

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8366

Thursday 3 August, 2017

www.obantimes.co.uk

85 pence

And the show CONTINUES...



Town's new transit berths are officially now in use

Wild About Argyll campaign success speaks for itself

THE BUSINESS co-operative set up five years ago to promote the growth of tourism in Argyll and the Isles has expressed disappointment following publication of claims that it has wasted public funding, saying its campaign statistics speak for themselves and government figures demonstrate that Argyll and the Isles has comprehensively outperformed Scotland as a whole in tourism growth.

An individual claimed the group was not performing in a social media world. However, Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC) is confident statistics and levels of engagement tell a different story.

In January, AITC launched its multi-level, year-long £100,000 marketing campaign, Wild About Argyll, funded by VisitScotland Growth Fund, Argyll and Bute Council and AITC.

Primarily a digital campaign, it is aimed at raising awareness of Argyll and the Isles, targeting a much younger, more active market and positioning the region as Scotland's Adventure Coast.

Seven main videos and 24 sports and local videos have been produced and are being shared online. So far the short campaign video alone has had 326,657 completed views since the campaign launched in January.

The main Wild About Argyll videos, featuring Scottish adventurer and endurance athlete Mark Beaumont, and following a 12-day adventure and filming project, led by AITC, were produced in 2016. The promotional Wild About Argyll advert was screened in central belt cinemas and viewed by almost 200,000 people over three weeks,

including Easter. Throughout March, digital panels with short Wild About Argyll films were on display on all Glasgow's subway escalators with passenger figures over 1.1 million. The digital campaign has reached more than one million people in the target audience and has generated more than two million impressions on Facebook and Instagram.

On top of this, from March to July, the Wild About Argyll films have been viewed more than 276,000 times via Mark Beaumont's channels and the *Live Forever* music video over 146,000 times via Skerryvore's channels.

AITC says there is also significant and growing collaboration with key local businesses and marketing groups. More than 40 businesses have provided over £4,000 worth of prizes for the online Wild About Argyll prize giveaway. Three of AITC's local marketing groups have worked together to put Wild About Argyll branding on 10 Glasgow taxis throughout the summer.

Carron Tobin, AITC development manager, said: 'AITC is a registered co-operative and its board of directors are all volunteers.'

'It currently operates with a freelance development team consisting of a development manager, PR and media manager, web editor and up to nine development agents.'

'As part of our engagement strategy, we identified Mark as a key influencer for adventure seekers and our Glasgow launch in January saw the release of the award-winning Skerryvore's music video *Live Forever* with our Wild About Argyll footage. Both have actively shared this content

Oban High School Pipe Band are best in country



The hard work and determination of Oban High School Pipe Band paid off when they won twice at the Scottish Championships at the weekend. Led by Pipe Major Angus MacColl, who helped form the band in 2005, they won the Novice Juvenile A and B grades. The youngsters didn't let the accolades go to their heads as they were back out performing for tourists in Station Square this week.

on their own channels to their audiences – our target audiences – with significant engagement.

'AITC has employed a digital agency with extensive experience to provide strategic advice and to deliver the Wild About Argyll digital campaign.'

'The digital activity they are delivering is largely not visible in the region. We are seeking to engage adventure seekers, both wild and mild, who have yet to experience what we have to offer – and people are actively engaging.'

'As this is a year-long campaign and we have generated a lot of content, over and above the

digital campaign, new content is being released in a phased way with the films being a significant part of this. We want Wild About Argyll to be fresh and engaging throughout the year.'

Ms Tobin continued: 'We report to our funders every quarter using statistics and activity updates. Our digital campaign and other online activity with the agency we have employed forms part of this – and we are achieving results.'

'A full evaluation of the £100,000 campaign will be undertaken and made available later this year. The recommendations from the review and assessment

of our adventure tourism offer last year will be available soon as we announce our next steps.

'An independent assessment of AITC and tourism growth over the previous five years was undertaken in December 2016 and concluded that tourism in Argyll and the Isles has outperformed the rest of Scotland in recent years and the latest government figures demonstrate growth in spend from £270m to £310m per annum for the latest year.'

'Fifteen per cent of all employment in Argyll is in tourism and the destination has earned the reputation of being an exemplar

of collaboration, with growing business confidence and significant indigenous and inward investment in the tourism offer. This, combined with AITC's clearly articulated strategy agreed by its membership, which focuses on developing the sector through its assets and our capabilities, has been the basis for on-going financial support for the activities of the AITC.'

The AITC is a dynamic membership organisation – open and accessible through its development agents and directors. For more information visit explorear-gyll.co.uk.

Apology

IN *The Oban Times* of Thursday July 20, we published an article following concerns from a person about the digital marketing performance of the Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC).

The Oban Times accepts there is no evidence to support any of these claims and it would like to apologise unreservedly to the AITC, its directors, members and funders for our error and any upset this has caused.

INSIDE YOUR OBAN TIMES THIS WEEK

Barra mourns

THE ISLAND of Barra was shocked this week by the deaths of two divers in an accident off Castlebay.

Full story – page two.

Pontoons open

OBAN town centre's new transit berthing pontoons are officially in use after being opened ahead of schedule.

Full story – page three.

Quarry blow

PLANNING officials in Argyll and Bute have dealt a blow to plans for a quarry at Glen Creran by saying it is not consistent with the local development plan.

Full story – page five.

Best for shinty

DON'T miss our unrivalled coverage of everything that is happening in the world of shinty, with match reports, fixtures and pictures.

Full story – pages 28 and 29.



Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Lochgilhead 3 - 5 Aug
Cairndow, Loch Fyne Oysters 7 Aug
Tarbert Loch Fyne 8 - 9 Aug
Tighnabruaich 10 Aug

Despicable Me 3 (U) 90 mins
03/08 at 5.30pm, 05/08 at 2pm, 07/08 at 5.30pm,
08/08 at 5.30pm, 10/08 at 5.30pm

Whisky Galore! (PG) 98 mins
03/08 at 8.30pm, 05/08 at 5.30pm, 09/08 at
8.30pm, 10/08 at 8.30pm

The Olive Tree (el Olivo) (PG) 98 mins
Stirring family drama. Spanish with English
subtitles. "captivating" Guardian

04/08 at 5.30pm

Wonder Woman (12A) 141 mins
"gloriously badass breath of fresh air" Guardian

04/08 at 8.30pm, 09/08 at 5pm

Dunkirk (12A) 106 mins
"powerful, superbly crafted film" Guardian

05/08 at 8.30pm, 07/08 at 8.30pm, 08/08 at
8.30pm, 09/08 at 2pm

Scotland's Far North: prior to screenings of *Dunkirk* 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.



Kayla appeal hits goal in six hours

THE 'SADDEST day ever' for a Dunbeg family saw an unprecedented turnout for the funeral of eight-year-old Kayla MacDonald.

Kayla was killed while out on a walk with her grandparents in a forest at Benderloch.

Words such as 'precious', 'kind' and 'joyful' were used during a service in Oban Parish Church.

Kayla was the only daughter of parents Karina MacPherson and Alastair 'Ettie' MacDonald. Kayla is survived by two younger brothers.

Kayla was a pupil at the Gaelic

unit at Rockfield Primary School in Oban. Moving words written by her teacher Claire Jordan were printed in last week's *Oban Times*. Her cousin, Caitlin MacPherson, was also injured in the incident, which involved a pile of timber. He is said to be in a 'stable' condition.

A JustGiving.com charity page, set up to support the family, saw tributes pour in from all over the world.

The funding goal of £5,000 was overtaken in just six hours with more than £13,500 being donated to the family at the time *The Oban Times* went to

press. The fund to help support the family has been left open for further donations.

Lachie Brown, a cousin of Kayla's dad, set up the page.

Lachie told *The Oban Times* he set it up to 'support the family as they try to get through this terrible time'. He wrote: 'Kayla lit up any room with her huge bright smile and will always be remembered for her fun-loving personality.'

'I wanted to do this because I have been contacted by so many people wanting to give support and send flowers. So I set up a fundraising page as another

option to try to help support Kayla's family through this extremely difficult time.

'Please don't feel obliged but anything you can donate would be hugely appreciated.'

The organisers of this year's Lorn Show have cancelled the event as a mark of respect for Kayla and her family.

The family have considerable farming connections in the area and on Tiree. Kayla had been the top young sheep handler at the recent Tiree Show.

The Lorn Show was due to be held on Saturday August 5 on Tralee beach, Benderloch.

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SCOTLAND'S DEALER OF THE YEAR FOR SUBARU & ISUZU. LOCAL TEST DRIVE APPOINTMENTS CAN BE EASILY ARRANGED.

The Argyllshire Gathering
OBAN
HIGHLAND GAMES
Mossfield Park, Oban
Thursday 24th August 2017
March to Games Field leaves Station Square at 10.30am
OBAN HIGH SCHOOL PIPE BAND 12noon from Station Square
Highland Dancing Track & Field Events Traditional Heavy Events Piping
TUG O' WAR • FUN RACES HERITAGE TENT
TRADE STANDS & FOOD STANDS
BLUE BADGE AND PERMIT HOLDER CAR PARKING AT MOSSFIELD PARK, PARK AND RIDE FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT GLENGALLAN ROAD
PREMIER PIPING COMPETITIONS AT VENUES ACROSS OBAN
Wednesday 23rd August 2017
PIOBAIREACHD Gold Medal
MacGregor Memorial Competition
Senior Piobaireachd
LIGHT MUSIC: March, Strathspey & Reel (former winners)

Admission £12
Child (under 14) £6
Family Ticket £30
Tickets available at park & Oban Tourist Centre

Barra mourns as two divers die in accident

SANDY NEIL
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TWO men who died after a diving accident off the Isle of Barra on Saturday have been named as Iain Ruairidh Macdougall of Castlebay and Ryan McGuckin, who was from Falkirk but living in London.

The two shellfish divers, who were both 39 years old, were diving in waters near Castlebay where they got into difficulty. Police say they are not treating their deaths as suspicious, and all next of kin have been informed.

At 11.20am Stornoway



Iain Ruairidh Macdougall, left, and Ryan McGuckin.

Coastguard was contacted by a local ferry boat skipper who had noticed two divers go into the water and not resurface, leaving their small boat unmanned.

The RNLI Barra lifeboats were asked to search the area, along with the Coastguard rescue helicopter based in Stornoway and Barra Coastguard Rescue Team.

At around 1pm Barra lifeboat reported to the Coastguard that two casualties had been recovered from the water and taken to Barra hospital. Later Police Scotland announced that the two men had died in the incident.

Inspector Jane Nicolson said: 'Our thoughts are with the families and friends of both Mr Macdougall and Mr McGuckin at this very difficult time, as well as with the tight-knit community on Barra which has been deeply affected by this tragedy.'

'I would once again like to take the opportunity to thank members of the public who assisted the emergency services on Saