from Moorfield, Kilmarnock to W W Wales Ltd, Glencairn Industrial Estate, Kilmarnock. Young Bulls to 222ppkg for a Limousin from W1 & AW Callion, Balfornaught, Stirling purchased by Willie Stark, Twechar and to £1503 for a Simmental from Kincaple Farms, St Andrews. Bullocks ppgk; 248p (twice) Brockwoodlees & Easter Ochtermuthill 242p (twice) Bankhead (Kerr) & Mains of Cultmalundie 240p Classlochie, Mains of Cultmalundie & Easter Ochtermuthill 238p Annfield, Bankhead & Classlochie 232p Annfield 230p Bogleys Heifers ppgk; 250p Bankhead, Easter Ochtermuthill & Brockwoodlees 248p Brockwoodlees, Faskine, Moorfield

& Classlochie 245p (twice) Easter Ochtermuthill, Moorfield & Bankhead 242p Oatfield, Campbelltown 240p & 235p Moorfield 238p Faskine Young Bulls 218p Bolfournought 215p Upper Spittalton & Oatfield 210p Kincaple 208p Carriston Also forward were 55 Cast Cows and Bulls Beef Cows averaged 140ppkg selling to 168.4ppkg for a Charolais from J Christie, Nether Carse, Gargunnoch and to £1630 for the same beast. Dairy Cows averaged 112ppkg selling to 147.6ppkg from Blyth Farms, Bogleys, Dysart and to £960 from W Hamilton & Sons, Meldrum, Stirling. All classes of Cows in large demand to a ring side full of buyers, lots more could have been sold with high demand. Other Leading Prices; Beef Cows per head;

£1380 NetherCarse £1270 Mains of Burnbank £1240 Dyke £1200 Upper Spittalton £1020 Gibsley & Graystale £1010 Dyke Beef cows ppgk; 165.8p Mains of Burnbank 158.1p Glenside 156.7 Upper Spittalton 154.7p Nether Carse 151.6p Dyke 149.6p Glenside Beef Cows per head £930 Bogleys £870 Scriob Ruadh £860 Meldrum £830 Scriob Ruadh £800 Meldrum Dairy Cows per kilo 128.3p & 126p Greenbank 125.8p Scriob Ruadh & 124.6p 121.9 Blackwater 121.7p Scriob Ruadh Bulls sold to £1440 for a Charolais from J M Cullens, Dollarbank and to 115.2p from the same home. Leading prices for bulls: £1070 Pathcondie, £720 Gibsley

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Three rare wildcats born at Highland Wildlife Park

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

THREE rare Scottish wildcat kittens were born at the Highland Wildlife Park in April.

The new arrivals – born to mother Ness and father Zak – are the 18th, 19th and 20th kittens to be born and reared at the park over the past four years.

Also known as the 'Highland tiger', this rare native species is facing the threat of extinction due to hybridisation with domestic and feral cats, habitat loss and persecution. However, as a result of co-ordinated conservation efforts and a breeding programme for eventual release, the species has a fighting chance.

The wildcat kittens have spent the first couple of months in their dens, but are becoming slightly more independent of mum now. They are enjoying exploring their enclosures



The Scottish wildcat kittens are now getting adventurous.

and the overhead tunnels, and exhibiting kitten-like behaviour such as play-fighting.

Douglas Richardson, from the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland's (RZSS) Highland Wildlife Park, said: 'The three female kittens are another important addition to the

their surroundings, and can be seen in the forest habitat at the park. Our plan is that they will go on to play an important role in the conservation of the species and, with possibly as few as 110 wildcats left in the wild, the importance of a well-managed captive population cannot be overstated.'

The RZSS is a partner in Scottish Wildcat Action, the first national project to save the wildcat from extinction. Alongside its work leading the conservation breeding for release aspect of the project, RZSS's WildGenes laboratory is developing a molecular studbook for the species, having collected genetic data from over 70 breeding wildcats in captivity.

This will provide more detailed information on the relatedness of the population while informing future breeding decisions and ensuring that the

best possible matches are made to create a genetically diverse population.

Although some similarities with domestic tabby cats exist, the two species are not to be confused. The Scottish wildcat is the same subspecies of wildcat as is found in continental Europe, but has been separated from them since the end of the ice age, around 9,000 years ago.

With their big, bushy, black-ringed tail and tenacious behaviour, it is no surprise that the Scottish wildcat was used historically in many Highland clan crests. It is one of the rarest populations of cat in the world and is critically endangered in the wild. The long-term future of the Scottish wildcat relies on local people reporting sightings of any cats living in the wild, volunteering and spreading the word about the conservation challenge facing the species.



Winners Drew Sharkey and Stuart Macleod. Photograph: Ed Smith

Quadrathlon raises money for Mary's Meals

ALMOST 300 competitors took part in the Artemis Great Kindrochit Quadrathlon, helping to raise money for the Dalmally-based charity Mary's Meals and Mercy Corps.

The route comprises of a 1.35km swim across Loch Tay, a 24km run over seven peaks (including a total of 2,500m ascent), an 11km kayak crossing and a 54km bike ride in Highland Perthshire.

This year's winners, Drew Sharkey and Stuart Macleod, smashed the previous record by half an hour, completing the course in seven hours and 37 minutes.

The highlight of the day, however, was when Euan Bell got down on one knee, not due to exhaustion, but to propose to his now fiancée Tessa Birley.

Aislinn McVeigh, corporate

and campaigns lead at Mary's Meals, said: 'This is my third time supporting the quadrathlon.'

'It's been great to come along and see the dedicated athletes completing such a challenging course and to spend time with so many volunteers who freely give their time to help ensure the event is a great success.'

'Mary's Meals provides more than 1.2 million of the world's poorest children with a daily meal in a place of education.'

'This event supports schools in Malawi, where families are suffering the effects of erratic weather and failed harvests.'

'We're very grateful to Artemis, WildFox Events and all the quadrathletes for offering a lifeline to children at school during this food crisis.'

The event took place earlier this month on Saturday July 8.

One week left to enter sea-themed photo competition

AMATEUR and professional photographers across the UK have just one week left to enter their 'sea views' into a photography competition.

The competition, which closes on Friday August 4, encourages photographers to submit pictures which best encapsulate Britain's enduring connection with the sea.

The Shipwrecked Mariners' Society, which organises the event, is on the lookout for images covering all aspects of the UK's relationship with the sea including ships and wrecks, seascapes, industry and leisure.

The competition's judging panel includes experts from the *Sunday Times*, the *I*, and *Amateur Photographer Magazine*, alongside the charity's chief executive, Commodore Malcolm Williams.

The winner of the competition will be awarded a voucher for photographic equipment.

Commodore Williams said: 'The UK relies on merchant shipping for around 95 per cent of its imports and 75 per cent of exports.'

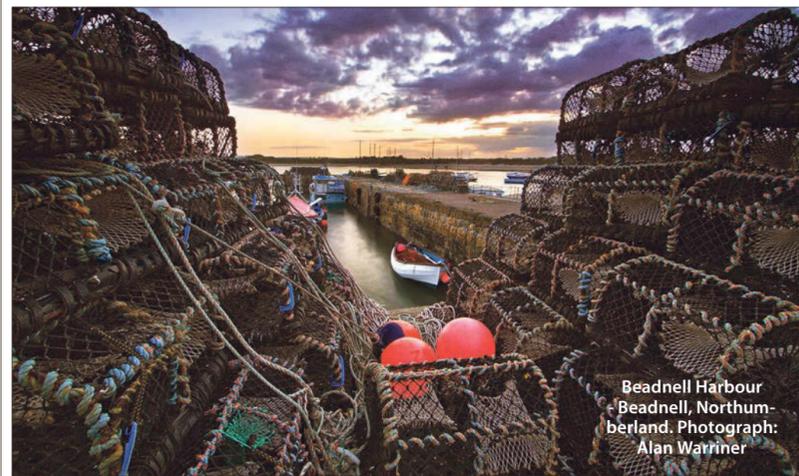
'And with 80 per cent of UK households consuming seafood each month, seafarers also play a crucial role in putting food

on our tables, facing tough and sometimes hazardous conditions in doing so.

'Every year the standard of entries to our sea views competition goes from strength to strength, and so far this year is no exception.'

'There is still time for photographers to enter our competition and show their support to those who spend their lives at sea.'

To enter the competition, which is sponsored by Inmarsat, and for more information, visit www.shipwreckedmariners.org.uk.



Beadnell Harbour - Beadnell, Northumberland. Photograph: Alan Warriner

Up to £2,000 available to create visual attractions on cycle routes

COMMUNITY groups could receive up to £2,000 in funding towards artistic and visual improvements to their local National Cycle Network (NCN) routes.

The ArtRoots fund, which run by Sustrans Scotland and backed by Transport Scotland, seeks to create visually attractive and memorable routes, which encourage people to explore on foot and bike.

Previously funded projects include recycled seating, chainsaw-carved sculptures, landscaping with a wooden train full of plants and a highland cow on a hillock.

Sustrans Scotland national director John Lauder said: 'Since the National Cycle Net-

work was founded in 1995, we have worked with numerous artists and sculptors to add artworks and visual improvements to enhance the routes.'

'Artworks send out a message that cyclists and walkers are valued and we are delighted to welcome applications for the second round of ArtRoots funding.'

Community groups based in Scotland which would like to make improvements to the artworks along their local NCN route are being asked to fill in an online expression of interest form, which can be found at: <https://goo.gl/Bx8FgW>

The closing date is Friday August 11 at 5pm.



Strathyre Primary pupils with one of the previously-funded pieces of artwork – a Highland cow on a hillock

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

Today (Thursday July 27) Teatle Water and Monument, Dalmally

A pleasant walk on forest tracks where recent clear felling has opened up views of Cruachan, Loch Awe, Glen Orchy and Glen Lochy. Some points of archaeological interest to find.

Park on A819 at the end of forest road just N of Achlian at NN1204724667. Head NE along the track for about 600m and turn SE at the junction. Turn SW at the next junction and follow the track uphill to NN1351124014.

Ignoring the first junction (not mapped), turn E at the second and continue up to the radio mast. Pass the mast, then after crossing the Eas nan Ruadh, take the track to the left, running NE through the forest.

When the track ends, continue NE and cross the small stream. Climb over (or through) the old fence and continue along the ride to reach another track at NN1471824176.

Turn N and follow the track downhill, by-pass Blarchoarain and continue N to the Dun Athaich EX Monument. (Note: cross-incised stone – early medieval, at NN1442025860).

At the junction, turn NW on to the old military road and follow it past Ardeatle Cottage to the Cairn at NN1322925415. (Cup marked stone in the vicinity).

Continue through a pleasant wooded area until the track crosses the Teatle Water, and then shortly after, joins the outward track to reach the starting point.

Grade: L; Distance: 10Km; Height to climb: 300m.

Meet at Longsdale car park, Oban NM862307 at 9.50am, Glencoe Village CP NN098587 at 9.30am. Start of walk at 10.30am.

Leader: Graham Innes 01631 562290 or 07776 714503.

Sunday July 30

Sgurr nan Coireachan and Sgurr Thuilim, Glenfinnan. Two Munros

A classic mountain walk taking in the Coire Thollaidh Horseshoe. Easy access to a splendid high level expedition in a rough and remote area.

Start from the CP on the W side of the River Finnan at the start of the estate road, NM905808.

Follow the estate road up Glen

Finnan to the bridge over the Allt a'Chaoirinne and right to Corryhully bothy. The track continues and crosses the Allt a'Chaoirinne. Shortly after this crossing, a stalkers' path climbs N up the slope, giving access to the SE ridge of Sgurr a'Chaoirinne. Climb this to its summit at 852m.

Continue to the Munro summit of Sgurr nan Coireachan, 956m. Descend its NE ridge and follow the rim of the huge Coire Thollaidh over Meall an Tarmachain, 826m and Beinn Gharbh, 825m to reach the second Munro of Sgurr Thuilim, 963m.

Descend S to a shoulder, then SW down Druim Coire a'Bheithie to the bridge over the River Finnan. Follow the estate road back to the start.

Grade: S; Distance: 20Km; Height to climb: 1400m. Map(s): LR40, EX398

Meet at: Fort William Woollen Mill NN112742 at 0900. Start of walk at 0930. Leader: TBA

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

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

Saturday July 29

Black Mount, Stob Ghabhar (1090m, Munro) — peak of goats; Stob a' Choire Odhair (945m, Munro) — peak of the dun-coloured corrie.

Start from the car park at NN270418, 300m before Victoria Bridge. Follow a short path NE to rejoin the road, cross Victoria Bridge and turn left at Forest Lodge. Follow the track W by the Abhainn Shira to a small building at NN256425.

Turn N on to the path that follows the Allt Toaig. After about 2km, cross the Allt Toaig NN2511243958 to gain access to the spur of Aonach Eagach. A faint path may be found.

Head NW up the spur which narrows to a crest and follow it to a summit, 991m. The ridge curves W around the rim of the magnificent Coirein Lochain leading to the summit of Stob Ghabhar.

Return to the 991m summit, just E of which at NN2370945398 a footpath leads N down the Couloir Buttress. Follow it, curving E to reach a col at 668m. Continue E up to the summit of Stob a'Chaoirinne.

Descend SW at first on bouldery ground and locate a good stalkers' path which leads S and zigzags down to the Allt Toaig path at NN253446. Head down S and return by the outward route. (18km, 1200m ascent)

Suggested and coordinated by Gerry Gilbert.

Celebrate Scotland with a walk along the John Muir Way

AS SCOTLAND celebrates 2017 as the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, why not honour the event with a 134-mile walk?

The John Muir Way, which runs through Argyll and Bute, is arguably the ideal way to discover some of Scotland's unique historic environment.

The route takes in castles, historic towns and villages, stunning coastal scenery as well as Scotland's first national park, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs.

As it passes through Argyll and Bute, the trail starts on the coast at the esplanade in Helensburgh, then heads over Gouk Hill to Balloch.

Rosie Wylie, national community and tourism manager at Historic Environment Scotland, said: 'We are excited to be part of this multi-partner collaboration where history, heritage and nature come together.'

'We look forward to welcoming visitors along the route and being a part of the wealth of

activities linked with this great trail.'

Keith Geddes, chairman of the Central Scotland Green Network Trust, said: 'It is fantastic to see Scotland recognising its rich and intriguing history, impressive cultural heritage and fascinating archaeology.'

'Scots-born John Muir is recognised worldwide for his work on conservation and particularly his role in the national parks in America and he remains an influential character, particularly in today's climate of environmental awareness.'

'What better way to explore and celebrate Scotland than through a route designed to celebrate the philosophy and achievements of John Muir?'

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TELEPHONE: 01631 568 000 Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

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Argyll and Bute Council PLANNING These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

SCOTTISH HYDRO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION PLC ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 THE ELECTRICITY (APPLICATIONS FOR CONSENT) REGULATIONS 1990 Notice is hereby given that Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, (company registration number SC213461) and whose registered office is situated at Inverlmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ) has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 37 of The Electricity Act 1989 to install and keep installed for a temporary period (of two years) approximately 657m of 132kV wood pole trident overhead line between existing Tower FF125 (Grid Reference NN18490 80178) and Tower FF127 (Grid Reference NN18159 79618) situated on the Fort William to Fort Augustus 132kV Overhead Line near Tom Na Braitach, Spean Bridge, Fort William, Inverness-shire. The proposal will provide a temporary diversion whilst the existing Fort William to Fort Augustus Overhead Line is reconducted. Within a period of no more than two year from its installation, the temporary overhead line referred to above, would be removed.

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www.highland.gov.uk TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at http://wam.highland.gov.uk or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Argyll and Bute Council DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (ON-STREET PARKING PLACES AND CHARGES) (OBAN) ORDER 2017 - Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an Order to change existing and introduce new car parking charges in on-street parking places within Oban. The proposals are as follows:- 1. Introduce the first 30 minutes free to bays on George Street (A85 Trunk), Corran Esplanade (A85 Trunk), William Street, Queens Park Place and Argyle Square, thereafter standard charges apply.

Argyll and Bute Council DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES AND CHARGES) (OBAN) ORDER 2017 - Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an Order, the effect of which will be to make changes to existing and introduce new car parking charges in some off street car parks within Oban. The proposals are to introduce parking charges in Longdale (Atlantis) and Lochavullin car parks and amend the existing charging regime in Ganavan car park. All three car parks are to have charges applying all year round, Monday to Saturday 9am to 6pm and on Sundays 1pm to 6pm. The tariff will be first 2 hours free and thereafter 15 minutes 30 pence; 30 minutes 50 pence; 45 minutes 80 pence and 1 hour £1.00.

Argyll and Bute Council MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 CAPITAL DREDGING & SEA DISPOSAL, LISMORE POINT SLIPWAY, LISMORE STRENGTHENING OF EXISTING SLIPWAY, LISMORE POINT, LISMORE Notice is hereby given that Argyll & Bute Council has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of capital dredging & sea disposal and strengthening of an existing slipway at:

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION C Barrington 7 Ardachy, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon *0.243 ha - Existing house site 80406 A MacLean 1 Kirkapoll, Tiree *0.456 ha - Amenity ground 81173 P Johnston 2 Lettershuna, Lismore & Appin 0.114 ha - site for a dwelling house 80753

Argyll and Bute Council DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (ON-STREET PARKING PLACES AND CHARGES) (OBAN) ORDER 2017 - Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an Order, the effect of which will be to make changes to existing and introduce new car parking charges in some off street car parks within Oban. The proposals are to introduce parking charges in Longdale (Atlantis) and Lochavullin car parks and amend the existing charging regime in Ganavan car park. All three car parks are to have charges applying all year round, Monday to Saturday 9am to 6pm and on Sundays 1pm to 6pm. The tariff will be first 2 hours free and thereafter 15 minutes 30 pence; 30 minutes 50 pence; 45 minutes 80 pence and 1 hour £1.00.

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Argyll and Bute Council MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 REPAIR TO EXISTING SLIPWAY, PORT APPIN SLIPWAY, PORT APPIN Notice is hereby given that Argyll & Bute Council has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of repair to existing slipway at:

MALLAIG COMMON GRAZINGS A meeting will be held on Thursday August 10 at 7.30pm in Mallaig Community Hall for election of a new committee. Margaret MacNeill Common Grazings Clerk.

69% of the business community read the regional press

First Registration of a Croft Mr Ronald Hogg has registered his croft, Blackmill Croft, Ardcattan & Muckkairn 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 the 17th April 2018.

Argyll and Bute Council To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

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Fusion Marine Ltd is well established as one of the leading manufacturers of high quality, maintenance free, professional equipment for marine and freshwater environments all over the world, particularly in the fish farming and hatchery industries. Our business development programme includes recruitment for the following vacancies:

Operations Manager

Managing the day to day running of the workshop and site operations, this role requires an individual with proven performance and people management experience who will take control of the planning and allocation of work, stock levels, and deliveries, maintenance of equipment, quality control and health and safety issues.

Team Leader

Supporting the Factory Manager in the day to day running of the workshop, you will ensure the team works to the requirements of operational policies and procedures while undertaking your own duties in our fabrication department. Ideally you will have worked in a similar fabrication environment and had some previous supervisory experience.

Site Fabricators

If you enjoy working outside and are prepared to be away from home, these vacancies may be of interest to you. We are looking for committed and responsible individuals who will be experienced in using tools and machinery to complete pipe and fabrication work on site in accordance with technical drawings, have a high level of Health and Safety awareness and be able to carry out quality control checks. A full clean driving licence is essential and fork lift truck licence desirable.

Workshop Fabricators

Working predominantly within the workshop with some degree of flexibility to meet the needs of the business during holiday periods, we are looking for semi-skilled and skilled fabricators to carry out extrusion, cut/prepare pipe and manufacture and weld fabrications in accordance with technical drawings. Involvement in booking stock in, despatch and deliveries may also be required and a full clean driving licence and fork lift truck licence are desirable.

Store/Yard person

An experienced stores person is needed to organise the workshop in a systematic and logical way. Responsibilities will include monitoring and requisition of stock, goods in, picking of orders, organising transport for the despatch of goods and accurate completion of all associated documentation using in house systems and procedures.

These positions offer the opportunity for the right candidates to play a part in the evolution of Fusion Marine's business. The salaries will be negotiable, dependent on experience and qualifications. If you are looking for a career move linked with opportunity for advancement and possess the above requirements please send a covering letter enclosing a current C.V.

Closing date: No later than Friday 4 August 2017

To apply please send your C.V. to Mrs C.Martin or email cmartin@fusionmarine.com

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Scottish Sea Farms are an internationally recognised farmer of superior quality Scottish salmon. We pride ourselves in providing industry leading and highly personal development paths which build into fulfilling professional careers. If you are committed to developing our industry and are driven to put your strengths to work we would very much like to hear from you.

We are currently recruiting for the following positions at our Marine Farms at

Loch Nevis, Mallaig and Sound of Mull.

Senior Husbandry Staff - with Critical Equipment Specialisation (Nevis)

Earnings Potential for this Role: (£29,000 - £32,500) + Bonus

A unique role designed to undertake planned preventative maintenance of site equipment including generators, vessel engines, outboards, mobile plant, net cleaners, feed systems, incinerators forklifts etc. Showing leadership in health & safety and working with site staff to keep critical equipment in optimal condition. Would be ideal for an aspiring engineer keen to become involved in Scotland's highly successful aquaculture industry. Specialist training will be provided. Applicants to be dynamic, meticulous and excellent communicators.

Candidates will be Day Skipper qualified (or equivalent) and ambitious enough to pursue a Yacht-Master coastal. Relocation package will be available for the right candidate.

Experienced Husbandry Staff, with Feed, Fish Health & Net Specialisation (Nevis & Sound of Mull)

Earnings Potential for this Role: £27,000 + Bonus

Applicants should have at least 1.5 years' practical salmon farming experience and are looking to develop into a practical specialisation of Feed, Fish Health or Net Management.

You should be able to demonstrate competence across a wide range of farming disciplines including: fish health monitoring, stock appetite assessment, boat handling skills, whilst being proactive in health and safety. Above all you should have the drive and ambition to further your career through training and development. A formal boat qualification would be desirable. Relocation package can be available for the right candidate.

Trainee Husbandry (Nevis & Sound of Mull)

Earnings Potential for this Role: £23,750 + Bonus after 6 months

Applications are also invited by candidates looking to begin their career in the Aquaculture Industry. We are looking for ambitious individuals who are team players, proactive in health and safety and who have high expectations for themselves and of their employer. In return, we will provide you with a Mentor who will guide you through your first months of employment and a detailed training plan whilst facilitating your progress through an SVQ that will enable you to kick start your fish farming career.

We are also recruiting for Summer Casual Staff to work on our Marine Farms at various locations, please contact us to find out more.

Flexible working hours can be considered to suit your personal circumstances.

A full clean driver's licence is essential.

Other benefits on offer are: pension support, life cover, subsidized gym membership and occupation health support.

To apply for any of the above exciting opportunities please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator on 01786 445521 or email angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack.

Closing Date: Wednesday 2nd August 2017

WYVEX MEDIA

Promotions Executive (part-time)

A very rare opportunity has arisen for the right person to join our team in Oban as a Promotions Executive. The successful candidate will be responsible for designing and implementing a regular series of promotions and offers for the readers of the Oban Times, Argyllshire Advertiser, Campbeltown Courier, Arran Banner and their websites. They will also be heavily involved in using our large social media following to maximise both newspaper and digital sales.

Ideally with a background in promotional marketing, the right candidate will be able to demonstrate that they are full of creative ideas, have a flair for copy writing and have the organisational skills to see complex promotions through from conception to implementation. You will also liaise with retailers and promotional partners to source offers for our readers and attend relevant events in our circulation area. A full, current driving licence is essential.

This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for the right candidate and they will be involved with all departments within the business, from editorial, and production to advertising. As such, being a team player and having first-class communication and interpersonal skills are an absolute must.

The position on offer is currently on a part-time basis and we are happy to discuss working patterns and flexibility with the right candidate. The role will be based in our Oban office.

If you fit the bill, send your CV (including current salary) to all@wyvexmedia.co.uk by Monday 31st July 2017



Modern Apprentice Architectural Assistant

£10,886 - £12,807

35 hours per week

Fixed term - 4 years

For more information please contact Matthew MacAulay on 01546 605 839

For further details and to apply visit the recruitment section of our website www.acha.co.uk

CVs are not accepted.

If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:

Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 11 August 2017.

Interviews will be held in Lochgilphead on 21 August 2017



Supporting People & Communities

Support Worker and Support Assistants - Oban and Support Assistants - Campbeltown

RELIEF (bank staff): £7.45/hr

SUPPORT WORKER - PERMANENT (FT or PT):
£16,808 - £18,239 per annum (pro rata)

SUPPORT ASSISTANTS - PERMANENT (FT OR PT):
£16,523 per annum (pro rata)

Do you want to make a difference in your community?

Are you looking for a job that fits around your other commitments?

Whether you're looking for a few hours a week or a full-time permanent role, we'd love to hear from you.

Carr Gomm is one of Scotland's leading social care organisations. Everything we do is shaped by our core values of choice, control, interdependence, openness & honesty, and respect. We are a registered charity and not-for-profit company: we put people first, not profits.

Carr Gomm's services in and around Oban and Campbeltown provide specialised person-centred care and support that enables people to stay safe and well in their own homes, and to achieve their personal aims and objectives.

Our Support Workers and Support Assistants play a vital role in supporting people to maintain their independence at home and enjoy a better quality of life. They assist adults (in the home and outdoors), personal care, managing medical conditions, meal preparation, practical tasks around the home and other activities in the local community.

If you are...

- A 'people person' who can build positive relationships with others - based on mutual respect and understanding - regardless of age, background or support needs
- Able to communicate effectively and accurately in English, both spoken and written
- Reliable, dedicated and able to meet the physical demands of the job
- Available to work a range of shifts as required
- Interested in a rewarding career in social care with one of Scotland's leading providers

...we would love to hear from you!

No previous experience required. We provide full training. All appointments are subject to PVG Disclosure. If you have subscribed to the new PVG update service, please let us know and you will be fast-tracked through our compliance process.

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For more information & to apply:

In order to apply please follow the link:
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Alternatively, please contact our Recruitment Team:

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Please apply with full CV and covering letter to:

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Energy efficiency standards for private landlords should be 'more ambitious but with longer lead time' - CIH Scotland

The Chartered Institute of Housing in Scotland has responded to a Scottish Government consultation proposing new minimum energy efficiency standards for the private rented sector (PRS) by joining calls for these standards to be made more ambitious.

At the same time, it is also recommending that private landlords be given a longer lead time to comply with the new standards and that advice, information and financial incentives are made available to help support improvements.

It has undertaken a consultation entitled, 'Energy efficiency and condition standards in private rented housing: A Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme Consultation.'

The Scottish Government is consulting on proposals that, by 2019, all private rented homes in Scotland should achieve an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of band E or better at point of rent. By 2022, all PRS properties are expected to achieve an EPC rating of band D or better when there is a change of tenancy with this requirement then extending to all properties in the private rented sector by 2025.

It is anticipated that the requirement to meet a minimum standard of EPC band E will affect around 30,000 properties with a further 65,000 properties affected by the requirement to achieve band D or better.

In its submission to the Scottish Government consultation, CIH Scotland argues that, relative to the additional cost and administrative burden of compliance, the interim requirement to achieve EPC band E will have a relatively low impact on improving overall energy standards within the sector.

Arguing for energy efficiency standards for the private rented sector that are both realistic and achievable, it suggests removing the requirement to achieve an initial minimum standard of EPC band E and instead requiring properties to achieve at least EPC band D from 2021 at change of lease, extending to all PRS properties by 2024. CIH Scotland is also urging the Scottish Government to set a clearer trajectory for higher energy efficiency standards beyond that time period. Its proposal is that, with effect from 2027, the minimum standard be increased to EPC band C at change of lease, extending to all PRS properties in Scotland by 2030.

Commenting on the Scottish Government consultation and CIH Scotland's response, CIH Scotland Executive Director Annie Mauger said:

'In responding to this consultation, our priority is to ensure that minimum energy efficiency standards for the private rented sector are suitably strategic and ambitious while also being realistic and achievable for landlords. By removing the interim target, our intention is to give landlords a longer lead time to adapt their properties to meet a suitably ambitious standard. We are also making the case for a longer term target for all properties in Scotland's private rented sector to achieve EPC band C or better by 2030. We think giving the sector a clearer indication of the long term ambition will make it easier for landlords to plan and adapt accordingly.'

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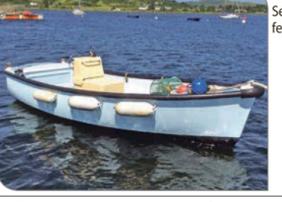
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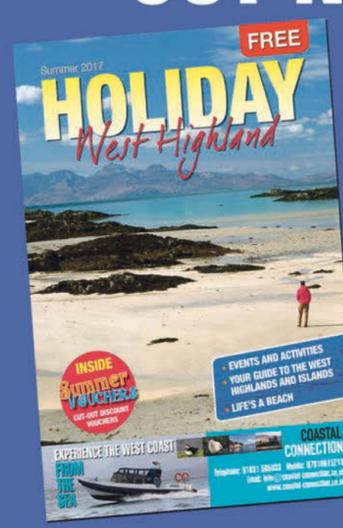
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PERSONALS

THANK YOU

We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Scottish Ambulance Service, Police Scotland and Oban Coastguard Volunteer Team who attended at the scene of Willie's accident on 30th May 2017 at Achnacloch. Thank you also to the A & E Department at Lorn & the Islands Hospital, HDU at The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and to the nursing staff for their excellent care. We would also like to say a special thank you to Alan Drummond who came to Willie's aid immediately following the accident, and to the Firefighter who helped to keep Willie conscious and calm as he was being cut free. To all those who visited, who phoned, sent cards, good wishes, letters and flowers; too numerous to mention, but very much appreciated. To Dugald Munro at the Halfway House Filling Station for his support and understanding, and to Andrew and Angie Henderson for their continuing help and support. We just can't thank you all enough. Willie (the Tar) and Val Hamilton.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Peacefully at the Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on July 23, aged 76 years, Catherine (Cathy) Campbell, loving mother, mother-in-law, granny and great granny. Will be sadly missed.

GARVIE - Hilary suddenly but peacefully at Oban Hospital on Sunday July 16 2017. Much loved wife of the late Alastair. Funeral Service at Tobermory Parish Church on Friday July 28 at 11.30am. Family flowers only.

HAMILTON - Suddenly at home, on July 21, 2017, John (Johnnie) Reid Hamilton, aged 86 years, of Roscairn, St Clair Road, Ardrishaig, beloved and loving husband of Marie Jones, much loved father of John and Robert, dear father-in-law of Hazel and Tracey, adored grandpa of Kayleigh, Clare and Daniel and great grandpa of Lilly-May. A dear friend and good neighbour to many. Funeral service will be held in Ardrishaig Parish Church, today Thursday, July 27, 2017 at 12 noon, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired, to RNLi and Erskine Home.

MACEWAN - Peacefully, on July 22, 2017, Iain Alexander, (Alistair), aged 71 years, beloved husband of Valerie, loving father and father-in-law of Garry, Laura and Claire, George and much loved papa. Sadly missed by his loved ones. Funeral Service will take place at St. John's Cathedral, Oban on Monday, July 31 at 1.00 p.m. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

McPHEE - On Wednesday July 12, Alexander (Alex) McPhee aged 83 years, passed away suddenly, surrounded by his family. A beloved husband to Sandra, much loved father to Michael, Marion, Alasdair and Mark, dear father-in-law, grandfather, brother and uncle. The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to everyone for all the cards, letters, telephone calls, flowers and messages of support. Special thanks to the Ambulance service, fire brigade and A&E staff for all they did to help. Thanks to Father Billy Fraser and Father James MacNeil for their spiritual help and guidance, to Hamish Hoey & Son Ltd. for funeral arrangements and all the staff at the Falls of Lora Hotel. Finally, thank you to all who donated to the collection for North Argyll Stroke Association which raised £657.33.

MILLIKEN - Peacefully, after a long illness, Morag Milliken, in her 83rd year, beloved wife for 60 years to John, loving mum to Kerry, Rhona and Gregor, mother-in-law to Billy and Samantha, much loved granny to Patrick, Leyla, Andrew, Fraser, Jamie and Adam and great granny to Harry and Hannah. Funeral service will take place at Cardross Crematorium on Saturday, July 29 2017 at 10.30am.

MILNE - Sylvia, Angus, Iona and Eilidh would like to thank family and friends for their support following Jimmy's passing. Thanks to Rev Johnny Paton, Billy McClymont, medical and community nursing staff for such wonderful care and attention. Thanks also to Salen Hotel for the catering.

and to the Rowantree Hotel for their excellent catering. The sum of £299.03 was collected for Oban Hospice.

MCCOMBIE - In loving memory of a dear mum, mother-in-law and granny Cathie who died July 27, 1990 and also our dear nephew and cousin Iain MacIntyre (Slippers) who died July 22, 2014. Always in our thoughts - John, Teenie, Peter and Family

MCCOLL - Remembering fondly our dad Ronald Graham who passed away at Kilmore on July 29, 2008. - Morven, Christina, Deirdre, Duncan and Families

MACDOUGALL - In loving memory of Ian our son, brother, uncle and daddy, died August 1, 2014. A loving heart stopped beating As we watched you slip away Our hearts were 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. - Lots of Love Mum, Dad, Fiona, Michael, Rebecca and Matthew.

MACKINNON - Treasured memories of our much loved father, grampa and great grampa, Iain who passed away July 29 2012. Next time we meet Dad Will be at heavens door And when we see you standing there We won't cry any more. We'll put our arms around you And kiss your smiling face And the pieces of our broken heart Will fall back into place. - Angus, Lachie, Margaret, Christine, Fiona, Linda, Alastair and all their families.

SWAINSON - Cherished memories of a precious daddy Tony Swainson. Back in mammy's arms Heavenly father hear our prayer Guide our daddy with tender care

NEILL - ANDERSON
At St John's Episcopal Church, Ballachulish, on May 27 2017 by the Rev Canon Simon Mackenzie, Alasdair William, son of Hector and Sheila Neill, Balevullin, Isle of Tiree, to Laura Margaret, daughter of John and Sandra Anderson, Skelmorlie, Ayrshire. The happy couple would like to thank Father Simon, Ian MacKenzie, Jimmy Forsyth organist, and Piper Philip Barlow. Also Phillip Hornby and staff of the Isles of Glencoe Hotel and Michael and Joni Garvin ceilidh band. Thanks too to family and friends who joined them in making it such a memorable occasion.

Love him in heaven As we did at home The dearest daddy this world could hold You always had a smile to share Time to give and time to care A loving nature kind and true Is the way we'll remember you. Please take care of Paul daddy. Love and miss you so much. - Jacqueline and Marie xxx.



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WEDDINGS



NEILL - ANDERSON
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Thought for the week

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed. (Hebrews 12:12)

THE New Testament is witness to a buoyant time for the Christian faith. It was spreading like wildfire, gripping the imagination of people all over the Mediterranean world. Yet it was not all sunshine and roses. There were some who had 'drooping hands' and 'weak knees'. There was need for endurance.

In our time, too, even if we have much going for us, there are moments when we can feel quite defeated. The direction of world affairs, especially if you are suffering from Brexit blues or Trump torture, can leave us despondent. In church

life, we face perhaps one of the hardest times to keep the faith since the days of Columba. In our own personal and family lives, few of us can escape the times when we feel demoralised and defeated.

Into this reality the Bible speaks words of courage and hope. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews knew where strength and endurance comes from: 'Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.' (Hebrews 12:1-2)

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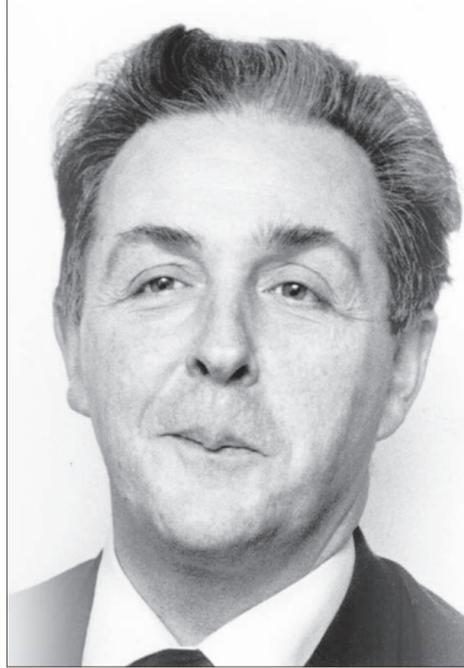
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Obituary – Iain Macarthur

MCIT/MILT 'The Doc'

THE DEATH of Iain Alexander Currie Macarthur, whom many of you knew fondly as 'The Doc', has shocked and saddened the people of Oban, Argyll and beyond. Iain was a native of Oban who lived and worked for the majority of his 79 years here and was what many of us referred to as 'old Oban'. Born in Oban in 1938 the only son of the late Dr George and Dorothy Macarthur, he was a scholar of Rockfield Primary and Oban High School. Iain went on to further his education at St Andrews University where he was a student of Medicine and then Aberdeen University where he was a student of Pharmacy. For a short time he worked in Boots Pharmacy in Dundee before returning to Oban to work as a chemist at the Alginate Factory. Although Iain chose not to pursue a career in this field, his interest in medicine and pharmacy remained with him throughout his life.



In his early student days, when he was home on leave from University he worked for MacDougall's Garage. They owned the local hearse, which he drove from time to time and this was possibly the start of his driving career. He continued to develop his skills gaining his HGV Class 1 and put these skills to use during the development of Cruachan Power Station. He then went on to gain his PSV and then after many rigorous exams gained the accreditation of becoming a member of both the Chartered Institute of Transport and the Institute of Logistics of Transport. Iain was also a Member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists for more than 60 years.

It was in 1973 that Iain's bus driving career 'took off'. Although many of you will remember Iain as a school bus driver he drove the bus on many routes and occasions. The 'Land of Lorn Bus Tours' which operated for a few years during the eighties was a particular favourite. Of a kindly and unassuming nature he treated everyone the same. However, it was his unseen acts of kindness which made him unique;

giving generously of his time to help the less able on and off the bus and of course his many 'unofficial bus stops'. Shortly before he retired in 2013 he was presented with his 40 years long service award for his services to bus driving. He took great pride in his work gaining the respect of passengers and colleagues alike and often went 'that extra mile.'

Iain had a lifelong interest in photography and was a member of the Oban Camera Club in the eighties. He was a freelance photographer for many years and his images were frequently published in *The Oban Times*, *Press and Journal* and *Scots Magazine*. He developed and printed most of his work at home in a makeshift dark room and his house became 'Le Louvre' of landscapes and caricatures.

Proud of his heritage, Iain was known by many people from all walks of life. A man who lived by old-fashioned values of honesty, loyalty, commitment, service and caring for his fellow man. Indeed he came to the aid of two police officers when he restrained a youth who was violently resisting arrest and consequently was nominated for a Scottish Police Bravery

Award. Iain was presented with this prestigious award at the 'Secretary of State's Reception' in the Great Hall, Edinburgh Castle on 4th October 1994.

A Past Master of The Oban Commercial Lodge No. 180, and indeed the 4th generation of his family to be a member of this Lodge, Iain also held senior office in a number of other Masonic Orders.

Iain had a wide and varied knowledge of many subjects and there were few which could not provoke an interesting and stimulating conversation. A Burns enthusiast, over the years he recited regularly at the annual Drummore School Burns Supper. He loved learning and gave his chosen subject his all, always keen to share his knowledge with family and friends alike. In recent years many of these conversations took place when he frequented the old Co-op and latterly the unofficial 'Tesco Club'.

Heart-warming tributes have been paid on social media from around the globe, many reminding of a time when 'The Doc' drove the bus.

Iain will be greatly missed by his long term partner Bernadette and his children Douglas, Andrew, Valerie, Vivienne and grand daughter Molly.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

BINNIE - Isobel, Gordon, Lorne, Kirsteen, Deborah and all his grandchildren wish to thank everyone from near and far who came to pay their respects to Alastair. Special thanks to Rev Bill Gray for a very comforting services and wonderful tribute to Alastair and to Andy Matthews for his beautiful piping. Thanks also to Hamish Hoey and family for their caring and professional services, to Petals for the beautiful floral tributes

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Carmichael on fire as Saints and Vale of Leven share the honours

Oban Saints 3
Vale of Leven Juniors 3
Pre-season friendly

OBAN Saints welcomed regular visitors Vale of Leven Juniors back to Oban for a pre-season friendly last Saturday. To the relief of all, the heavy rain which put a dampener on last year's meeting was nowhere to be seen and the match went ahead in pleasant conditions on an excellent Glencruitten 1 surface.

Holidays, injuries and work commitments severely restricted Alex Craik's options with the gaffer having to rely on an extremely youthful bench to back up an experienced starting eleven. In goal for Saints was Graham Douglas who has reclaimed the number one jersey from recently retired Thomas McCulloch. An untried central defensive partnership of Jamie Graham and David McPhee slotted in between full backs Matthew Kelly and Scott Maitland. The midfield had an extremely experienced look with skipper for the day Donald Campbell taking a central role alongside Willie Gemmell and, fit again after missing most of last season, Keith Millar. Up front Paul Carmichael led the line flanked by Fraser MacFarlane and Dean Smith. On the bench were youngsters Kenneth Black, Jay Cooper, Gavin Forgive and Sol Smith with the Gaffer naming himself among the substitutes to significantly increase the average age.

The visitors, under new manager Brian Brown, brought a strong 20-man squad with the full intention of giving each player at least 45 minutes of game time.

Saints kicked off attacking the railway end and the first half motored along at a good pace with the visitors creating the better of the openings in the early exchanges. Right sid-

ed midfielder Richard Stewart twice headed off-target with Andrew Biddulph and Allan Macpherson also sending shots over the crossbar. Former Haldane United man Macpherson was renewing acquaintances in the middle of the park with Scottish Amateur international colleague Donald Campbell who fizzed a shot wide of the postage stamp corner after good approach play on the Saints left.

Neither keeper was tested until the 19th minute when Saints opened the scoring after another good move on the left.



Dean Smith.

Scott Maitland played the ball up to Paul Carmichael who held the ball up well and laid it back to Fraser MacFarlane. The diminutive winger found the overlapping Scott Maitland who threaded a well-weighted ball, sending Paul Carmichael through on goal. Vale keeper Robert Tiropoulos advanced to his six-yard line but was beaten from just inside the 18-yard box by Carmichael who cleverly tucked a low shot inside the keeper's left-hand post.

Making his first appearance



Jamie Graham turns away from Ryan Kerr.

Football

in pre-season Dean Smith brought the first save of the match from Robert Tiropoulos who got finger tips to Dean's shot from the edge of the D to turn the ball over his crossbar.

The visitor's found the net in the 33rd minute with their first effort on target when Ben Craig turned well on the 18-yard line and beat Graham Douglas low down to his right.

Four minutes later Douglas produced an excellent finger tip save to deny Andrew Biddulph after the Vale striker got the better of Jamie Graham with a neat turn on the edge of the box.

At the other end an Allan Macpherson foul on Matthew Kelly gave Willie Gemmell a free-kick opportunity 22-yards out but the Saints dead ball expert failed to trouble Tiropoulos in the Vale goal sending his effort high over the crossbar.

Five minutes before the interval Willie's pinpoint passing accuracy opened up the Vale defence for Paul Carmichael who had his progress unceremoniously halted by Tiropoulos at the expense of a penalty kick. The big keeper guessed correctly but was beaten by the pace on Donald Campbell's spot kick which fizzed past his left hand into the bottom corner of the net.

Tiropoulos denied Saints a third goal with an excellent finger tip save to deny Donald Campbell after another good move on the left before referee John Stobo blew for half-time.

The visitors made wholesale changes for the second half with only left-back Stephen Griffen and goalkeeper Robert Tiropoulos re-emerging from the pavilion after the half-time interval.

The second half began in disastrous fashion for Saints who conceded twice inside three minutes. A 46th minute corner kick from the right was met by Greg Ross who squeezed a header between Graham Douglas and Scott Maitland at the front post. Barely 60 seconds later the visitors took the lead for the first time when a cross from the Vale right evaded Matthew Kelly allowing Robbie Dolan a shot on goal. Graham Douglas narrowed the angle well but could only parry Dolan's effort into the path of Andrew Clark who had the simplest of tasks in rolling the ball into the unguarded net.

To compound the misery for Saints Donald Campbell aggravated the groin strain picked up in the D&K Lafferty tournament and had to leave the field for what looks likely to be an extended spell on the sidelines. Donald's replacement



Paul Carmichael, who put in a tireless performance for Saints all afternoon, opened the scoring with a well-taken goal.

Match report and photographs: Derek Black

was young Kenneth Black who slotted in at left back with Scott Maitland moving into midfield.

After a rocky start Saints steadied the ship against the reinvigorated visitors and drew level in the 55th minute. Paul Carmichael, who was on fire all afternoon, controlled a long ball from Willie Gemmell and held off the challenge of Adam Monaghan before picking out Scott Maitland's back post run. Robert Tiropoulos came off his line to intercept Scott's run and did well to turn the ball behind for a corner kick. Fraser MacFarlane delivered an excellent cross from the right which was met perfectly on the penalty spot by Paul Carmichael who powered a sensational header into the top corner much to the delight of the Saints bench.

The remainder of the second half ebbed and flowed without too many clear cut chances. Scott Maitland had a goal bound shot deflected wide for a corner after good work on the right by Matthew Kelly and Fraser MacFarlane before Graham Douglas tipped over a 25-yard effort from Andrew Clark.

Before the corner kick could be taken gaffer Alex Craik withdrew Fraser MacFarlane and Dean Smith replacing them with two more of Saints' promising youngsters Jay Cooper and Gavin Forgive. The personnel change also brought

about a change of formation to a 3-5-2 with Willie Gemmell dropping into the back three alongside Jamie Graham and David McPhee.

The new look Saints defence coped well with Vale's twin strike force with new boy McPhee comfortable alongside the experienced Gemmell and Graham. In the midfield old head Keith Millar marshalled youngsters Kenneth Black and Gavin Forgive who will have benefited greatly from playing against such experienced opposition. Saints made their final change with 15 minutes remaining, giving a debut to young Sol Smith who replaced Matthew Kelly on the right of the five man midfield.

Vale central midfielder David McNaught fired a 25-yard effort over the crossbar after a good 83rd minute passing move had opened up the Saints' defence.

With one minute of the 90 remaining referee Mr Stobo strangely penalised Sol Smith for a foul on Robbie Dolan wide on the Vale left. The award mystified the Saints players whose incredulity would have quickly turned to anger had Graham Douglas not produced the save of the match to deny Mark Butler from close range. Butler's cushioned effort from the six-yard line had Sugar at full stretch to push the ball wide. Butler could scarcely



Saints keeper Graham Douglas makes a fine save late on in the game.

believe his luck but pursued the ball and played it back across goal where the combined efforts of Willie Gemmell, Jamie Graham and Keith Millar kept the ball away from the waiting Andrew Clark before Sugar finally pounced to smother the ball and calm the nerves.

Mr Stobo brought a sporting contest to an end with honours even and both sides satisfied with a good workout.

Manager Alex Craik was happy with the performance but needs to get more of his

experienced players back in action. He said: 'The league starts in three weeks and some of our senior players haven't kicked a ball yet.'

'We need to get them back to match fitness quickly otherwise we could struggle at the start of the season.'

Saints continue their pre-season schedule with training on Monday and Wednesday before the visit of South Lochaber Thistle next Saturday. Kick-off will be 2pm on the rugby pitch. Referee: John Scott.

Open shoot at Glendaruel

SATURDAY August 15 was destined to be one of those days when the rain was not going to relent.

The combination of a new fixture in the club's calendar, and poor conditions, narrowed the field to 18 seniors and two juniors.

Two side competitions were also available; the usual pool trap and a restricted five-gun 15 target shoot selection by reference to the scores in the Trophy competition.

The MacAviston Trophy was won by Derek Street, Glendaruel, with an outstanding score of 149 ex 150.

All the 50 targets were hit; the

single point lost was due to the use of the second barrel on one target.

Derek is competing in the selection trials for the Scottish National team this week, and all wish him every success. Second place with a score of 145 went to junior Archie McBride, Glendaruel.

Archie will lose his junior eligibility shortly and it has been interesting to watch his progression over the years into the fine shot he now is. Third place was taken by Donnie McPhail, Glendaruel, on 139 points.

There was a tie for fourth place between Ronald Robert-

Shooting

son, Bute, and Alan Brown, Bute with 138 points.

Ronald Robertson won the Pool Trap, and the Safety Car Competition sponsored by Argyll Fire Safety Consultants was won with a maximum score of 45 points, by Alan Brown, Bute.

Grateful thanks are extended to Anne McPhail for her excellent catering. The club also wishes to thank all those who donated items for the catering and prizes for the raffle and assisted with the running of the shoot.

Athletes wanted for MOKTri

IT IS less than two weeks until triathletes swim, saddle up and sprint for victory in the fourth MOKTri.

The triathlon event, organised by Campbeltown Running Club, centered on Aqualibrium and Kinloch Green, bursts into action on Saturday August 6 at 10.30am.

The race includes 30 laps of the 25m pool, followed by a

hilly 21km out and back cycle along the east coast of Kintyre

The last discipline is a 5km run out and back along the seafront of Campbeltown Loch.

There are prizes for male and female first, second and third, as well as a prize for the first team home.

Prizes are sourced from Kintyre crafts people, and, although MOKTri focuses on

taking part, the winners' prizes are as unique as they are beautiful. Race medals and goody bags with technical T-shirts will be awarded to all finishers.

There will also be the opportunity for snacks and refreshments at the prize-giving ceremony. For race updates and more information, visit www.facebook.com/moktri or email: moktri@outlook.com.



Left to right: Alan Brown, James Scott, Richard Deane, Archie McBride, Donnie McPhail, Derek Street, Ted Blakeway, Ronald Robertson, Fraser Stewart.

Young shinty players shine through at summer camp



Outstanding performance – Ruaraidh Graham, Inveraray.



Most improved player – William Boag, Bute.

Shinty

FROM Sunday July 16 until Thursday July 20, 71 of the country's brightest young shinty prospects descended upon Strathallan School in Forgan-denny, Perthshire, for the 2017 National Player Development Camp.

Each player, aged between 14 and 17, had been nominated by their youth or senior club to take part in the camp, designed to offer the very best in the technical, tactical, physical and psychological aspects of the game.

Throughout the week, the young players received specialist training from Camanachd Association coaches based around all the key skills and tactics of the game. Stuart Maclaren, the head of youth development at the Scottish Football Association was on hand to deliver a practical session, and an inspiring talk to all the players and coaches, and Maria Omma, a strength and conditioning coach with the Institute of Sport delivered a fascinating talk and practical session on the importance of incorporating a strength and conditioning within individual and club training sessions to the budding shinty stars.

A number of awards were presented at the end of Thursday's session. The award winners were: Player of the camp – Roddy Young, Kingussie; most improved player – William Boag, Bute; outstanding performance – Ruaraidh Graham, Inveraray.

Camp organiser Ronald Ross commented: 'The National Player Development Camp has once again proved a great success. Since its inception over 20 years ago, the camp has helped hundreds of young players from across the country to improve all aspects of their game from the technical to the physical elements of the sport. The camps are also a great way for the participants to meet other aspiring shinty players, forging ties and friendships throughout the sport.'



Player of the camp – Roddy Young, Kingussie with Camanachd Association president Jim Barr.

Strathdearn Cup final venue decided

WITH the the Kingussie and Newtonmore second teams both winning through to the Strathdearn Cup final, the clubs opted to decide the final venue by the toss of a coin to ensure a large local support.

The coin toss, carried out by Camanachd Association president Jim Barr, took place at the Camanachd Association offices last Friday.

Newtonmore won the toss so the Strathdearn Cup final will take place at The Eilan on Saturday August 12.

Scotland U17s play in Ireland

THE SCOTLAND U17 squad have been in Ireland for match-

es against their Wexford and Dublin counter-parts and you can read a report from both games in next week's *Oban Times*.

The Scots were forced to make two late changes to their squad as weekend injuries ruled out Oban Camanachd's Daniel MacVicar and Lovat's Michael MacKenzie. Fort William's Lewis Clark and Calum Melay from Glasgow Mid Argyll were called up in their place.



Glencruitten

GRAHAM MacColl won the handicap championship at Glencruitten on Saturday with a score after four rounds of 260. Alan Jamieson was second with a score of 261.

After two rounds of the club championship Alan McKie leads with scores of 70, 65 = 135, followed by Phillip Murphy with scores of 67, 69 = 136.

Graham MacColl leads the George Smith Trophy with net scores of 65, 61 = 126, Donald McGill in second place with scores of 59, 68 = 127.

The third round of the Championship and George Smith Trophy take place on Saturday, with the final round of the Championship on Sunday.

Taynuilt

MEDAL played at Taynuilt on the July 19 – 1 Mark Grant 79-13=66; 2 Rob Graham 83-14=69; 3 Mark Henricksen 79-07=72.

Club championship third round plus medal and order of merit played on Sunday July 16 – 1 Les Crossley 83-22=61; 2 David Howie 64-03=61; 3 Alan Wilson 72-09=63

Inverlorn Plate second round played on Sunday May 21 – 1 Mark Grant 40pts (14); 2 Mark Henricksen 40pts (08); 3 David Laurie 38pts (27); 4 James McLean 38pts (20).

Dalmally

THE ANNUAL tradition of Lady Captain's Day at Dalmally Golf Club upheld its excellent reputation. The weather was kind. The course, after a month of the worst weather on record for nearly 70 years, was in eminently-playable condition thanks to the efforts of greenskeeper, Angus MacGillivray.

From a field of some 20 players, the winners of the Stableford Pairs were Ann Hay and Maud Marshall on 38 pts with Sheila Tollan and June Sutherland on 29 pts.

The hospitality at a clubhouse dinner afterwards was, as ever, more than convivial. Players were joined by social members and friends who raised £305 for LUPUS UK (www.lupusuk.org.uk), a charity close to the heart of two members whose family have been affected by this debilitating condition.

John MacDonald, Fort Augustus Shinty

JOHN MacDonald, Fort Augustus (Johnnie Munerigie) passed away suddenly but peacefully, with his family at his side on Sunday July 16.

Johnnie ran the West End Garage in Fort Augustus for many years and was also president of Glengarry Shinty Club.

Johnnie's funeral service was held at Fort Augustus Parish Church Tuesday July 25 and his passing is a great loss for Glengarry Shinty Club and a huge loss for the local community.

Lewis defeat Uist 4-2 to retain HebCelt Cup

LEWIS Camanachd retained the HebCelt Cup for the fifth successive year with a 4-2 win over Uist Camanachd at Bay-head, Stornoway on Saturday July 22.

Lewis keeper Graham Cay was called into action on more than one occasion before Dougie Shaw put Lewis ahead after 20 minutes. Ally Lamont's initial shot was saved but Shaw got away from his marker to score from the rebound.

David Cleary made it 2-0 a minute before the break when he ran onto a long ball and he finished in style. When David Cleary got his second on 68 minutes, following a rebound after Dougie MacIntyre's initial effort was saved, it made it 4-0 but the goal came against the run of play.

A great long-range strike from Paul Duke went low into the goal to make it 4-0 with 10 minutes remaining.

Uist halved the deficit with two

Shinty

late goals. Crisdean MacRae netted following a goalmouth scramble a couple of minutes later and Uist hit the frame of the goal before James MacRae made it 4-2 on the stroke of full-time.

Lewis Camanachd's Peter Gomez was presented with the trophy after the final whistle.



Prize-winners at the Lady Captain's day at Dalmally Gof Club – June Sutherland, Maud Marshall, captain Ann Colthart, Ann Hay and Sheila Tollan.

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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.

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SHINTY

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Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Kyles and Newtonmore progress to Macaulay final

KYLES Athletic and Newtonmore will meet in the Artemis Macaulay Cup Final and Strachur are through to face the Inveraray seconds in the Bullough Cup Final following the shinty action last Saturday.

Artemis Macaulay Cup – semi-finals

Oban Camanachd 0 Kyles Athletic 2

Colin MacDonald scored twice early in the game to give Kyles Athletic a 2-0 win over Oban Camanachd at Mossfield.

Oban Camanachd's Daniel Cameron returned from suspension and Andrew MacCuish was also back. Garry Lord started a two-match ban for passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

Kyles Athletic continued without the injured Innes MacDonald and Cammy Keith, whilst Grant Irvine returned. Roddy MacDonald remained in defence, where he marked Matt Rippon.

Kyles took the initiative when Colin MacDonald put them ahead after three minutes.

Colin MacDonald got his and Kyles' second on 23 minutes. The Tighnabraich men could have been further ahead by the break had it not been for Gavin Stobbart's fine goal-keeping.

Oban Camanachd had the majority of the second half but the



The south semi-final man of the match, Oban Camanachd's Gavin Stobbart, receives his award from David Hamilton, secretary of the Macaulay Association.

closest they came to a goal was a Lorne Dickie shot from distance which came off the inside of the post.

Oban Camanachd's Daniel MacVicar suffered a shoulder injury which later led to his withdrawal from the Scotland U17 squad for the shinty/hurling Ireland tour.

Oban Camanachd do not have a fixture this coming Saturday



Newtonmore's Andy Mackintosh and Lovat's Lorne Mackay go head-to-head in a challenge for the ball. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

so they can watch their reserve side Lochside Rovers in the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final against the Kingussie seconds at An Aird.

Lovat 0 Newtonmore 3

Three extra-time goals got Newtonmore past Lovat in their semi-final tie at Braeview Park.

Craig Mainland was given a start in a full-strength Lovat side. Manager Fraser Gallacher was on holiday so his assistant Martin Bell looked after the club.

The Newtonmore team news was more interesting as David MacLean joined Paul MacArthur and Drew MacDonald on the injury list.

Evan Menzies missed out through suspension following his sending off against Kyles Athletic a week earlier and Glen MacKintosh's calf problem meant he was only able to take up a place on the bench. Jamie Robinson started in attack, with Iain Richardson keeping his place in midfield.

The Newtonmore defence was on their game from the start, limiting Lovat to few chances.

There wasn't a lot of goal-mouth action during the first half, although Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonald made a spectacular diving save from a 20-yard strike from an unmarked Fraser MacKintosh.

Lovat replaced Ryan Ferguson, who'd been playing well, with Martin Mainland before the hour although Ferguson came back on in attack for Calum Macaulay later in the tie.

Glen MacKintosh came off the Newtonmore bench for the final third of the 90 minutes.

The tie got tousy at times with Newtonmore dominating the closing stages but, with no scoring, referee Archie Ritchie took the tie into extra-time.

Greg Matheson almost caught Newtonmore keeper Norman Campbell out with a shot from the right, but the ball went just outside the post.

The break-through came on 98 minutes when Chris Sellar sent a ball from well out into the goal area.

With Jamie Robinson and Iain Robinson running in to challenge, Jamie Robinson stretched to get the slightest touch and the ball rolled into the net.

Lovat lost wing centre Scott MacKenzie on 104 with a nasty arm injury which required a trip to hospital and which was to later rule him out of the Scotland U17 trip to Ireland the following day.

From the re-start, Stuart MacDonald used his hand to palm away an Iain Robinson

shot from the right, but Jamie Robinson volleyed home the rebound for his second goal of the game. Robinson's effort made it 2-0, just seconds from the end of the first half of extra-time.

Michael Russell ended any lingering Lovat hopes when he won the ball in the middle of the park before making a surging run forward, his 20-yard shot flying low into the net to make it 3-0.

Newtonmore's Steven MacDonald, who followed Lovat danger-man Greg Matheson throughout, was named the sponsors man of the match although Michael Russell's performance at full centre must have run him close.

The 2017 Artemis Macaulay Cup Final between Kyles Athletic and Newtonmore takes place at Mossfield on Saturday August 19.

Bullough Cup -



The north semi-final man of the match, Newtonmore's Steven MacDonald, receives his award from Macaulay Association president Davie Thomson.

semi final

Kyles Athletic 2 Strachur 3

(After extra-time)

The Bullough Cup semi-final tie between the Kyles Athletic seconds and Strachur was carried forward from the previous week when it was postponed because the Tighnabraich pitch was unplayable.

After two hours of shinty, the tie produced the most dramatic finish before Strachur won a final spot.

Roberto Zavaroni gave Kyles the lead on 30 minutes, only for Angus Campbell to level on the hour mark.

With no further scoring, referee Des McNulty took the tie into extra-time.

When George Thomson put Kyles back in front from the penalty spot after 95 minutes, Strachur had it all to do.

Kyles stayed in front until a couple of minutes from time when an Ally Mirlees goal seemed likely to take the tie to a penalty shoot-out.

However, with just seconds remaining, Ally Mirlees got his second and Strachur will now play the Inveraray seconds in the Bullough Cup Final with the venue yet to be decided.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kilmallie 0 Kinlochshiel 3

With Kyles Athletic in cup action, Kinlochshiel edged a point clear at the top of the Marine Harvest Premiership after they beat Kilmallie 3-0 at Canal Parks.

Kilmallie's Peter Carmichael was unavailable and he will miss this coming week's visit from champions Newtonmore through suspension.

Stephen McAlister suffered an

injury in training, whilst Steven Stewart was out with a knee problem.

Kinlochshiel's Colin MacDermid served the fourth match of a five-game suspension and Oliver MacRae and Gordie MacDonald remained on the injury list. Ally Nixon returned to the squad.

Scott MacLean put Kinlochshiel ahead after 39 minutes with the only goal of the first half. Duncan 'DA' MacRae made it 2-0 on 53 minutes and when referee Robert Baxter awarded the visitors a penalty on 62 minutes, Keith MacRae stepped up to score.

Kyles drop to third, two points behind Kinlochshiel, but they have a game in hand with the sides due to meet at Kirkton this Saturday.

Kingussie 3 Glasgow Mid Argyll 0

Kingussie broke Glasgow Mid Argyll's resistance in the second half to win 3-0 at The Dell.

Kingussie called John Gibson up from the second team whilst GMA full-back Ryan Harrison returned. Duncan 'Ach' MacRae was still out.

After a goal-less first half, Ruairidh Anderson fired Kingussie ahead three minutes after the re-start.

Ruaridh Anderson got his and Kingussie's second on 52 minutes and Lee Bain sealed the win when he scored nine minutes from time.

Lochaber 3 Glenurquhart 1

Lochaber climbed out of the relegation zone following their 3-1 victory over Glenurquhart at Spean Bridge.

Glenurquhart's Ally MacKintosh was banned for a bookings points accumulation.

Shaun Nicolson gave Lochaber the lead with the only goal of the first half after 22 minutes.

James MacPherson equalised on 62 minutes, but the visitors only stayed on level for 60 seconds as Stuart Callison fired Lochaber back in front.

Ryan Johnstone sealed the win seven minutes from time to leave Lochaber two points ahead of Glasgow Mid Argyll and Kilmallie, although the Spean Bridge side have played more games.

Glenurquhart are now only a point better off than Lochaber with the same number of games played.

Marine Harvest National Division

Caberfeidh 1 Fort William 0

Caberfeidh and Fort William met for the second successive Saturday, this time in the league at Castle Leod.

Fort William won the Ballymore Cup Final encounter but Caberfeidh took the points in this one, winning 1-0.

Caberfeidh's Ryan MacKay served the final game of his ban but Ryan Simonds returned at full back.

Fort William's Bryan Simpson remained injured but Alexander MacMillan made a substitute appearance.

Mark Grant and Bobby MacMillan were missing. Mark Grant and Graham Campbell were both booked in the Ballymore Cup Final meaning they will both miss Fort William's next match.

The game's defining moment came after three minutes. A Caberfeidh shy was played up the right and Craig Morrison, who grabbed a hat-trick in the previous week's cup defeat,



Oban Camanachd's Lorne Dickie feels the full brunt of this challenge from Kyles Athletic's Robbie MacLeod during the south semi-final of the Artemis Macaulay Cup at Mossfield Stadium last Saturday. The Tighnabraich side ran out 2-0 winners. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

crashed an 18-yard shot into the roof of the net. Both keepers made good saves and there was no further scoring. Fort William will be concerned about a knee injury suffered by Seamus Gall.

The win keeps Caberfeidh a point clear at the top of the table ahead of a tricky trip to Ganavan to play Oban Celtic this Saturday.

Inveraray 0 Skye Camanachd 4

Skye Camanachd returned from The Winterton with two impressive points following a 4-0 win over Inveraray.

Inveraray forward Allan MacDonald started a two-game suspension for passing through the disciplinary points threshold, whilst Ally MacDonald was missing.

Skye defender Ally MacDonald missed his first match in four years as he attended a wedding. Gilleasbuig MacDonald and Calum Gibb were unavailable and Kenny MacLeod returned to look after the Skye seconds. John Gillies was on holiday and Steven Morrison's season looks to be over through injury.

There were places for Daniel Morrison and Scotland U17 player Connor Gilpin, who made his first start for the senior side in defence.

James Pringle reacted first to give Skye the lead on 14 minutes when he slammed a re-bound low into the bottom left corner of the net after Inveraray keeper Scott MacLachlan had saved from Will Cowie.

Iain Nicolson made it 2-0 a minute later when he struck the ball from 35 yards out, wide on the right touchline, and it went into the net off the post.

A lovely Jordan Murchison pass set up Danny Morrison on 64 minutes and Morrison netted with a low drive from 15 yards out.

Jordan Murchison got in on the act on 67 minutes when a clever flick from Will Cowie played him in and he sent a waist-high rocket-shot past the on-rushing keeper.

It was a good Skye team performance and they remain a point behind leaders Caberfeidh but with a game in hand.

Strathglass 1 Oban Celtic 2

Oban Celtic came from a goal down to beat Strathglass 2-1 in their 3pm throw-up at Cannich.

Lewis Douglas was free of suspension for the hosts but defender George Phimister began a two-game suspension after he was sent off against Beaulie the previous week. Michael Stokes

and Darren Reid both returned to the starting line-up.

Oban travelled without goalkeeper Stephen Davidson, Rory Bruce, Connor Howe, Michael MacKinnon and Iain MacKechnie. David MacInnes and Andy MacDonald were both back.

Strathglass put Celtic under pressure from the off and visitors' game plan was thrown out the window inside the first 10 minutes when they lost winger Andy Hunt to injury. It was later revealed he had suffered two broken ribs.

A further blow followed on 16 minutes when Strathglass took the lead through Josh Fraser.

Gradually the Oban Celtic centre line of Ally McKerracher, Robert Alexander and substitute George MacMillan started to pull the strings.

Celtic created chances and got their reward when Ross Millan's shot on the turn gave home keeper Ally MacAdams no chance to make it 1-1 with 22 minutes on the clock.

Celtic appealed for a penalty on 33 minutes, claiming a home defender had kicked the ball inside the 'D'.

The Oban side took the lead on 38 minutes when George MacMillan and Daniel MacMillan combined down the left to give Daniel Madej a chance and he fired the ball low into the net to make it 2-1 at the break.

Both teams went for it from the start of the second half. The Celtic defence of Andy MacDonald, Fulton Ronald, Lewis MacPhee and David MacInnes stood strong and stand-in keeper Jack Hill mopped up when called upon.

As Celtic pushed for the third goal, Strathglass keeper Ally MacAdams made several good stops with his body, stick and feet.

In the end, Oban Celtic took the points and now find themselves just a couple of points off third spot in a very competitive National Division.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Newtonmore 4 Skye Camanachd 1

League leaders Newtonmore reserves beat third-placed Skye Camanachd reserves 4-1 at The Eilan.

Newtonmore's Cameron Binnie served a one-game ban following his sending off in the previous week's Strathdearn Cup semi-final win over Glengarry. Cameron McNiven grabbed a hat-trick in that game but collected a booking which

meant although he was free to play this weekend; he will miss this coming weekend's home league match with the Beaulie seconds through suspension.

Newtonmore were able to include Danny Macrae following a failed comeback attempt earlier in the season.

Skye lost out to Kingussie in the other Strathdearn Cup semi-final a week earlier and player/manager Kenny MacLeod made three changes to his squad as Connor Gilpin and Daniel Morrison were with the first team, whilst DJ Gilpin was unavailable so Ian MacPherson and Stewart Taylor were called up.

A Danny Macrae goal on 13 minutes put the hosts ahead and Macrae made it 2-0 on 38 minutes.

Ross Gordon pulled a goal back three minutes later but Danny Macrae went on to complete his hat-trick a couple of minutes after the re-start.

Calum Stewart made it 4-1 on 77 minutes.

Kinlochshiel 0 Kingussie 4

The Kingussie seconds scored four times in the first half to beat the Kinlochshiel seconds 4-0 in their 1pm throw-up at Kirkton.

The early throw-up allowed the Kingussie squad to make an earlier journey home to attend player Ricky Grant's wedding.

Kingussie, playing up the hill, took the lead on 23 minutes when Rory Fraser made a probing run forward from midfield and released the ball to his right where Dylan Borthwick fired it across keeper Raymond Gillies and into the net.

The home side responded and Kingussie keeper Robert Shiells did well to use his caman to turn away a Graham Kennedy strike.

A ball into the middle on 29 minutes deflected down off Neil Fraser's stick to Kevin Thain. The home defence looked as if they were going to deal with the danger but Liam Borthwick took the chance thump the ball home to make it 2-0.

It was all Kingussie now and keeper Gillies saved well to deny Kevin Thain a goal.

Kingussie extended their lead on 32 minutes with the goal of the match. Kevin Thain played a measured pass to Dylan Borthwick on his left. Borthwick allowed the ball to run across him before blasting it through the keeper's legs to make it 3-0.

Dylan Borthwick completed his hat-trick on 43 minutes. When the ball dropped for him in a central position, he showed



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

no hesitation in smashing it into the net.

On 54 minutes, Ronan Taylor sent a high ball forward which was chested down by Graham Kennedy who, with his back to goal, turned to his left but shot wide of the post.

Robert Shiells saved with his legs from WD MacRae as the hosts came more into it and they had the chance to pull a goal back on 57 minutes. Allan MacDiarmid played the ball into the goal area where referee Ross Brown spotted an infringement and pointed to the spot. Neil Fraser came forward to take it but Robert Shiells stretched his caman high to his right to turn the ball away for a corner.

Kevin Thain then released James Falconer but Raymond Gillies made another superb save and did likewise soon after to deny Liam Borthwick.

The win lifts Kingussie into second place in the division.

on 15 minutes when, following a corner, he produced a good finish, striking the ball from an angle high into the net, just inside the post. Bute regained the lead on 27 minutes when a long-range effort was palmed away by Cameron Sutherland, but Robert Walker was first onto the rebound to score.

Lochside gave a better account of themselves in the second half but they struggled to find a leveller despite their increased possession.

The hosts pushed Steven Sloss into attack which paid off at the death when Sloss spun his marker and ran in on goal but was tripped at the edge of the 'D'. Bute claimed the foul took place just outside the box but referee Euan Pearson pointed to the spot. Michael MacQueen kept his cool, beating keeper Kevin Queen with a low strike although the Bute custodian got a foot to the ball. It was the last hit of the game.

A draw was probably a fair result. It wasn't one of Lochside's better performances this season and perhaps some of their players had one eye on this Saturday's Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final against the Kingussie seconds at An Aird.

Kilmory 10 Tayforth 0

Kilmory were too strong for Tayforth, winning 10-0 at MacRae Park.

Hal Jones netted after two and three minutes to get Kilmory off to a great start.

Alex Cunningham went on to get a first half hat-trick with goals on 10, 20 and 22 minutes.

Andy Cunningham on 30 minutes, a hat-trick goal from Hal Jones a couple of minutes later and Alistair MacArthur on 42 minutes, made it 8-0 at half time.

Alex Cunningham went on to take his tally to five goals with strikes on 55 and 74 minutes.

Kilmory go fifth, one of five teams on seven points.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Glengarry 8 Kilmallie 1

After losing two successive matches by the odd goal in nine, league leaders Glengarry returned to winning ways by beating the Kilmallie second team 8-1 at The Craigard.

Steven Cameron opened the scoring on 14 minutes and Daniel MacLennan on 15 and 17 minutes made it 3-0. Steven Cameron got his second to make it 4-0 on the half hour mark.

Raymond Robertson added his name to the score-sheet a couple of minutes before the interval to



Kilmallie's Michael Rodger and Kinlochshiel's Finlay McCrae battle it out for possession during last Saturday's Marine Harvest Premiership match. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

make it 5-0.

Kyle MacKinnon notched a sixth 10 minutes into the second period and although Kilmallie's Dean Williamson pulled a goal back a couple of minutes later, Daniel MacLennan completed his hat-trick on 67 minutes and Kyle MacKinnon got his second to make it 8-1 seven minutes from time.

Lochcarron 6 Boleskine 1

Lochcarron beat Boleskine 6-1 at Battery Park.

Lochcarron full centre Liam Arnott, who had only hours earlier returned from abroad, set up Lance MacCuish to score on four minutes. Peter MacKenzie added a second on six minutes to give the home side an early cushion.

David Bauermeister netted on 22 and 36 minutes to make it 4-0.

Liam Tinney pulled a goal back a couple of minutes before the break but Andrew Ford made it 5-1 on 63 minutes and Lance MacCuish got his second a minute later, with Liam Arnott again the provider to round off the 6-1 win.

Strathglass 0 Lochaber 7

The Lochaber seconds overcame the Strathglass seconds 7-0 in their noon throw-up at Cannich.

Keith Neville and Harvey Allison both bagged braces whilst James MacRae, Danny Delaney and Keir Johnstone got the others.

Lovat 5 Inverness 0

The Lovat colts made it four wins on the bounce when they overcame the Inverness colts 5-0 in their noon throw-up at Balgait.

Inverness agreed to the earlier throw-up time to allow the Lovat players and support to head for Braeview Park to watch their senior side face Newtonmore in the Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-finals later in the afternoon.

Lovat's James Fraser was handed a two-game suspension after his red card in the win over Boleskine seven days earlier.

Brother and sister Chris Johnston for Lovat and Hannah Johnston for Inverness were in direct opposition throughout the match.

Raymond Rennie was quickly onto a loose ball to score on six minutes after Inverness keeper Kenneth Loades had saved from Duncan Urquhart.

Duncan Urquhart turned scorer on 29 minutes when he won possession and held off a challenge before sending a 25 yard drive into the roof of the net.

Urquhart seemed to hurt himself in the process and he limped off the pitch to be replaced. Inverness had a reasonable amount of possession but were unable to create many chances.

The visitors had the chance to pull a goal back on 51 minutes when referee John Matheson awarded them a penalty. Home

goalie Ronan MacMillan made a good save though with his foot from Andy Reid's spot-hit.

Lovat extended their lead on 54 minutes. Cameron MacMillan got on the end of Chris Johnston's cross and, from around the penalty spot, MacMillan took the ball first-time, sending it into the net with a neat finish.

Raymond Rennie got his second on 67 minutes, trapping the ball before sending it low into the net from 15 yards.

Cameron MacMillan got his second on 78 minutes, striking the ball first time on his back-hand for another good finish.

Raymond Rennie was denied a hat-trick when he fired a cracking 35-yard shot home but the effort was ruled out as one of the Lovat forwards was offside.

Strathspey Camanachd P Caberfeidh P

The 1.30pm throw-up between Strathspey Camanachd and the Caberfeidh second team at Grantown Grammar School will be re-scheduled for a later date.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour 0 Inveraray 5

The Inveraray second team took another step towards the Marine South Division 2 title when they defeated the Aberdour seconds 0-5 at Silversands.

Inveraray made two changes to their squad with Scott Robertson and Andrew McMurdo missing. Young Andrew Fraser started at half back and Russell McKinlay started his first match of the season.

Aberdour made the brighter start, asking questions of the young Inveraray defence.

However, it didn't take Inveraray long to find their way and when referee Calum Girvan spotted a 'kick' inside the Abertour 'D', Russell McKinlay stepped up to score.

Inveraray doubled their lead within 20 seconds of the re-start as David Robertson and MacKinlay showed great forward skills with McKinlay finishing what was the goal of the game.

Young Campbell Watt saw an effort come back off the crossbar before Russell McKinlay completed his hat-trick to make it 3-0 at the break.

Russell McKinlay - his fourth goal of the game - and David Robertson added two more goals in the second half to make it 6-0.

Aberdour's Andrew Fraser had his hands full marking Russell McKinlay, whilst visiting wing centres John MacKenzie and Kenny Kirkhope more than played their part, turning in their best performances of the season.

Dunoon Camanachd P Oban Lorn P

The 1.30pm throw-up between Dunoon Camanachd and Oban Lorn was postponed as the Dunoon Stadium was unavailable.

The match will be re-scheduled for a later date.

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup final - preview

The Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final between Lochside Rovers and the Kingussie seconds takes place at An Aird on Saturday.

Lochside Rovers have been riding high in Marine Harvest South Division 1 this season. Lewis Buchanan and Craig MacDougall have provided the goals, with half backs Craig Easton and Daniel Sloss - both U17 players - shining at the other end of the pitch.

Kingussie's James Falconer has been a key player and Kingussie have the option of including U17 players Roddy Young, Ruaridh Anderson and Alexander Michie. The trio have mainly been with the first team squad this season but are eligible to play because they are under 17 and they featured in the semi-final win over the Newtonmore seconds. Lochside could similarly use Daniel MacCuish.

Both teams have had to work hard to reach the final.

Lochside Rovers beat the Beaulieu second team 2-0 at Braeview Park in their opening round tie. They took the lead midway through the first half through Craig MacDougall. Lewis Buchanan added a second before the break. Beaulieu came more into the game in the second half but Lochside finished deserved winners.

In the second round, Lochside were 2-0 winners against the Kyles Athletic second team at Tighnabruach. Michael MacQueen gave the Oban side the lead with a 25-yard shot into top corner of the net. Keith Burnett added a second courtesy of a lovely assist from Michael MacQueen that left Burnett one-on-one with keeper.

A 7-0 triumph over the Bute seconds 7-0 at The Meadows took Lochside into the semi-finals. Lewis Buchanan scored four times with Craig MacDougall bagging a brace. Iain MacMillan got the other.

Lochside Rovers reached the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final with a 5-0 win over the Glenurquhart second team at The Jubilee Park. Lewis Buchanan, 2, Craig MacMillan, Michael MacQueen and Iain MacMillan were all on target. The latter was the goal of the game as he went on a run from around the half-way line, turning a defender before striking home from around 30 yards.

Kingussie opened the competition with a 1-0 win over the Skye Camanachd colts at The Dell. Liam Borthwick scored the goal that made the difference, with his effort coming on the half hour mark.

Next up was a 7-0 win over the Aberdour colts at Silversands. Dylan Borthwick scored twice whilst Daniel Donald, an Alistair Abbott own goal, Kevin Thain, Liam Borthwick and Owen Reid all found the net.

Kingussie reached the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup semi-finals when they beat the Fort William colts 3-2 at An Aird. Goals from Fort William's Ewan Campbell and Mark

Fraser and Kingussie's Kevin Thain meant the home side led 2-1 at the break. Kevin Thain scored twice more in the second half to complete his hat-trick and give Kingussie a 3-2 win.

The Kingussie colts came out on top, winning this semi-final 6-4 against Badenoch rivals and cup holders Newtonmore colts at The Dell. Newtonmore gained an early advantage through Chris Sellar and John MacKenzie. Kingussie stormed back though and scored the game's next six goals. Ruaridh Anderson and Dylan Borthwick levelled the tie before Roddy Young fired home to put the hosts 3-2 up at the break. The same three Kingussie players scored again in the second half to make it 6-2. A second from Chris Sellar and an Evan Menzies goal on made it 6-4 but Newtonmore had left themselves too much to do.

2016 beaten finalists Kingussie warmed up for the final with a 4-0 win over their Kinlochshiel counter-parts. After the match, manager Ally MacLeod said: 'We've worked hard to get to the Sutherland Cup Final and we've had to beat some good teams along the way. We're building a side for the future here and it's pleasing to see just how much the players have come on since last year. Lochside will be difficult opponents. They've been going well in the south and, like ourselves, have a number of really good young players. It should be a great final.'

Speaking after the draw with Bute, Lochside Rovers manager Gareth Evans said: 'We have a few injuries to assess so we won't decide on our starting line-up until later in the week. Both sides will be able to call on U17 players who are usually with the first team - the likes of Roddy Young and Ruaridh Anderson at Kingussie and our own Daniel MacCuish. I don't think there's anything wrong with that, in fact I think it's a good thing the youths are still able to play in their second team's cup competitions. That's why the rules allow it. I saw the match between our U17s and the Kingussie U17s at Mossfield earlier in the season and it was an excellent game and many of the same players from both clubs will be on show in the final. So we'll have two fit, young teams lining up on an An Aird pitch that will suit both sides for what I'm sure will be a great game of shinty.'

The 2017 Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final between Lochside Rovers and Kingussie at An Aird throws-up at 2.30pm. Iain Kennedy is the match referee.

Strathdearn Cup Final venue

WITH the Kingussie and Newtonmore second teams both winning through to the Strathdearn Cup Final, the clubs opted to decide the final venue by the toss of a coin to ensure a large local support.

The coin toss, carried out by Camanachd Association President Jim Barr, took place at the Camanachd Association Offices on Friday July 21. Newtonmore won the toss so the Strathdearn Cup Final will take place at The Eilan on Saturday August 12.



Skye's Will Cowie and Inveraray's Gary MacPherson in action during last weekend's National Division match at the Winterton. Photo: Stephen Lawson



Fixtures

Saturday July 29

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final
Lochside Rovers v Kingussie
Iain Kennedy,
An Aird, Fort William.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Glasgow MA v Lochaber
Deek Cameron
Kinlochshiel v Kyles Athletic
Archie Ritchie - 3pm
Kilmallie v Newtonmore
John Angus Gillies - 3pm
Lovat v Glenurquhart
Innes Wood

Marine Harvest National Division

Beaulieu v Skye
Willie MacDonald
Inverness v Strathglass
Graham Cameron
Oban Celtic v Caberfeidh
Calum Girvan

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Aberdeen University v Skye
David Mitchell
Kinlochshiel v Glenurquhart
Scott McNeil - Noon
Newtonmore v Beaulieu
Brian MacKay

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Col Glen v Ballachulish
Des McNulty
Kilmory v Glenorchy
Robert Baxter - 2pm
Kyles Athletic v Aberdour
Graham Fisher
Taynuilt v Bute
Lachie Wood

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Boleskine v Glengarry
John Matheson
Caberfeidh v Strathglass
Martin MacLean
Lewis v Lochcarron
Henry MacInnes
Lochaber v Inverness
Steven MacLachlan
Kilmallie v Lovat
Ronnie Campbell - noon

Throw-ups 2.30pm, unless stated.

Results

Saturday July 22

Artemis Macaulay Cup semi final
Oban Cam 0 v 2 Kyles Athletic
Lovat 0 v 3 Newtonmore

Bullough Cup semi final
Kyles Athletic 2 v 3 Strachur
After extra time

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kilmallie 0 v 3 Kinlochshiel
Kingussie 3 v 0 Glasgow MA
Lochaber 3 v 1 Glenurquhart

Marine Harvest National Division

Inveraray 0 v 4 Skye
Caberfeidh 1 v 0 Fort William
Strathglass 1 v 2 Oban Celtic

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Fort William 6 v 1 Glen'quhart
Newtonmore 4 v 1 Skye
Kinlochshiel 0 v 4 Kingussie

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Kilmory 10 v 0 Tayforth
Lochside Rovers 2 v 2 Bute

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Glengarry 8 v 1 Kilmallie
Lochcarron 6 v 1 Boleskine
Lovat 5 v 0 Inverness
Strathglass 0 v 7 Lochaber
Strathspey P v P Caberfeidh

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour 0 v Inveraray
Dunoon P v P Oban Lorn
Field unavailable

Heb Celt Cup

Lewis 4 v 2 Uist



Lochaber's Neil MacDonald has an accidental clash with Glenurquhart goalkeeper Stewart MacKintosh during their premiership match last weekend. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



Boys and girls from Oban who took part in the Glasgow Warriors training camp at the Oban Lorne Rugby Club last weekend. 16_t30_WarriorsCamp01.

Glasgow Warriors hold successful camp in Oban

OBAN Lorne RFC hosted Glasgow Warriors when they delivered their Cala Homes Young Warriors Summer Camp at Glencruitten last Friday.

Around 30 players from West Highland Clubs including Oban Lorne, Mid Argyll, Etive Vikings, Isle of Mull and Highland took part in a great day of fun skill sessions and small-sided games led by staff from the Glasgow Warriors community team.

Also in attendance at the Camp was Glasgow Warrior and Scotland International Prop Zander Fagerson who took part in the coaching sessions as well as posing for photographs and providing autographs for his young fans.

Zander commented: 'Oban Lorne RFC were very proud to host this event for the second

time in two years, continuing the fantastic relationship that Glasgow Warriors provide with local clubs across the West of Scotland and beyond.

'It's great to see so many children turn up, and we have some girls here which is fantastic. 'All the children are really enthusiastic and they are willing to learn.

Great talent

'There's some great talent and it is good to be here. I have been to Oban a few times - I love it up here.'

Glasgow Warriors will be starting their new season in September. For more information on Warriors fixtures and events visit their website at www.glasgowwarriors.org

For any young players wishing to start up rugby in the local area weekly sessions will be

Rugby

running on a weekly basis at the start of the new school term.

Oban Lorne mini rugby (P1-7) - Wednesdays 6-7pm at Oban Lorne RFC.

Oban High School girls rugby (S1-6) and boys rugby S1-U15 - Wednesdays 4-5pm at Oban High School.

Oban High School U16/18 - Thursdays 4-5pm at Oban High School.

Etive Vikings RFC mini rugby (P2-7) - Wednesdays 6-7pm at Taynuilt Sports Hub.

Mid Argyll RFC mini rugby and high school rugby - Tuesdays 4-5pm at Lochgilhead Joint Campus.

Isle of Mull RFC mini and junior rugby -- Wednesdays 6.30-7.30pm at Garmony



Glasgow Warriors' community rugby coach Stuart Lewis demonstrates how to kick a ball. 16_t30_WarriorsCamp03.



Instead of wrestling each other, the under 15s choose to team up on Zander Fagerson. 16_t30_WarriorsCamp04



One of the boys teams up with Scotland star Zander Fagerson in a warm up game. 16_t30_WarriorsCamp02



Only two remain in the king of the ring game. 16_t30_WarriorsCamp05

Goals galore at Atlantis

Indoor football

FOLLOWING a number of call-offs last week, it was back to business as usual in the Atlantis Leisure five-a-side football league.

Menzies Parcels 2

Oban Joinery Services9

Oban Joinery Services finally got their league campaign under way after a couple of unfortunate call-offs. It was a close game with OJS going in at half-time just the one goal to the good.

A quick flurry of goals and dominant play saw them put seven past a yet again depleted Menzies squad, who did well to hold on in the first half with a squad of five. Man of the Match was OJS' Scott MacMillan.

Oaklea 3

Glensanda 9

In an encounter where the scoreline did not reflect the true closeness of the game, it was the defending champions Glensanda who overcame an Oaklea squad who were well up for the game.

Glensanda had a depleted squad, but the clinical finishing of once again man of the mMatch Craig McEwen saw them overcome a difficult game in which they were trailing.

Oaklea made a great game of it with some excellent play, unfortunately they just couldn't put many of their chances away.

AC Milama 11

OES 3

AC Milama continued their unbeaten start to the season with another big victory over a tough OES side. The victorious side have started the season well, and played with a lot of confidence, and if not for a great performance from OES goalkeeper, the scoreline could have been a lot worse for the newcomers.

Man of the Match was AC Milama's David McPhee who did the job at both ends of the pitch with some fantastic finishing and good, aggressive defending at the other.

Cuan Mor 3

Inter Milama 8

In the last fixture of the afternoon, it was Cuan Mor who looked likely to take the points, going 3-0 up after the first 15 minutes and looking extremely dangerous and comfortable.

Inter Milama, who were without their captain Grant MacPherson dug deep and pulled one back before half-time. The second half was a totally different story as Inter came racing out of the blocks and really took control of a game that they could have easily let slip away.

Robert Johnston was involved in nearly all of Inter's goals and was certainly worthy of the Man of the Match award.

Saints continue pre-season games

Football

OBAN Saints continue their pre-season build-up with a friendly against South Lochaber Thistle on Saturday at the rugby Kick-off is 2pm. Referee in charge will be John Scott.

Next Wednesday they play Lochgilhead Red Star also on the rugby pitch, kick-off 7pm. Referee is Jimmy Litster

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Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday July 27, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm								
Thur	02.32	0.8	08.17	3.7	14.32	0.6	20.24	3.8	Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	03.15	1.0	08.55	3.5	15.13	0.9	21.02	3.6	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	03.58	1.3	09.34	3.3	15.56	1.1	21.42	3.3	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	04.43	1.5	10.19	3.1	16.42	1.4	22.26	3.1	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	05.36	1.7	11.21	2.9	17.33	1.6	23.25	2.9	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	06.39	1.8	12.55	2.9	18.32	1.8	***	**				
Wed	00.56	2.8	07.58	1.8	14.14	2.9	19.38	1.8				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

WEATHER

Thursday Heavy rain showers
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 15°C.

Friday Light rain showers
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 16°C.

Weekend Heavy rain showers on Saturday
Outlook Heavy rain showers on Sunday
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.



Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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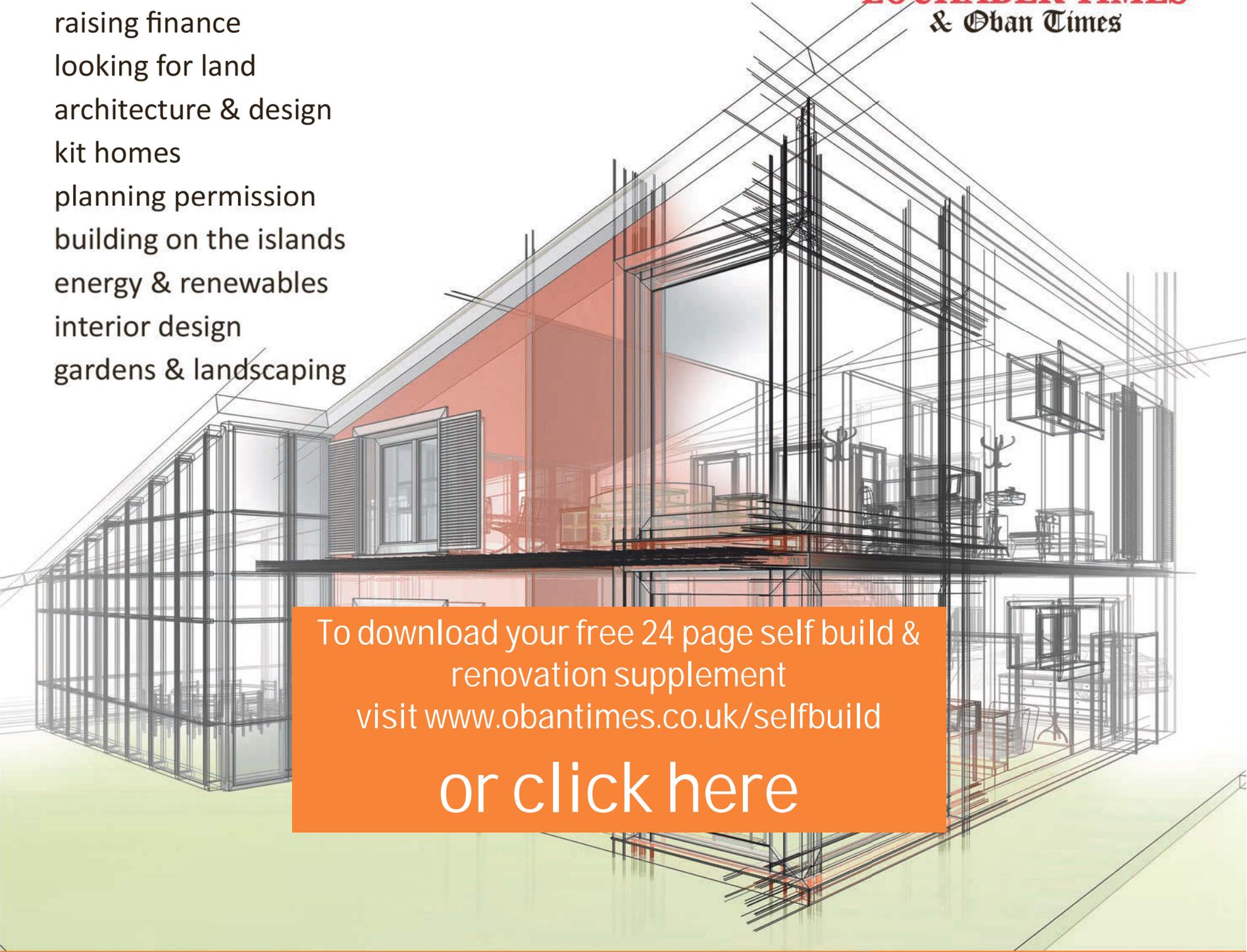
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MALLAIG MARITIME DAY



KILCHOAN SHOW & SPORTS

Hay bale bid to prevent fatal accident at notorious corner

ELLIE FORBES
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

AN ONICH resident has lined up hay bales in front of his fence to try to prevent a fatal accident at a notorious Lochaber crash blackspot and protect his property.

Colin Campbell, who has a house and croft at Caolas, Onich, has had the fence around his field ripped apart on numerous occasions after vehicles have crashed into it.

Mr Campbell has already replaced the fence four times since December last year after cars tore through it.

He finally had enough at the weekend, following an earlier incident in June at the blackspot about a mile and a half south of Corran Ferry.

He has now put bales of hay in

front of the fence to protect it and his animals in the field.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times*, Mr Campbell said he thinks the cars are skidding as they are going round the corner at Gollanfield.

He said: 'There has just been this spell where there has been a number of cars going off the road in this particular area.'

'The road surface is very bumpy and it isn't safe. BEAR Scotland has been notified about it on numerous occasions.'

'The cycle path alongside the road has turned into the dog-dens.'

'People are scared to walk along the path there - you just want to get past the bit where these crashes have been happening as quickly as possible.'

'The last crash ended up with the car going through our new



The hay bales on the dangerous Onich crash corner.

fence and the passenger side took all the impact. Luckily, there was no-one in the passenger side, otherwise they would have been dead.

'The bales could prevent a very serious accident. For example,

in the latest incident, where the car ended up on the passenger side, if that side had hit the bale it probably wouldn't have been a total write-off.'

'Has someone got to be seriously injured or, worse, die,

for something to be done about the road?'

A spokesperson for BEAR Scotland said: 'Temporary traffic lights are currently in place on the A82 at Onich to keep our teams as well as motorists safe while a defect in the road surface is repaired.'

'We were made aware of local concerns regarding the corner at Gollanfield and, following inspections by our roads team, a small section of localised rutting was identified. Plans are also in place to install additional verge marker posts and bend warning signs in the near future.'

Kinlochleven resident Robert McClymont crashed at the corner last month, resulting in his car being written off.

Mr McClymont said he slipped on spilled diesel on the road, something which he feels is

a regular occurrence around Lochaber. He said: 'Just before the Onich hotel, I spun out of control when I hit oil.'

'The car went off the road and it was a write-off. Had an HGV been coming in the other direction, it would be fatal for my full car.'

'The problem with diesel oil is that you can't see it when it's spilled on the road. It's lethal.'

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes said: 'I am aware of concerns about oil spills on the A82 and have contacted Transport Scotland and Police Scotland to get figures on oil spills and what has been done to deal with the problem.'

'If there is more to be done, I will push Transport Scotland to put a more robust plan in place to ensure there is no threat to road safety.'

New affordable homes for Fort

SCOTTISH Government minister for housing Kevin Stewart was in Fort William yesterday (Wednesday) to visit housing projects and to announce funding for Lochaber Housing Association (LHA) to build affordable homes on a new site in Upper Achintore.

He was joined by representatives from LHA, the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust and the Highland Council.

Mr Stewart also visited LHA's development at Raasay Court where he talked to residents Sintija Zemtura and Vladis Stepanovs about their experience of living there.

See next week's *Lochaber Times* for a full report on the minister's visit.

Views sought on housing plans

THE HIGHLAND Council is looking for the public's views on its draft Local Housing Strategy.

The strategy sets out the council's aims for housing over the next five years.

Councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of the places committee, said: 'We want to know what you think about our strategy and the actions we are proposing. You can find the strategy on our website together with a short survey.'

Head to the Highland Council website to read the strategy.

Responses to the survey must be made by Friday August 18.



Colin Skeath, left, and his nephew Davis Gould-Duff back home this week after their historic trip.

F30 Canoe round Britain back home 1JP

Strontian paddler back home after historic round-Britain canoe trip

COLIN Skeath admits there were times during his record-setting paddle around the UK in an open canoe when it was far from plain sailing.

Former police inspector Mr Skeath, 50, who was partnered on the 12-week adventure by his nephew, Davis Gould-Duff, 25, from Limerick, made landfall home at Strontian shortly after 7pm on Monday. By the time the intrepid duo were welcomed back by a small gathering of family and friends, they had circumnavigated almost the entire coastline, about 2,000 miles, including three crossings of the

Irish Sea. Paddling a £4,000 open canoe, made by Swift in Canada and named Temagami after a province in Ontario, they encountered winds up to force seven and swells reaching almost four metres. 'People were quite worried about our safety when we rounded Cape Wrath and canoed through the Pentland Firth,' said Mr Skeath.

'But that was one of the highlights for me. There were some other amazing moments - it certainly fulfilled the definition of the word "adventure".'

So far the two paddlers have raised about £2,000 for the For-

get Me Not Children's Hospice in Huddersfield.

It is the first time the voyage around the UK has been made in an open canoe and Mr Skeath's wife, Katrina, says the hope is it will have changed the perceptions of what is possible with open canoes.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times* the morning after their return home, Mr Skeath said he would be back on the water soon. 'Although at the moment the furthest trip I'm planning is into Fort William!' he laughed.

For more on this story, turn to page 32.

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Passenger and pilot escape uninjured after forced landing near Kinlochleven

TWO MEN had a lucky escape when their light aircraft was forced to make an emergency landing near a remote loch close to Kinlochleven.

The Piper Cub came down on Friday afternoon and ended up stuck in a bog, several hundred metres south of Loch Chiarain, close to the Blackwater Reservoir. The incident is being investigated by experts from the Air Accidents Investigation Branch.

Police Scotland told the *Lochaber Times* that while it is aware of the aircraft's emergency landing, officers are not involved in the inquiry into what happened. The pilot and passenger were uninjured in the forced landing and were later picked up by an Inverness Coastguard helicopter and flown to Oban Airport.

After the aircraft got into trouble, its pilot had issued a 'pan-pan', an emergency call, which was received by staff at the Distress and Diversion Emergency Centre, based at RAF Swanwick, near Southampton. It was picked up by air traffic controllers at Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire and the crew of an easyJet passenger plane is also understood to have relayed the distress call to the Distress and Diversion Emergency Centre.

The Air Accidents Investigation Branch confirmed the incident had been reported to it and it was now conducting inquiries. The Air Accidents Investigation Branch investigates civil aircraft accidents and incidents within the UK, its overseas territories and crown dependencies. Its purpose is to improve aviation safety globally by determining the causes of air accidents and serious incidents and making safety recommendations intended to prevent recurrence.

Meanwhile, the Mountain Bothies Association is reported to have received an inquiry about use of the bothy near to the scene of Friday's landing site by the aircraft's owner when attempts are made to remove it.

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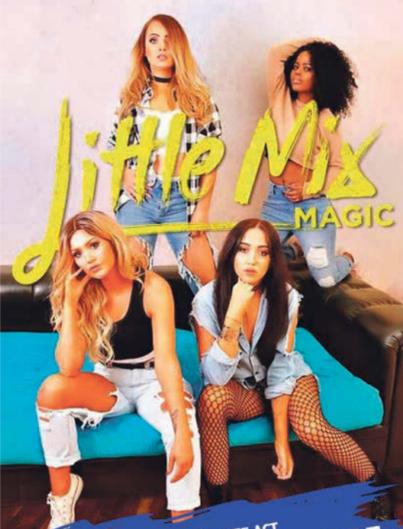
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Stormy Stan and Albert, the mascots of the RNLI and Fishermen's Mission, lead the Isle of Skye Pipe Band's march to the gala. F30 Mallaig maritime 07 JS



Pipe Major Alan MacKenzie of Isle of Skye Pipe Band with Karen Calder, left, and Heather Gray of the Fisherman's Mission, Mallaig. F30 Mallaig maritime 02 JS



Isle of Skye Pipe Band marched off the ferry from Armadale and into Mallaig. F30 Mallaig maritime 01 JS



The 2017 Maritime Day royalty of Mallaig - gala queen Iona Stewart, aged 13, and gala princess Iona MacKenzie, 10. The girls are pupils at Mallaig high and Morar primary schools respectively. F30 Mallaig maritime 14 JS

Mallaig Maritime Day raises cash for RNLI and Mission



Harry Marshall and Jean MacNaughton of the West Highland Hotel cooked up and served two huge pans of seafood - langoustines, mussels and monkfish - generously donated by local fishing boats. The huge pan, complete with stand and gas burner, was a gift to the town from Sir Cameron Macintosh. F30 Mallaig maritime 10 JS

MALLAIG was packed last Saturday as people turned out in numbers to join in the fun of Maritime Day.

Two major charities in the town, the RNLI and the Fishermen's Mission, joined forces to raise funds at the event which replaced the previous gala days.

Isle of Skye Pipe Band travelled over on the ferry and marched off, playing, from the car deck and into the town.

Local skippers and fish farms generously donated produce which was served throughout the afternoon and part of the fish hall complex was a children's painting competition.

Numbers were swelled by the afternoon travellers on the Jacobite steam train from Fort William.

This year's queen and princess of the day waved to the crowds as they were pulled through the streets on a decorated boat to join the crowd on the pier. Raffles helped boost funds along with competitions, the lifeboat and a fish farm ship were open to the public and the afternoon ended with the traditional fishing boat race.

A successful ceilidh was held in the evening.

The final amount of cash raised was still to be confirmed as the *Lochaber Times* went to press.



Jim Fowler, chairman of Mallaig lifeboat, and Mo Mathieson, lifeboat operations manager. F30 Mallaig maritime 06 JS



Iona Patrick, aged 11, on holiday from Edinburgh, has a 'Rose' moment on Mallaig's RNLI lifeboat, which was open for the public to visit as part of the gala day celebrations. F30 Mallaig maritime 11 JS



Gregor Innes and Thomas Benfield were hard at work as Albert and Stormy Stan, the mascots of the Fishermen's Mission and RNLI respectively. F30 Mallaig maritime 13 JS



David MacDonald, of Denholm Fishselling, skipper John MacLean, and Kevin McDonnell of the Mallaig lifeboat crew. F30 Mallaig maritime 09 JS



The Jacobite warriors of Fir na Dileas were on board Saturday's steam train to Mallaig collecting donations from passengers for Mallaig Fishermen's Mission. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image. F30 Mallaig maritime 17 JS



David Alcroft from Mallaig helped run the Fishermen's Mission stall and is seen here with German holiday-makers Carla, aged five, and her dad Christian. F30 Mallaig maritime 04 JS



Left: Audrey MacKay, chairwoman and treasurer of the RNLI fundraising committee at Mallaig. F30 Mallaig maritime 08 JS



The gala queen and princess of the Maritime Day were taken from the railway station to the gala in a boat pulled by Jacobites. F30 Mallaig maritime 12 JS



Harry Clyne of Lochailort brought along a one-third sized model of a 1907 Tasker road tractor and powered up the steam model, which is one of many he owns. F30 Mallaig maritime 03 JS



Left: Frank Stride was drumming up business for the Wheel of Fortune. F30 Mallaig maritime 05 JS



Fish farm vessel *Ronja Pioneer* was moored at Mallaig for the gala day and crew showed the public around the ship. From left: Ivar Kalvøe, Captain Bjørnar Nordahl and Marius Loeng. More than 1,000 people went on board throughout the day. F30 Mallaig maritime 16 JS

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Highland Council urged to be more ambitious with Gaelic

ELLIE FORBES
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

A FORMER Fort William councillor is calling for more ambitious plans from the Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan (GLP).

The plan, a statutory requirement for public bodies in Scotland under the Gaelic Language Scotland Act 2005, sets out how the service will harness and enhance language skills within the organisation.

The local authority introduced the third draft, GLP 2017-2022 in June. It then went out for a six-week public consultation which ended on Tuesday.

A council spokesperson said: 'The Highland Council has a clear focus on increasing Gaelic use; to increase the number of Gaelic speakers and to significantly enhance the profile and continue to create and generate a positive image of Gaelic.'

Doctor Michael Foxley, a councillor for 26 years, was a

member of the council's Gaelic working group and actively involved with the two previous language plans. Responding to the draft plan, Dr Foxley said: 'The proposed GLP needs to be more ambitious.'

Dr Foxley described current efforts to expand Gaelic medium education as 'inadequate, patchy and poor'. 'We need to actively and regularly promote the advantages and benefits of becoming bilingual in Gaelic and English - from primary

school attainment to employment opportunities to delaying dementia,' he said.

During the consultation the council said the draft plan will have a strong focus on trying to increase the use of the language by young people and families.

Highland Council leader councillor Margaret Davidson said: 'The council is proud of its achievements in strengthening the language across its services and key partners.'

Dr Foxley said while it is great

to see the impact of the new Gaelic School for greater Fort William and the construction of the new Gaelic school for Skye in Portree, he hopes an active programme to make all existing English nurseries bilingual within five years will be put in place. Dr Foxley said: 'Every pupil in Highland high schools should have Gaelic as part of their Curriculum for Excellence timetable in S1-S2 and the opportunity to include it in their S3-S4 timetable.'

The draft plan shows a 1.7 per cent increase of Gaelic medium primary school pupils in the Highlands, as well as 264 Gaelic nurseries/commissioned playgroups for 2016/17 - eight more than the previous year.

Dr Foxley added: 'As the council's Gaelic working group proved, once Gaelic medium units are established, the cost of educating pupils in Gaelic is cheaper than those in English only schools so increasing Gaelic education saves money.'

Man found slumped at wheel of car banned

A MAN found slumped at the steering wheel of his car outside the gates of the recycling centre at Fort William has been banned from driving for a year and fined £360.

Edward Adams, of Ardnevis Road, Claggan, Fort William, appeared in Fort William Sheriff Court on Thursday July 20 after pleading guilty to being unfit to drive through drink or drugs on December 1 last year.

The court heard Adams, 59, an electrician with NHS Highland, had been found slumped at the steering wheel of his car outside the gates of the recycling centre at Fort William.

Adams' defence agent, Hamish Melrose, told Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald his client had gone to the recycling centre to try to retrieve a lawnmower belonging to his sister which he had disposed of the previous day.

The centre was still not open to the public at that time of day, but a staff member had heard a car engine revving outside the gates and on inspection discovered Adams in his car and contacted police and an ambulance.

The court heard Adams' speech and movements were slow and he was taken to Belford Hospital in the town where he told staff he was on prescribed medication.

Sheriff MacDonald disqualified Adams from driving for one year but said if he completed a drink-drive rehabilitation course he would get a three-month reduction in the length of his ban.

Adams was also fined £360 and had his licence endorsed.

POLICE FILES

A WINDOW was broken at the Whisky Shop on Fort William High Street at 8pm on Tuesday July 18. Nothing was taken from the display, however, police believe this was an attempted theft. If anyone saw or heard anything suspicious they should contact Fort William police.

POLICE in Lochaber have noted an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour and are making a possible link to youngsters being bored as this is the school holidays.

Large numbers of youths are congregating and entering derelict premises throughout the area. Police have liaised with Highland Council community wardens to help prevent any escalation of bad behaviour and are discouraging youths from entering any building sites as they are dangerous. Members of the public should report any incident to police using the non-emergency number 101.



Alfie McAnespie and Coronation Street star Anthony Cotton set off on their Ben Nevis Challenge. F30 Alfie walk 11F Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Pint-sized hero scales the heights for charity cash

PINT-SIZED hero Alfie McAnespie stepped up his efforts to raise £2,000 for charity on the slopes of Ben Nevis.

The Colchester youngster, who is aged just nine, conquered the mountain at the weekend in the company of Coronation Street star Anthony Cotton in aid of the Help for Heroes charity.

Alfie shot to fame as Help for Heroes' youngest fundraiser when he walked a mile unaided at just 16-months-old.

Following on from his many past adventures - including climbing Snowdon last year - the ascent of Scotland's biggest summit on Saturday marked the biggest, and highest, challenge so far in Alfie's young life.

Anthony, best known for playing Sean Tully in Coronation Street, is an ambassador for Help for Heroes.

When one of his close friends was suffering with post traumatic stress

disorder and was supported by the Help for Heroes Recovery Centre in Catterick, Anthony vowed he would do all he could to help the charity as a thank-you for looking after his friend. When little Alfie contacted the soap star on Twitter to ask if he would complete the Ben Nevis ascent with him, Anthony immediately signed up for the four-mile climb.

The intrepid pair set off to climb Ben Nevis from Fort William early on Saturday morning.

They appeared on Lorraine Kelly's breakfast ITV show on Friday when an emotional Alfie was treated to a surprise video message from his dad Lee, who is serving abroad with the Parachute Regiment.

Alfie was inspired by Scottish war hero Stu Pearson from East Kilbride, who lost his leg in Afghanistan and was immortalised in the film *Kajaki*, to climb Mount Snowdon last year after the pair met at an event at Westminster.

Council faces questions following ferry chaos

HIGHLAND Council needs to answer questions following chaos caused by recent Corran Ferry problems and cannot keep putting off decisions on changes to the present set-up.

That was the call this week from Andrew Baxter, councillor for Fort William and Ardnamurchan, following the resumption of the ferry service last Thursday.

The ferry escaped with just minor damage to its hull and a propeller blade after scraping against rocks, but was still out of action for five days.

The near week-long suspension coupled with the unavailability of the usual backup vessel *Maid of Glencoul* caused travel chaos for businesses, visitors and locals.

The Corran Ferry only returned to service after a specialist engineer flew in from Germany and repaired a faulty valve.

Mr Baxter said it was a relief the ferry service was back to normal and thanked the crew.

But he is far from happy, telling the *Lochaber Times*: 'There are many questions the Highland Council needs to answer and, more importantly, address.'

'The lack of public information provided was woeful and although as a councillor I tried to provide regular updates, the council needs to be much better and quicker at letting people know what is happening.'

'Whilst relying on the spare ferry has been fine in the past, we were faced with the consequences of that not being available, with no emergency plan in place.'

'That needs to change. Relying on a spare ferry, which requires difficult to source spare parts, can't continue either.'

'There needs to be a much wider debate about whether a fixed-crossing is a viable answer, whether it is affordable and whether it is appropriate for the peninsula.'

'The council can't keep putting off these decisions.'

'Lochaber councillors will question officers on all these issues at their area committee meeting in August.'

Free bike repair workshop

LOCHABER Environmental Group has teamed up with Nevis Cycles to offer a free two-and-a-half-hour bike maintenance and repair workshop tonight (Thursday July 27) from 6.30 to 9pm at Ardgor Hall.

The workshop is open to all Lochaber residents, with the aim of giving people the confidence to maintain their bikes properly and get out on them more. Everyone is invited to take their own bike along and let the mechanics help get you started.

Skye feed plant recruitment drive

MARINE Harvest has launched a major recruitment drive to fill 55 posts at its new fish feed plant on Skye.

The £93 million plant is currently under construction at Altanavaig quarry in Kyleakin. The Highland Council granted permission for the plant earlier this year and it is expected to be completed next autumn.

The plant will produce fish feed to supply Marine Harvest's salmon farms across the western Highlands and Islands of Scotland, as well as Ireland, Norway and the Faroe Islands. The company plans to appoint 55 people locally across a range of disciplines including production, logistics, maintenance and health and safety. Ewan MacColl, operations director - processing and feed for Marine Harvest, said: 'This is a fantastic opportunity to work in a thriving industry. It's an exciting time to join the company, working on a plant which will be one of the most effi-

cient and sustainable feed plants in the world. We are looking for a wide range of skills and will provide comprehensive training. The aquaculture industry is hugely successful and offers great opportunities for career development and we're particularly keen to recruit local people, whenever possible.'

A spokesperson said: 'The chosen site is more than large enough to accommodate this major development which will include the feed plant itself as well as raw material storage silos, product storage and packaging, a loading area and car parking.'

Posts available include the feed plant manager, who will be responsible for the property, plant, equipment and staff, as well as a production manager and production assistants and technicians. There will also be a logistics manager, assistant and technicians as well as a maintenance manager and quality assurance manager.

Not guilty of causing fear or alarm

AN ARIVEGAIG man was found not guilty of causing fear or alarm to a neighbouring couple in a dispute over access and parking rights after a prosecution witness failed to provide sufficient evidence at Fort William Sheriff Court on Thursday July 20.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald had already sat through the long cross-examination of one witness, Sean Reid, of Macneil's Croft, Arivegaig, Acharacle, which included viewing video footage from CCTV security cameras, as part of the trial of Anthony Brian Smith, 55, of Fulnafern Croft, Arivegaig.

Smith had pleaded not guilty to charges that, on various occasions during February last year, he engaged in conduct which caused fear or alarm to Mr Reid, 53, and his partner, Mairi McLean, 42, by driving a vehicle up to Mr Reid's croft and staring at him and Ms McLean; parking his car outside Mr Reid's croft; persistently loitering in the vicinity of Mr Reid's croft

and intentionally directing two of his goats towards the vicinity of Mr Reid's property.

During cross-examination, Smith's defence agent, Gerard Sweeney, accused Mr Reid of lying and that his allegations against his client were malicious.

Mr Reid denied this and told the court Smith's behaviour on the occasions in question had caused him anxiety and stress: 'He had no reason for doing that other than trying to intimidate me,' said Mr Reid.

The court heard there was a history of bad feeling stemming from disagreements over the use of an access track and parking rights. The court also heard there had already been a legal interdict forcing Mr Reid to remove two of his CCTV cameras.

Mr Reid runs a holiday rental business from his croft, comprising a house and three static caravans, and Smith is a near neighbour.

Mr Sweeney told Mr Reid: 'The complaints you are making are entirely malicious because they are based on a dispute you have with your neighbour in relation to your use of an access track and turning point. These are false and malicious allegations against Mr Smith.'

'I'm not lying,' replied Mr Reid, who maintained the estate which owned the turning area had given him consent to park a vehicle there as long as it did not block its use by other people.

Mr Reid's partner, Ms McLean, was called as a witness.

The launderette owner, from Acharacle, confirmed she had spoken to the police on a number of occasions about Smith.

But she was unable to be any more specific in her evidence about her complaints, leaving procurator fiscal David Morton with little option but to inform the court the Crown was no longer formally seeking a conviction in the case and Smith was found not guilty by the sheriff.

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WHAT'S ON

IF YOU go down to the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise – but there are no bears at Glencoe, just the chance to uncover secret treasure. Join National Trust for Scotland Rangers every Wednesday in July and August from 10.30am on a family treasure adventure to explore Glencoe's woodland trails and discover hidden treasure.

Young treasure hunters will crack clues as they follow the trail, learning useful navigation skills and completing challenges along the way. From tree rubbings to pond dipping, building dens to identifying flora and fauna, it's a fantastic, fun chance for young people to get out and connect with the natural world.

The adventure costs £8 per child and accompanying adults go free. Booking is essential. Reserve your space now to ensure you don't miss out. Call 01855 811307, email glencoe_events@nts.org.uk or head online at https://nts.cloudvenue.co.uk/familytreasureadventure to book now. For more information about summer events at Glencoe & Dalness – and other National Trust for Scotland properties – visit www.nts.org.uk

FOLLOWING the success of the Housing Options Scotland summer tour last year, the organisation will be hitting the road again to provide housing information and advice events for disabled people, older people, disabled veterans and those who support them. The sixth stop on the tour is Caol Community Centre, Glenkingle Street, Caol, Fort William, on August 3 from 10am to 3pm.

At this free drop-in event, people will get the opportunity to speak to Housing Options Scotland staff about their housing issues, get advice and listen to talks about housing. There will also be information stalls from local and national organisations which work with disabled people, older people and disabled veterans.

EIGHT of Scotland's finest young folk musicians are touring their home towns and have recorded an album together thanks to the Traditional Music and Song Association of Scotland.

The finalists and winner of the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year Competition (2016) started the tour in Helensburgh in May. The group will be at The Nevis Centre on Tuesday August 1. Tickets are available from www.neviscentre.co.uk



Determination on the faces of competitors in the girls' sack race at last Friday's Kichoan show and sports. f30 kilchoan games 06 JP



Connie MacLennan, aged 13, from Fort William shows off her skills in the dance events. f30 kilchoan games 4 JP



Aela Tangny, aged four, enjoys the bouncy castle at the Kilchoan Games on Friday. f30 kilchoan games 1 JP



Alan Curtis, aged six, who scooped two firsts in the stock judging with his winning lamb. f30 kilchoan games 2 JP



Karlle Paterson wins the egg and spoon race. f30 kilchoan games 8 JP



Dog show winner, Diesel, with family member Leanne Blair, from Tobermory. f30 kilchoan games 15 JP

Kilchoan show and sports a success despite weather

MULL'S James Campbell made it 10 in a row when he won the heavy events title at West Ardnamurchan Show and Sports at Kilchoan Sports Field last Friday.

'Despite blustery wind and grey skies, this year's show was, once again, a great success,' event secretary Pat Glenday told the *Lochaber Times*.

As well as a strong field of competitors for the heavy events, there was strong competition in all the agricultural show classes, which were judged by Rhoda Munro of Mull.

Angus John Cameron won the trophy for the overall champion sheep with one of his blackfaces, while Nan MacLachlan was named crofter with most points after sweeping the board in all the cross breed classes.

Overall winners in the produce classes were Liz MacLeod, baking; Gill Blease, gardening; and Tracy Roslin, craft.

The quality of entries was very high and the judges had their work cut out to identify winners.

Following an interlude for lunch, during which the crowd was treated to a display of Highland dancing by Connie MacLennan and piping by Alasdair Peterson, the sports got under way.

More than 100 children took part in junior races, the highest number in the event's history. Overall winner in the children's events was Ryan Cameron.

Arlo Van de Peer and Eilidh Cameron won the boys' and girls' hill races, respectively.

Not content with coming first in the boys' hill race, Arlo entered the men's race finishing a creditable second to the men's winner Richard Carr.

The women's hill race winner

was Lauren Gane. Richard O'Connor and Joyce Hillard presented the prizes.

The show is organised by the Show and Sports Committee, chaired by Rosie Curtis.

In her closing speech, Rosie thanked committee members and the many volunteers who helped out on the day of the show and before and after too.

She also thanked the show's many sponsors including Watson Seeds, Ardnamurchan Estate, Marine Harvest, Harbro and Agrimony Consulting.

Results: Junior Sports, overall winner on points, GM MacMillan Quaich: Ryan Cameron. Junior Hill Race, Boy Hill Race Cup: Arlo Van de Peer. Junior Hill Race, Girl Hill Race Cup: Eilidh Cameron. Senior Road Race Men, Glenborrodale Cup: Richard Carr. Senior Road Race Ladies, McConnell Salmon Challenge Cup: Lauren Gane.

Heavy events: Senior Overall Heavy Events Winner, Championship Cup: James Campbell. Local Heavy Events Winner, F MacDonald Cup: Bert Cameron. Heavy Events, Junior Boys Winner, Selkirk Cup: Alasdair Peterson. Girls Winner, Girl's Cup: Iona Watson.

Baking, craft and gardening, Best Baker, Baking Cup: Liz MacLeod. Best Gardener, Angus Henderson Shield: Gill Blease. Best Crafter, WASS Prize: Tracy Roslin. Best Pet: Diesel.

Agriculture, Blackface Sheep, Home Bred Shearling, Branault Cup: John Alec Cameron. Ewe Lamb, Portuairk Cup: John Alec Cameron. Champion Sheep, Mingy Cup: Angus John Cameron. Reserve Champion, Plocaig Cup: Alan Curtis. Best Group of Sheep, West



Stock judging. f30 kilchoan games 13 JP



Richard Carr, from Glasgow, competes in the heavy events. f30 kilchoan games 11 JP



Harris, Kitty, Miah and Ruby Bently enjoy their ice-creams. f30 kilchoan games 9 JP



Alasdair Peterson in the boys' egg and spoon race. f30 kilchoan games 3 JP



Locals from Kilchoan enjoy the show and games. f30 kilchoan games 16 JP

Photographs: Abrightside Photography.

Ardnamurchan Shield: Angus John Cameron. Under 18, Best Blackface, Junior Cup: Iain and Cathie MacPhail: Alan Curtis. Cross Breed, Ewe in Milk, JD MacPhail Cup: Nan MacLachlan. Ewe Lambs, Jimmy the Shepherd Memorial Cup: Nan MacLachlan. Tup Lamb, Bob MacWalters Trophy: Nan MacLachlan. Champion Cross Breed, Lord Trent Cup: Nan MacLachlan. Reserve Champion, Alan MacLachlan Cup: Nan MacLachlan. Overall Sheep, Champion Sheep, Alistair MacKenzie Cup: Angus John Cameron. Crofter with most points, West Ardnamurchan Show Cup: Nan MacLachlan. Miscellaneous, Best Wool, Watson Seeds Prize: Chloe Curtis. Fat Lamb, Harbro Prize: Nan MacLachlan.



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There were plenty of smiles on show at the games. f30 kilchoan games 10 JP



Craig Watson competes in the heavy events. f30 kilchoan games 14 JP

View from the Chamber

DEVELOPING the Young Workforce (DYW) West Highland is delighted to be supporting the Highland Business Week's DYW Award.

Winning this award represents a significant acknowledgement of the contribution businesses supporting the DYW programme in the West Highlands have made.

The winner of the West Highland award will go forward to the final of the Highland Business Award for DYW.

The awards will be presented to the employer who can best demonstrate a significant commitment to the development and growth of opportunities for



WORKING FOR BUSINESS IN THE OUTDOOR CAPITAL OF THE UK

young people. Applicants will be judged on opportunities and training offered, relationships with schools and colleges and how investment in the development of young people enhances the organisation's growth and capability.

To enter, visit www.inverness-chamber.co.uk/events/event/highland-business-awards-2017 to download the application.

Co-ordinated by Inverness Chamber of Commerce, Highland Business Week, which runs from Monday to Friday, September 25 to 29, hosts an exciting series of events. The finale of the week is the Highland Business Awards lunch on Friday September 29 at the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness.

Give DYW West Highland a call on 01397 705765 or email to find out the opportunities that are available to your business. info@dywwesthighland.org.

Underwater Centre gets extra cash boost for diving training

MARK ENTWISTLE
MENTWISTLE@obantimes.co.uk

SPECIALIST underwater training in Fort William got a boost with news that the government has awarded funding to support skills development.

The money for The Underwater Centre comes from Skills Development Scotland and will help ensure Scotland is ready to supply the qualified divers and remotely operated vehicle pilots the subsea industry believes it will need in the future.

The downturn in the oil and gas industry has led to a reduction in training by individuals and companies.

Without ongoing investment in training, the fear is skills of older workers retire without the skilled workforce to replace them.

The subsea industry is a key part of the Scottish economy and the Government believes it is vital to support subsea training now so the country's workforce is ready to respond to positive market conditions when oil prices recover, as well as being prepared for opportunities in decommissioning and the offshore renewables sector.

Scottish residents - those who have been living in Scotland for at least the last 12 months - will

be able to train in key courses at The Underwater Centre for 50 per cent of the usual cost.

The other half of the fees will be paid by Skills Development Scotland.

With industry needs in mind, the financial support is targeted towards the specific areas where there are likely to be shortages.

The support is not seeking to bring new people into the offshore industry but is aiming to increase the capability of the people already in the sector.

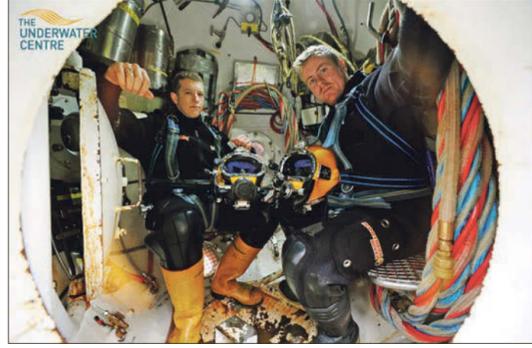
Steve Ham, commercial director at The Underwater Centre, says the support offers huge benefits to the Scottish subsea workforce.

'While none of us have a crystal ball, there are increasing signs the upturn is coming. This support for subsea skills training will help companies benefit more quickly and more effectively from that upturn.'

'It will also help individuals advance their own careers by making it easier to invest in themselves.'

The financial support is available to both individuals and companies who wish to train their staff and candidates are urged to apply as soon as possible.

The total value of the funding is limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.



Divers Danny Low, left, and Ross Jackson in a diving bell during training at The Underwater Centre. F30 Divers in training 01 IF

Fort man punched police officer

A FORT William man has been fined £400 after punching a police officer last year.

Mark Findlay Curtis, 23, of 24 Alma Road, appeared in Fort William Sheriff Court on Wednesday July 19 after he pled guilty to the assault charge.

At 3am on Saturday October 16 2016, Curtis approached a group of men at the taxi rank in Fort William High Street. The men appeared to be heavily intoxicated and were arguing with one another. A police officer approached the group and asked them to move on.

Procurator Fiscal David Morton told the court Curtis had then fallen over because of his drunken state and when he got back up he punched the officer on the right side of his face.

The punch didn't injure the officer, but Curtis was arrested.

Curtis' defence agent Hamish Melrose explained this was the scaffolder's first appearance in court, he had a good work record and had not been in trouble since the incident.

He said Curtis made his way to the taxi rank on the evening last October and saw two men, who he knows, in an argument which became heated.

Mr Melrose said Curtis had wanted to 'diffuse the situation' but was knocked to the ground.

He described Curtis' actions as 'reckless' but said he was thankful the police officer was not hurt.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald fined Curtis £400, a reduction from £450 because of his early guilty plea.

Talent shines through at Fèis



The accordion group on stage. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

DRAMA, dance and singing talent shone through at Fèis Nan Garbh Chrìochan 2017.

More than 100 children attended the five-day event at Acharacle Primary School.

The Fèis, which catered for children from primary four and upwards, celebrated its 27th year, offering youngsters tuition from expert tutors in a variety of instruments, Gaelic singing, drama and dance.

There was also a fun Gaelic workshop for children from primary one and pre-school.

Fèis administrator Amie MacMaster, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Fèis Nan Garbh Chrìochan 2017 was very well attended with 86 children from P4 to S4 attending the main Fèis from Monday July 17 to Friday July 21 and 30 between Fèis Bheag for P1-3 and our new Fèis Beag Biodach for nursery aged children from Tuesday July 18 Friday July 21. We had a great bunch of tutors for the week who showcased their talents at Wednesday night's concert and for the family dance on Thursday. Friday afternoon's concert let our wonderful participants show what they'd been learning before our family ceilidh and finale dance to round things off on Friday night. There are too many supporters to mention - Faing mhòr dhuibh uile.'



Some of the guitar group on stage at the final concert. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

Body found on Barra identified

POLICE Scotland have confirmed that a 32-year-old man who was found dead in the Traigh a' Ghoirtein area of Barra the morning of Thursday July 13 has been formally identified.

He has been named as Iain Johnstone of Castlebay.

There are no suspicious circumstances and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Chief Inspector Gordon Macleod said: 'Our thoughts remain with Mr Johnstone's family following this tragic incident. We ask that their privacy is respected during this difficult time.'



Man denies disorderly charges

A 23-YEAR-OLD man has been charged with behaving in a disorderly manner after he exposed himself to three young boys.

Vadimis Prohorvos of 44 Carn Dearg Road, Claggan, Fort William, appeared from custody at the town's sheriff court on Wednesday July 19, where he pled not guilty to the charge.

Prohorvos is said to have committed the offence at the Roaring Mill, Glen Nevis, Claggan Road - a popular swimming spot - on July 18 2017.

He is accused of exposing his private parts to boys ages 11, 12 and 13, taking hold of one, hugging him and refusing to let go. He is then said to have followed them and loitered in the area they had taken refuge, and committed a breach of the peace, all while on bail.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald granted Prohorvos bail adding these are 'very serious allegations which have been made against you'.

His trial was set for Wednesday September 13.

Banned for 'terrible piece of driving'

AN INVERMORISTON man has been banned from driving for six months and fined £560 for a 'terrible piece of driving'.

Peter Levings of Glendale Park, pled guilty to an amended charge of careless driving on the A82 north of Gairloch junction at Spean Bridge when he appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court on Thursday July 20.

The court heard Levings was returning home after a 10-hour shift at work and was in discomfort from a shoulder problem on December 12

last year. Levings overtook two slower moving cars and tried to pass a lorry at a summit, forcing an oncoming police car to brake from 60mph to 20mph to avoid a collision.

Levings' defence agent said the 33-year-old Marine Harvest technician accepted he had made an error of judgement.

Sentencing him, Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald told Levings: 'This was a terrible piece of driving. A serious collision could have happened.' Levings also had his licence endorsed.

Tribute paid to former councillor

THE CONVENER of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has paid tribute to former councillor Donald Maclean who has died at the age of 85.

Mr Maclean a North Uist councillor, served on the comhairle from 1994 to 2007.

He also served as vice-chairman and chairman of the development services/sustainable development committee, as well as on the Northern Joint Police and Fire Boards and as chairman of the Licensing Board.

Prior to being a councillor, Mr Maclean served with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders before joining the police in 1961 where he rose to the rank of superintendent. Comhairle convener Norman A Macdonald

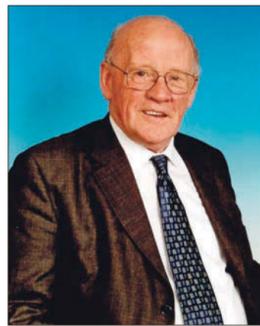
said Mr Maclean had been a fiercely determined representative for the Uists and for the Western Isles, who was renowned for his oratory and debating skills.

'He served our community well and was a key participant in the processes of the comhairle during his many years as a councillor,' said Mr Macdonald.

'He was also known as a character and for his sharpness and wit, particularly in chairing meetings.'

'Our thoughts are with Donald's family and his many friends at this sad time.'

Mr Maclean is survived by his wife Mary and his three children.



Former councillor Donald Maclean.

Concern remains over computers

CONCERNS about the security of library computers in Fort William are still being voiced as High Life Highland (HLH) claims they are updated regularly have been rubbished by one user.

The *Lochaber Times* was contacted by a reader, who wished to remain anonymous, voicing fears about the security of personal details on the public computers earlier this month.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times* she previously said: 'The computer asked me to check the status of the updates and update the firewall. But as an ordinary user of the computers you can't do the updates, it needs to be the administrator of the account.'

'People are putting in case sensitive information, date of birth and card details into these machines, so I think

the security of the computers needs to be maintained. Details could fall into the wrong hands.'

She added: 'A lot of the web pages were crashing when I tried to open them and that is normally a sign of malware.'

HLH, which manages the library, responded to the claims maintaining the computers are 'protected to a high level' and that an IT engineer would be sent to check the notice reported on the computer.

However, the reader has been in touch with the *Lochaber Times* again to say her concerns remain.

She said: 'Things haven't changed with the computers. There have been problems with my email account and it has been hacked. I had to change all my passwords and security information again.'

The Fort William resident fell victim to a hack on a personal computer three weeks ago, after which she was forced to change passwords and login details for various accounts. The hack left hundreds of pounds worth of damage to the computer, which she couldn't afford to fix, and so has been using the library machines to update personal accounts and try to buy a new computer.

'I have only been using the library computers so the emails must have been hacked while I was using the computer there. For HLH to say it has maintained the computers is just complete tripe to be honest.'

A HLH spokesperson confirmed to the *Lochaber Times* the computers have been checked by an IT engineer and are 'safe and secure'.



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AIRSON FOIRM-IARRTAIS CUIRIBH FIOS GU

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DIOPLÒMA ANNS NA MEADHANAN GÀIDHLIG

Anns a' chùrsa seo, gheibh thu cothrom air caochladh sgilean sna meadhanan a leasachadh a tha riatanach airson dreuchd fhaighinn sa ghnìomhachas. Neartaichidh tu na sgilean sgrìobhaidh is labhairt agad sa Ghàidhlig le bhith stèidhichte an dà chuid aig a' Cholaiste agus anns an àite-obrach. Gheibh thu taic is cuideachadh bho eòlaichean craolaidh aig a' bheil eòlas ioma-cuspaireil agus cothrom air na goireasan craolaidh aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig a chleachdadh.

Tha an cùrsa làn-ùine thar dà bhliadhna, leis a' chial bhliadhna stèidhichte aig a' Cholaiste, agus an uair sin cuiridh an luchd-trèanadh 10 mìosan seachd air greis-obrach cuide ri craoladair stèidhichte no companaidh riochdachaidh neo-eisimeileach. Tha ìre fastaidh fìor àrd aig luchd-ceuma an Dioplòma, le còrr is 70% a rinn a' chùrsa seo a-nis a' dèanamh am beòshlaint anns a' ghnìomhachais.

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The course is delivered full-time, over two years with the first year being college-based and following this, trainees will spend a further 10 months on work placement with an established broadcaster or independent production company. The Diploma has a very high employment rate, with over 70% of students who completed this course still working in the media industry today!

FW

Arisaig

A CLANSMAN who flew in for this month's Clan Ranald Gathering at the Arisaig Games generously donated a trip in a light aircraft as a prize for the event's raffle.

This year's games took place yesterday (July 26) at Traigh Farm, Arisaig, and the flight prize was due to be drawn during the event.

Fraser MacDougall, treasurer of Arisaig Games, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'What an excellent experience and a fantastic gift from Mr MacDonald. We are immensely grateful to him.'

The games were preceded on Tuesday evening by a céilidh barbecue on the games field. There was a village parade through Arisaig at 10.15am on games morning and a céilidh dance in Astley Hall, Arisaig, in the evening.

Music this year was provided by Trail West, with the Lochaber Céilidh Trailers playing on Tuesday night.

The games' main sponsor was Ardnamurchan Distillery and events included a variety of Highland Games contests. Full games report next week.

Loch Arkaig

THE OSPREY chick at Loch Arkaig has begun to stretch its wings.

Nicknamed 'Boblet' by online osprey fans from around the world, the chick is just a month old.

Woodland Trust Scotland and local partners Arkaig Community Forest bought Loch Arkaig pine forest earlier this year.

The nest is fitted with a camera, thanks to support from players of the People's Postcode Lottery.

While only tentatively flapping its wings at the moment, it won't be long before this chick fledges and flies off to the warmer climes of Africa for the winter.

The live feed page from the camera has attracted a community of avid osprey watchers from just the other side of the loch to the other side of the globe.

Woodland Trust Scotland staff named the adult birds Louis and Aila, but it was page commentators that arrived at 'Boblet', reflecting the bobble-stage of a young chick.

Plockton

PLOCKTON Brewery founder Andy Will celebrated 20 years of the business earlier this month.

Mr Will invited people to go along and enjoy various real ales, with musical entertainment by the Iron Mid-den Band.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in Plockton this month, Jane Mackenzie launched her third book, *Mediterranean Summer*, at Plockton Hall, where she signed every copy bought.

During June, Plockton saw 3.5 inches of rain, with only seven dry days. The warmest day of the month was 21°C, compared to 28°C recorded in May. The coolest day of June was 4°C.



Plockton Brewery founder Andy Will.

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Skye dancer Sophie helps keep ancient Gaelic tradition alive

A 26-YEAR-OLD dancer from Skye is helping to bring an ancient Gaelic tradition into the 21st century.

Sophie Stephenson, originally from Fort Augustus, is an expert in Scottish step dance and has taught and performed around the world, including Canada, the US, Norway and Spain.

Step dance is a percussive style that had almost vanished in Scotland before its re-introduction two decades ago.

Its survival can be attributed to 18th-century New World settlers who passed down the traditional Gaelic arts to their descendants over the centuries.

Like the stories, music and crafts, step dancing is still very much alive in communities on the other side of the Atlantic today, particularly in the Canadian Maritimes, and was more recently re-introduced into Scotland's folk scene through workshops and festivals.

Sophie took her first step dance classes aged 11 with pioneering dancer Harvey Beaton, from Cape Breton. After university,

she moved to South Uist and attended the University of the Highlands and Islands in Benbecula. It was here she began teaching weekly step classes. A dance travel scholarship then took her to Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island and then she came to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Sleat in 2013 to study Gaelic.

She now works in the college's marketing department, while still teaching step dance through her Sophabulous Step Dance classes and workshops.

'I am trying to promote a fresh take on the tradition by bringing it into theatre and film and through collaborating with international artists,' she explained.

Sophie heads for the Festival Interceltique de Lorient next month in Brittany before returning to Skye for a Sophabulous Step Dance Weekend, with workshops at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig during the Skye Festival - Fèis an Eilein.

The weekend takes place on Saturday and Sunday August 19 and 20 and is suitable for adults and children over 12.



Scottish step dance specialist Sophie Stephenson.



One of the heavy events at Lochcarron Highland Games.

Games attract a bumper crowd

THIS year's Lochcarron Highland Games attracted people from as far afield as the United States and Europe.

This was the 39th games and a first-class field of competitors kept the bumper crowd at Attadale Estate, Wester Ross, enthralled with their displays of skills and strength earlier this month. The games, sponsored by The Scottish Salmon Company, celebrated Scottish dancing, traditional sports, music and food with visitors also getting the chance to sample some of SSC's finest fresh salmon and other Scottish delicacies.

Visitors from the USA, France, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and

the Netherlands were treated to performances by local groups including Lochcarron Highland Dancers, Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band and Ullapool and District Pipe Band.

The flagship heavy events saw Inver's Jason Young dominating, winning seven out of eight events including the British Championship 56lb weight over the bar competition.

Other highlights of the day included Tony Daffurn, of Wishaw, placing first in the 100m and 200m sprints, long jump and triple jump.

Finlay Murray from Tain won the 400m, the British Championship 800m and the 1,600m. The standing long jump was won by

Andrew MacGillivray, of Calrossie, while Cody Wells triumphed in the hill race. Maureen Brown, chairwoman of the Lochcarron Games Association, said: 'Thank you to The Scottish Salmon Company for its invaluable support. The Lochcarron Highland Games are an important part of our local community and it is tremendous to have sponsors who value the tradition of the games.'

This year Lochcarron Highland Games Association raised £3,300 to support local organisations including the Howard Doris Centre, Lochcarron Coastal Rowing Association, the Guy Fawkes Society, Lochcarron Writers Group and Lochcarron Shinty Club.

Solicitors made partners at Lochaber law firm

A LOCHABER law firm has promoted two of its solicitors to partners.

Christine MacKay joined MacPhee & Partners in 2014, returning to her Highland roots and bringing with her more than 20 years' experience in the legal profession.

A former equity partner of a central belt firm, Christine heads up the firm's commercial department and has been involved in high value and high profile transactions.

Claire Bamber, who originally hails from Onich, has worked for MacPhee & Partners for more than 13 years. She qualified as a solicitor in March 2015, winning Trainee Solicitor of the Year at the Scottish Law Awards.

Claire deals with all the firm's sheriff court work in Fort William and heads up its family law team. She also deals with guardianship applications and residential tenancies.

Managing partner Duncan MacPhee said: 'We are delighted to welcome Claire and Christine to the partnership. It is a



Claire Bamber, left, and Christine MacKay.

reflection of their commitment to the firm and of their sound knowledge and specialist experience in their respective areas of law.'

RETRO Roamer

This week has seen the reintroduction of the dining car (First Class) on the West Highland Line. Shades of Skeesh and Allan.

The only thing that surprises me about the bringing back of this facility/luxury, after such a long interval, is the price: £18.90 return inclusive of the meal. I reckon it would be more nostalgic to call it Eighteen Guineas.

I did wonder, however, whether poached salmon might have made a comeback on the menu. In the good old days when the dynamic duo were in charge the answer, invariably, to queries in Glasgow was 'Sorry, we only serve poached salmon on the southbound journey' from Mallaig and Fort William. Work that one out, folks.

Oh, the discomfiture of Ally Cameron, prime mover of the Fort William branch of the Aberdeen FC Supporters Club. What did his wee fella want for his birthday? A Rangers scarf. My, was Ally's face red!

I was intrigued to see two 'towrists' sitting in Boni's on Wednesday morning. They were seemingly intent on having lunch but, as the only other people around the restaurant were the workmen renovating the premises prior to the re-opening, they would have had a long wait.

Meanwhile, across the street, Eric Wallace was caught without lights. Not on one of his vehicles, you understand. No, his shop was packed and the 'towrists' and locals were taking their turn to be served, when the whole place was plunged into darkness. Not only that but the freezer went kaput.

The cause? Excavations under the shop which had revealed the former Caledonian Hotel's 'washing well' - a sump well filled with water to wash crockery and cutlery. Not 'wishing well', although Eric could have been forgiven for preferring that function. 'Well! Well! Well!', Eric was heard to say.

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team's PR stall in the adjoining Cameron Square certainly took a trick. Particularly as Genghis Khanderson was on parade, wearing his thonged thing. I hope he doesn't run out of gas because on Monday he was delegated to transport a gas heater up to the CIC Hut and forgot to take the cylinder.

This was in advance of GK being sent back to Edinburgh for elocution lessons, ken, prior to the royal visit next week. It is already rumoured that the Prince of Wales and Genghis Khanderson will be comparing 'notes'. Both share an interesting social distinction. Neither of them carries any money.

Tightrope walking, dram drinking, joke cracking. Prince Charles took Lochaber by storm when he paid a whirlwind visit to Fort William to meet the likely lads of the UK's busiest mountain rescue team.

'A wonderful day, a great day, everyone enjoyed it. Prince Charles enjoyed it, we enjoyed it, our wives enjoyed it'. That was the summing up by Donald Watt, Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team leader of the red letter day.

The welcome for Prince Charles when he arrived in the Fort was heightened when, wearing the kilt, he stepped out of his helicopter. After meeting everyone, it was off to Steall Bothy for a céilidh. The Prince was required to tackle the wire bridge which spans 60 feet of the River Nevis at Steall. He accomplished this with aplomb, to be met on the other bank by 25 rescue team members waiting to greet the 'Prince Over The Water'.

From there it was a beeline for the bothy, and a Prince among Mountain Men embarked on 45 minutes of repartee. And some craic it was too, as the sounds of gales of laughter came booming out of the bothy to the world's press waiting outside. The occasional quiet period, equally frustrating for the reporters, was explained by the fact all the men inside were consuming a dram - or two, ken!

Meanwhile, no room at the local inns. But the 'towrist' office and the Salvation Army became the saviours when last Tuesday's rush developed into overflow mode. The police station came to the rescue as well. 'Lochaber Once More' accommodated all the visitors.

The things you hear in the High Street. Male half of a Glasgow Fair holidaying couple - with three youngsters - standing outside MacFarlane the Chemist's. 'You won't get any plastic plants in there,' said the self-assured husband. His long suffering wife gave back with 'It's plastic pants I'm looking for. Away you to the pub out of the road!'

I gather one of the 'full supporting features' at the cinema these summer evenings is pipe band music. Apparently the strains of the pipes are providing more than interval music 'at the pictures' as the pipers and drummers gather in Cameron Square. But surely that has to be an improvement on the two gramophone records they used to put on in the Playhouse?

It could only happen in Fort William. In one of those High Street chain shops to be precise. For reasons best known to the owners there is no telephone in it. It so happened the manageress locked her keys in the till. So she had to go out to a phone box to make contact with 'higher authority' - leaving the premises in the capable hands of the window cleaner.

There's a suggestion Mallaig sheep will be sent down to Fort William to attend to the grass growing in among the seats in Cameron Square. For the money it has cost to pave the square, I would have thought the contractors would have been happy to hand over the grazing rights in perpetuity.



The Studio Cinema in Cameron Square, Fort William, prior to the last picture show.

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Viewpoint

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Most of us could not even begin to imagine what it would be like to undertake a mammoth endeavour such as that done by Colin Skeath and his nephew David Gould-Duff.

The two men this week arrived back in Strontian after completing their gargantuan canoe trip round the entire coastline of the United Kingdom.

Mr Skeath, a former police officer who lives in Strontian, and Mr Gould-Duff, from Limerick, decided to undertake the unprecedented journey in their open canoe to raise funds for the very deserving charity, Forget Me Not Children's Hospice in Huddersfield.

The two men are thought to be the first people ever to paddle round the entire British coastline in an open canoe.

It is intriguing to read their comments reported in this edition of the *Lochaber Times*, telling of the hardship and daunting challenges they faced.

It would be a difficult enough journey in any kind of vessel but to achieve what they have is nothing short of remarkable, given that they faced at times force seven gales and sea swells as high as four metres.

We are very glad they have returned safely and salute them for their fantastic effort.



Days gone by – 1995

It was a right royal occasion in August 1995 when the Queen visited Oban. The visit was made all the more memorable for some local girls when Her Majesty stopped to chat to Oban Brownies.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk

From St Kilda to Stuttgart – final part

AFTER an energising and enjoyable voyage to Cushendall in Northern Ireland, with Murdo MacLeod and family, we arrived back at the Ach-na-ba pontoon on Thursday evening, having departed from there 12 hours previously.

Whether somebody is a school teacher, a chef, a circus juggler or, like the MacLeods, running a multi-million-pound construction company, if you love what you do, and concentrate your energy on it, you will excel at it.

Finding that occupation and having the drive to get rid of the clutter and keep focused, is not easy, but people like the MacLeods, who run one of the most successful companies in Argyll, show it can be done.

So I headed off down to Glasgow with increased vigour, and a strong reminder to keep working on what brings satisfaction and fulfilment.

The gig we performed at in York-shire the next night was just one of these satisfying experiences – great audience, lovely organisers and the novelty of our songs being belted out in the accent of Compo from *Last of the Summer Wine*.

Social media

Traffic chaos on the roads last week caused by a wide load moving through the area during the middle of the day prompted widespread condemnation.

James Johnson said: 'This is down to police Scotland the transport company's only move when police escort these loads99% of haulage company's including the company moving these loads want to move loads like this at night for less disruption for every road user. But the police make the final decision on times of movements'

Eleane Tweedly posted: 'Lost count of the number of times I've seen more or less the whole of Oban shut down for several hours so they can take wide loads the opposite direction to the usual traffic flow as it's the only way to get them past the roundabout at Nan-

cy Blacks to the ferry terminal. And it's invariably done at this time of year to the horror of the locals & amazement & frustration of the tourists!'

Iain Davidson responded: 'having lived in Oban for 25 years or so I can give you hours & hours of accounts of what your talking about Eleane, personally I would sack who ever it is that plans Oban's road layout and deals with planning applications as they have landed up with major supermarkets, builders merchants, industrial estates & other businesses with the only access being a badly timed set of traffic lights at the high school leading every car & delivery lorry into this - crazy!'

Vary Ferguson suggested: 'It should be done at night or later in the day when the roads are quieter.or by boat direct to Glensanda.'

Eventually because of a very amazing and determined customer service lady, after three hours on the phone to different KLM departments and juggling flights about, she managed, just in the nick of time to get us all onto a later flight.

By hook or by crook we had to make the gig so some of us began looking at alternative airports, different routes and different modes of transport, while Andrew went to KLM customer-services to kick up a stink.

What relief! But it was the flight from hell. Directly in front of us were two overly-refreshed women heading for a weekend in Amsterdam, and a few seats up from there, a group of similarly drunken body-builder types on a stag weekend.

We were all in dire need of sleep, or at least a bit of peace and quiet, but the girl who was directly in front of us proceeded to sing loudly and astoundingly badly. Egged on by the rabble of increasingly rowdy stag-trippers, as the flight progressed, the lassie got louder and alarmingly even less in tune.

With a few celebratory trips under my belt this year, I shouldn't be too hard on the overly jolly passengers but it was with great thanks we finally escaped her singing when we arrived in Stuttgart.

The Germans went surprisingly wild for the music and the trip home was hassle-free for all of us except poor Andrew, who, because of knock-on effects from the previous day's debacle, had been booked on the wrong flight home. KLM are off his Christmas card list.

Variety is the spice of life and those six days delivered great contrasts of travel, occupation, people and place.

Peter Taylor wrote: 'Whoever planned that to take place during the day in the peak summertime tourist season should be fired.'

Sandra Jamieson lamented: 'We got stuck in this, why was this being moved during the day, causing ridiculous tail backs.'

Gwyn Moses said: 'It's almost like it's deliberately timed to make it most difficult for people who live here or are just visiting.'

Catherine Macinnes asked: 'Why can't they go through the glen at night?'

Paul Redmond blasted: 'Nitemare. 2 hrs to go from Fort William to Onich then had to follow it up to the barge that goes over to the gleansanda quarry.'

Julie Campbell said: 'Idiots! Ridiculous timing and no communication.'

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

It is time Oban GPs embraced technology

Sir, I have no problems with BBC staff being well paid as they actually do the job they are paid to do.

In contrast, bureaucrats at NHS Highland cannot organise a drinking party at a distillery.

Some 20 years ago I was using email to contact my GP in Worcester. Then, in 2010, the GP in Derby introduced online appointment booking alongside telephone appointments. Apparently Oban GPs are thinking about using carrier pigeons as NHS Highlands still has stocks of quill pens to use up. If bureaucrats did what they were paid to do, we would already have repeat prescriptions online or on the phone from the pharmacies. Much cheaper, much faster and less pressure on our overworked GPs.

We can thus only wonder if health-care executives have been replaced by haddock.

Mike Foster,
Pulpit Hill, Oban.

It is time to build a bridge at Corran

Sir, Accidents happen and I want to applaud the professionalism of the Corran ferry skipper and crew.

However, the absence of the back-up ferry, being away for its spring service at the height of the tourist season, is mismanagement by the council officials. When did it leave?

While Mull and Skye are bursting at the seams with tourists, Ardnarnachan and Morvern has now effectively been closed to tourists. The alternative is a 35-mile detour, half of which is along a single-track road which has not had its verges cut, and through the traffic congestion in Fort William.

In recent years, the Highland Council has massively raised the fares, despite the ferry being in profit.

It is time for a low level, opening bridge, as proposed in local development plans. Planning and the design for this should be paid for from the City Region deal.

Dr Michael Foxley,
Highland Councillor for
Corran ferry 1986-2012.

Swift response from roads department

Sir, I was very pleased to see Argyll and Bute Council's roads department cutting the grass verges beside many roads on Islay.

Some of these areas, particularly near the outlying farms, have not had their verges cut in over five years. I had highlighted this problem to our roads department after many local residents contacted me and I'm pleased with the swift response.

I'd like to give my thanks to the local roads department and its management for addressing this issue. I have also spoken to many local residents that are happy with the work that has been done.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

BHEIL CUIMHN' AGAIBHSE air droch aimsir nuair a bha sibh òg? Bha a h-uile latha air am bheil cuimhne agamsa tioram, grianach.

Car mar a bha am bàrd ainmeil Cuimreach Dylan Thomas anns a' bhàrdachd Fern Hill nuair a thill e a thadhail air tuathanas air an do chuir e seachad mòran ùine na òige. Bha a chuimhneachain làn sonais, spòrs, agus iongnaidh, ach nuair a thill e na inbheach bha na fhuaire e cho eadar-dhealaichte.

Ach cha robh adhbhar gearrain sam bith againne a thaobh na h-aimsire fad seachdain san Eilean Sgitheanach, bha i dìreach sònraichte a' mhòr-chuid den ùine agus b' e call a bh'ann gun robh uimhir de dhleastanasan obrach rin coinneachadh.

Bha na craobhan na choinneamh an taighe na dlùth-choille agus thug an sgioblachadh fad latha dhan dithis againn. Eadar gàirnealairachd, saorsainneachd, is plumaireachd cha robh cus ùine dhiomhain againn ged

The Green Party is anything but insipid

Sir, In reply to W B Coutts (Letters, *The Oban Times*, July 13), I find it strange that he uses the insulting word 'insipid' about the Green Party.

What is insipid about 'working to promote a caring, confident society that works for all people'?

He can easily see the party's manifesto by clicking Google as I just did.

And, no, I did not vote for them.

Lorna Cammock,
Uddingston.

Is it legal to impose parking fines?

Sir, I think Argyll and Bute Council is committing an offence in taking money from people in parking fines, when it does not provide them with the means to pay for the ticket in the first place.

I got a ticket as I couldn't get the machine to accept my two £1 coins, so I left a note explaining, with my two coins, visible on the dashboard, to show that I had tried to pay, yet still a hard-hearted warden gave me a ticket.

I will see what the response is from Kilmory as I wrote to object and explain. But the council should not have meters that don't take the currency of the country.

Mary Brown,
by email.

Corran ferry crew deserve high praise

Sir, Full credit must be awarded to the skipper and crew of the Corran ferry who averted what could have been a serious accident on Saturday July 15.

Without steering, they managed to berth the boat at Nether Lochaber slipway, an almost impossible task with a gale blowing and a swift tide running.

Their quick thinking and adaptability should be highly appreciated by all ferry users.

Well done, chaps.
Morag MacKintosh
Corran, Nether Lochaber.

ACHA puts emphasis on tenants' wishes

Sir, I write to you in relation to a letter you published in your issue of July 6 in which a lady claimed that, as a tenant of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), she found she was at their mercy with no choices surrounding the investment and regeneration programme.

I must point out, that I am in no way affiliated to ACHA and nor am I carrying out any work for them, or likely to be doing so, and as such am not biased in any direction.

ACHA manages in excess of 5,000 houses and, over a four-year period, I personally was in at least 60 per cent of these houses. I can confirm the

emphasis that was placed on tenant choices and any considerations or additional support that was required while the work was carried out. This included contacting additional agencies where necessary.

These visits were always with ACHA representation, and tenants were all given the chance to participate in any decision-making. It should also be pointed out that some chose not to participate.

All tenants were spoken to about the proposed works and the implications.

Having worked in all but one of the ACHA areas, I can also confirm that the level of commitment from the area teams on checking the work was stringent, and this was monitored on a regular basis.

I feel that given the commitment of these people, and the time and resources that I have seen put in – I felt the comments published were very unfair, and in no way reflect what I saw happening throughout.

I would actually applaud the investment and regeneration team for pushing the work carried out to date.

Name and address supplied.

Newsreaders on the BBC are 'talent'?

Sir, I am spectacularly under-concerned at the level of the BBC's remuneration for popular entertainers whose programmes are no doubt marketed by the corporation at a profit.

What is hard to stomach is the proportion of my licence fee being spent on mere newsreaders when surely such 'talent' can be sourced cheaply from regional programmes.

Even better, with Brexit in prospect, the BBC should look to recruit more broadcasters from our former colonies in the West Indies where wages may be low but the standards of literacy and spoken language seem infinitely superior to those currently obtaining in this benighted land.

John Eoin Douglas,
Spey Terrace, Edinburgh.

Where have all the air weapons gone?

Sir, The Scottish Government said there were 500,000 air weapons in Scotland and that owners had to acquire a licence from Police Scotland or hand in their weapons before January 1, 2017. This put Police Scotland under even more pressure as no additional funds or manpower were made available.

The latest figures indicate that nearly 21,000 weapons were handed in and that 12,384 licences were issued. That is only 33,000 out of the reputed 500,000.

Clark Cross,
Springfield Road Linlithgow.

Clarification

In *The Oban Times* (Thursday July 6), we published a letter from ACHA tenant Margaret MacKay, Barcaldine, questioning whether 'polystyrene' was being used on ACHA buildings. *The Oban Times* accepts that there is no evidence to support this in fact.

Ailean Caimbeul

a ghabh sinn cothrom a dhol a-mach gu biadh dà fheasgar.

Bha sin air leth math agus feumar a ràdh gum bheil ìre thaighean-bidh na Gàidhealtachd air togail gu inbhe àrd thar nam beagan bhliadhnaichean a dh'fhalbh.

Eadar gach nì a bha sin thòisich mi cuideachd blàr! Blàr nam Buaghallan-Buidhe! Chan eil ach aon mhathas air an luibh chroiseil seo agus 's e sin gum bheil freumhan staoin air agus gun ghabh e slaodadh às an talamh meadhanach furasta. Bha uair a bhathas a' creidsinn gur e crodh a bha a' sgaioleadh mòran de leithid seo de luibhean nam buachar ach tha cuimhne agam mar gum b' ann an dè a thachair e an latha a bhàsaich deagh mhart oirnn, agus gur e a bhith ag ithe bhughallan a mharbh i.

Chan eil mi den bheachd gun robh fios aig duine sa bhaile againn gu ruige sin gun robh am buaghallan cho puinnseanta, agus b' e àm oideachaidh gu math cosgail a bh' ann dha m' athair. Bha sinne nar cloinn brònach ag ionndrainn na bà ruaidhe ged a bha beagan togail anns an othail is muinntir a' bhaile a' cruinneachadh

gus a ciosach a shlaodadh bhon bhàthaich gu ruige toll aig iochdar an lot san deach a tiodhlacadh.

'S iomadh uair bhon uairsin a tha mi fhìn 's mo pheathraichean air còmhraidh mun chleachdadh a bh' ann aig an àm sin a bhith a' cur na cloinne a thogail chuisseagan-ruadha agus bhughallan-buidhe às na stàdhan feòir mar a bha na spealadairean gan gearradh. Bhiomaid a' giùlan ultaich dharrbh sin gu oirean nan achannan gun foir againn gum faodamaid a bhith gar puinnseanachadh. Nach math an cofhurtachd a th'ann an aineolas aig amannan!

AMONG the chores I tackled during a few days in Skye was a new 'declaration of war' against rampant ragwort, which seems to be ever spreading.

Now recognised as harmful to equine and bovine stock in particular there was no awareness of this when we, as children, were tasked to gather it and dock weed from newly scythed hay meadows years ago.

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

Press policy

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

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

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

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

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

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

Tributes paid to 'precious, fun-loving' Kayla, eight

LOUISE GLEN

lglen@obantimes.co.uk

AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD girl who died during an incident near Benderloch at the weekend has been described by her parents as loving 'music and dance as well as doing hair, nails and make-up'.

Kayla MacDonald, a pupil at the Rockfield Gaelic-medium unit in Oban, died at the scene of the incident on a forestry path on Sunday. She was a fluent Gaelic speaker.

The well-loved daughter was home for the weekend after spending most of the summer holidays on the island of Tiree.

Last Friday the youngster won the much-coveted prize for young stockperson's best cross-bred ewe lamb suitable for breeding, the Annie Cameron Cup for the overall champion in the cattle and sheep sections.

Kayla also won the reserve prize for the best young handler at Tiree Agricultural Show.

People who knew Kayla have talked about her beauty, her kindness and the joy it was to be in her company both as a pupil at school and as a childhood friend.

Kayla, who has two younger brothers, lived in Dunbeg, though her family has a long association with Tiree.

Families and friends, who said they will 'miss her dearly', were joined by people from all over the world who mourned the loss of the 'fun-loving' youngster who passed away in the tragic accident.

Kayla's family said: 'Kayla was a precious, fun-loving eight-year-old who was loved by everyone around her. Kayla's smile would light up a room.'

Her family issued a statement saying: 'Our wee girl loved music and dance as well as doing hair, nails and make-up. Kayla has two younger brothers who, along with the rest of her family and friends, will miss her dearly.'

A statement from Police Scotland said: 'Around 2.20pm, police and emergency services were called to a report that a young girl had been trapped under logs in a forest area at Benderloch and that another 12-year-old girl had also been injured.'

'Kayla was pronounced dead at the scene.'

'The 12-year-old girl was taken to Oban hospital before being transferred to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow for treatment.'

'Medical staff describe her condition as stable.'

'A joint investigation between Police Scotland and the Health and Safety Executive will take place to establish the full circumstances surrounding the death.'

'However, it is not being treated as suspicious.'

'A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.'

'It is understood the 12-year-old, who remains in hospital, is a relative of Kayla.'

'The youngsters are believed to have been on a walk with family when the incident happened.'

A spokesperson for Forest Enterprise Scotland said: 'Our thoughts are with the family and their friends at this very difficult time and we offer them our deepest condolences.'

'We will now focus on working with the site contractor, Tilhill Forestry, and the Health and Safety Executive as investigations into this tragic incident continue.'



Little Kayla MacDonald was pictured as recently as Friday at the Tiree Show with her dad Alastair 'Ettie' and her brother Ruairidh.

GAELIC singer and songwriter Claire Jordan, who was Kayla's teacher, wrote a poetic tribute to Kayla, entitled *Sleep Tight, Little Angel*.

Nighean bheag, bhòidheach, bhàin,
Làn beatha, aighear 's spòrs,
Pearsantachd cho mòr ris a' bheinn,
'S tu bha cho coibhneil, còir.
Sùilean dealrach ris na reultan,
Gruag mar a' ghrian òir-bhuidh'
Fiamh-ghàire mhòr, èibhneas,
Cadal socair, sàmhach nis, a' luaidh.
'S muladach sinn as d' aonais,
Do bhàs air ar leòn,
Sgèith cho àrd a-nis, a' luaidh,
Cho àrd ris na h-eòin.
'S tu a-nis nad rionnag, àrd
Shuas anns na speuran,
Tha nàmh air aingeal eile
fhaighinn,
Chan urrainn dhuinn a' creidsinn.
Cha bhith faclan idir ann,
As urrainn dhuinn a ràdh,
Ach bidh thu na ar smuaintean,
Gu sìor-siorraidh - Oidhche Mhath.
Sleep tight, little angel

Beautiful little fair-haired girl
Full of life, joy and fun,
Personality as big as the mountain,
You were so generous and kind.
Eyes bright as the stars,
Hair locks like the golden sun
Great, joyful smiles;
Sleep peacefully, quiet now, loved one.
We are sad without you,
Your passing has wounded us,
Fly so high now, loved one,
As high as the birds.
You are now a star
High up in the sky,
Heaven has gained another angel.
It is hard for us to believe it.
There are no words at all
That we can say,
But you shall be in our thoughts,
Eternally - good night.
Sleep tight, little angel.

Annual ceilidh trail is in full swing

THE annual three-week Argyll Ceilidh Trail has got off to a 'fantastic' start.

Annually since 2010, Oban-based Fèis Latharna has been running the tour of Argyll and the Isles, where seven of the area's finest young traditional musicians play a total of 18 gigs.

The aim of the trail is to provide the young musicians with the opportunity to experience work as professional traditional musicians whilst promoting local traditional music and Gaelic culture.

Chairman of Fèis Latharna Ewan MacDonald said: 'The tour has been very successful so far - we have just finished week one, but the grand finale is on August 5 in Skippinish Ceilidh in Oban.'

'They have got a variety of tunes for dancing, concert sets, and songs in Gaelic and English.'

'It's quite a young tour this year, but they are doing fantastically - they are going down well everywhere.'

This year's line up is: Alex Houston (Taynuilt), guitar and vocals; Bronwen Davies (Scammadale), fiddle, cajon and vocals; Heather Fothergill (Oban), guitar, mandolin, stompbox and vocals; Isaac Stanesby (Tarbert), accordion and vocals; James Divers (Benderloch), lead vocals, pipes and whistles; Kate MacPherson (Benderloch), pipes, whistles and vocals; and Holli Scott (Dunoon), fiddle and vocals.

The trail will also be at Gigha, July 27; Carradale, July 28; Tayvallich, July 29; The Old Inn, Appin, July 30; Victory Hall, Benderloch, August 1; Craignish, August 2; Kilmore Hall, August 3; and An Cridhe on the Isle of Coll, August 5.

Fort William Accommodation Marketing Group

Local B&Bs celebrate over £500,000 bookings

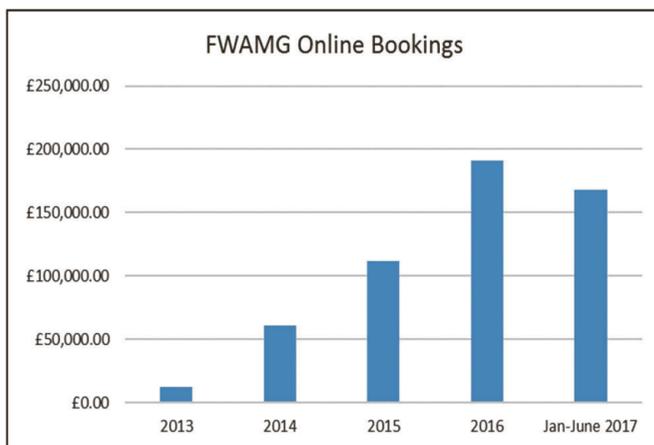
The Fort William Accommodation Marketing Group (FWAMG) is delighted to announce £543k of locally generated, commission free, online bookings to June 2017. FWAMG was started in 2011 by 8 local B&Bs that recognised working together had to be the best way forward for the many independent accommodation businesses in the town.

The group, now with 37 members, share a website at www.fortwilliam-guesthouse.com from which, since May 2013, over 4,000 separate bookings have been directly received (1,600 in the last year alone). High Google rankings, referrals, online availability, online booking and group search facilities now make the site "the place to go" for many of our visitors looking for accommodation in the area. The popularity of the site and the value of bookings continues to grow year on year.

In a local accommodation market becoming dominated by the global Online Travel Agents (OTAs) who demand high commissions and impose increasingly restrictive policies, FWAMG helps members to keep control of their own booking terms and conditions, build direct relationships with their own guests and to retain significantly more margin within their own business.

Working together doesn't stop there though, members and local suppliers all benefit from a series of co-operative arrangements between the group and other local businesses in the Lochaber area. Long standing agreements providing preferential pricing for members operate side by side with co-operative marketing arrangements with local activity providers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the many local businesses who have supported and helped the group become established. There is not enough space to mention everyone but we are very grateful to all of you.

The group is open to all B&Bs and Guesthouses in the Fort William and Glen Spean area. For more information please email membership@fortwilliam-guesthouse.com.



Above: An illustration of the dramatic increase in Fort William Accommodation Marketing Group online bookings.

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South Lochaber Thistle travel to take on Oban Saints

Football

SOUTH Lochaber Thistle travel to take on Scottish Amateur Premier Division side Oban Saints in a pre-season friendly match on Saturday. The game will be played at Glencruitan with a 2pm kick-off.

Both teams will be using this to try out some youngsters and to give their players much needed game time before the season starts in the middle of August.

The Lochaber boys, who played in the West of Scotland League last season, picking up two pieces of silverware, the Challenge Shield and the Thomson Memorial Trophy, have already played Saints in the annual D & K Cup tournament at the beginning of July, albeit the game was only 40 minutes. The Lochaber side will ply their trade in the Greater Glasgow League this coming season.

The Jags pre-season fixtures are - Mallaig, away, last night (Wednesday), Oban Saints away on Saturday then they play in the eight-team Argyll and Bute Cup tournament in Lochgilphead on Saturday August 5 before finishing off with a home game against Inverness Thistle on Saturday August 12. The new league season starts on Saturday August 19.

Club lotto draws Lottery numbers

THERE is £1,100 available in the Fort William Golf Club lotto draw today. Last weeks winning numbers were 1, 11 and 14 but there were no winners.

Winning numbers in the Ballachulish Shinty lotto for the draw on July 23 were 7, 12 and 19. Don Bennet in Ballachulish had the correct numbers and won the £200 on offer. There will be another £200 up for grabs next weekend.

West Ardnamurchan regatta to welcome round-Britain canoeist

WEST Ardnamurchan's 34th Regatta will welcome home a man who will have completed a paddle around mainland Britain in an open canoe.

Ex-police officer Colin Skeath, who now lives in Strontian, and his nephew, Davis Gould-Duff, from Limerick, will just have completed the first round-Britain voyage in an open Canadian canoe, when Colin and wife Katrina are welcomed to the regatta next month.

The two left Strontian in April in a Swift Temagami canoe to travel the 2,500-mile

route clockwise round Britain in aid of the Forget Me Not children's charity, a hospice which supports children with life-shortening conditions and their families.

Regatta chairman Alastair MacColl said the group, and the village, is looking forward to welcoming the pair back to celebrate.

He said: 'It will be a great honour for us to have Colin and his wife, who was part of his support team, as our guests and to celebrate their achievement. 'Colin and Davis are fine role



Davis Gould Duff and his uncle Colin Skeath



Colin Skeath and nephew Davis Gould Duff pictured setting off from Strontian for their challenge to circumnavigate mainland Britain in aid of the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice.

models for the young people which our annual regatta seeks to encourage. We also very much hope that Colin will take part.

'When they set off on their adventure in April, they spent the first night at Shore Cottage in Kilchoan, at the site of the regatta.

'The West Ardnamurchan Regatta is always a very enjoyable day out and great fun both

for participants and spectators. As well as the races, there's lots more to do - a 'guess the weight of the lobster' competition, a raffle for a huge hamper, and stalls for jewellery, woodwork, cushions and candles, and paintings. Then in the evening, there's the annual Regatta Dance.'

The West Ardnamurchan Regatta takes place on Thursday August 3 and Friday August 4,

Regatta

starting at 10am.

Sailing races start on the Thursday, followed by canoeing, rowing, outboard, power boat and more sailing races on the Friday.

More from Alastair MacColl on 01972 510 358 or Jon Haylett on 01972 510 293 or jehaylett@btinternet.com

Results from Fort William golf club

Golf

ON TUESDAY July 11 the Campbell Homes Medal was played with the following result: 1 Iain Fyfe net 67 (79 - 12); 2 Martin Kerr net 69 (93 - 24); 3 Brian Stewart Jnr net 75 (89 - 14)

On Saturday July 15 the Vice Captain's Prize was played with the following result: 1 Craig Jamieson net 63 (91 - 28); 2 Neil Worsdall net 69 (80 - 11) BIH; 3 Willie Duncan net 69 (83 - 14).

On Sunday July 16 a Stableford competition was played with the following result: 1 Graeme Worsdall 41 points BIH; 2 Steven Jamieson 41 points; 3 Ronald MacDonald 38 points.

On Saturday July 22 the Campbell Homes Stableford competition was played with the following result: 1 Jason Wallace 42 points; 2 David MacPherson 37 points BIH; 3 Frank Sweeney 37 points.

On Sunday July 23 a Singles Versus Par competition was played with the following results: 1 Andrew Bergin 3 up; 2 Neil Worsdall 2 up; 3 Ian Robertson, all square.

Ladies - On Tuesday July 11 a 12-hole Par competition was played with the following result: 1 Ann Lovatt 2 down; 2 Hazel Cameron 4 down; 3 Iona Cameron 4 down.

On Tuesday July 18 a Medal and Eclectic competition was played with the following result: 1 Kathleen Leitch net 78 (94 - 16); 2 Iona Cameron net 81 (101 - 20).

On Saturday July 22 the E Howie Trophy together with the July Medal was played with the following result: 1 Kathleen Leitch net 71 (87 - 16); 2 Iona Cameron net 81 (101 - 20) (BIH); 3 Rosemary Macintyre net 81 (93 - 12).

The results for the Golf Week sponsored by Ben Nevis Distillery are as follows: Monday July 17 - Two person Texas Scramble (12 hole) - Peter Stewart and Pat Cassidy 30 points; 2 Martin Duncan and Mark MacPherson 29 points; 3 Martin Kerr and John Wattman 28 points.

Tuesday July 18 - Strokeplay Competition (12 holes) - 1 Keith Sangster net 40 (49 - 9); 2 Stephen Howden net 43 (50 - 7); 3 James Duncan net 44 (53 - 9)

Wednesday July 19 - Three person Scramble (12 holes)

Winner: Alan Overend, Keith Sangster and Robert McCover 34 points; 2 Brian Stewart Jnr, Charles Luxton and Ryan Haggerty 33 points (BIH); 3 Callum McColl, Kevin O'Meara and Greg Farrell 33 points

Thursday July 20 - Singles Stableford (12 holes) - 1 Andrew Bergin 29 points; 2 Paddy MacPherson 27 points; 3 Willie Duncan 26 points.

Friday July 21 - Three clubs and a putter (12 holes) - 1 Alan Overend 26 points; 2 Keith Sangster 23 points; 3 Ali Shearer 22 points

The Harris Ross Charity 3 Person Texas Scramble takes place on Sunday July 30 2017. To book a tee-off time contact the clubhouse on 01397 704464.

Fort adds nine new local players to squad ahead of season start



Fort New Management team, from left, joint manager Ali Smith, goalkeeping coach Ally MacPherson and joint manager Paul MacLellan.

FORT William teenager and new Caley Thistle goalkeeping professional, Martin Mackinnon, and former Fort captain, Andrew Martin, are among nine new local additions to the club's squad ahead of the new season.

Fort co-manager Ali Smith revealed his new 22-strong squad ahead of Saturday's season opener away to Keith.

Smith, one of a whole new management structure at the club, says there is a real excitement and buzz about the team following a successful pre-season.

'We've added nine new players, who are all local boys and we're hoping to add another two to the squad in the next fortnight,' Smith told us earlier this week.

Youngster Mackinnon, aged 17, who has just signed a two-year contract with Caley Thistle, is on a season's loan to Fort, while he trains with the Inverness side.

Former Fort skipper and centre-half Martin returns to

playing after a five-year absence due to an injury.

'We are absolutely delighted to have Martin Mackinnon on loan and to play a part in the next stage of his development as a player,' Smith said.

'And we are also really pleased to have Andrew Martin back as he brings a lot of experience to what is a very young team.'

The other seven new additions are Lopez brothers Kieran and Steven, John Treasurer, Scott Hunter, Ronan Cameron and youth development players, Ryan Henderson and Billy Rydings, who step up to the senior squad.

Smith added: 'Seeing Ryan and Billy take the next step in their football careers is fantastic and it shows the great work the development squad is doing to help produce players for the senior team.'

The new additions to the squad complement a core of already established players and

Football

Smith hopes this blend will pay dividends on and off the park.

'We now have a really strong squad including a strong representation of local footballers which is great for us,' Smith continued.

'Our pre-season went really well. Naturally there will be ups and downs during the season, but what will make all the difference is if we can get more support through the gates at Claggan Park for our home games.'

Smith admits Saturday's away game to Keith will be tough but is confident his young team - which he will name after Thursday night training - will acquire itself well.

'We need to perform well against Keith and then take that momentum into our first home game on Wednesday night at Claggan Park against Rothes,' he said. Kick-off 8pm.

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WEATHER

Thursday Heavy rain showers
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 15°C.

Friday Light rain showers
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 16°C.

Weekend Heavy rain showers on Saturday
Outlook Heavy rain showers on Sunday
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.

FRIDAY

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday July 27, 2017** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	02.32	0.8	08.17	3.7	14.32	0.6
Fri	03.15	1.0	08.55	3.5	15.13	0.9
Sat	03.58	1.3	09.34	3.3	15.56	1.1
Sun	04.43	1.5	10.19	3.1	16.42	1.4
Mon	05.36	1.7	11.21	2.9	17.33	1.6
Tues	06.39	1.8	12.55	2.9	18.32	1.8
Wed	00.56	2.8	07.58	1.8	14.14	2.9

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban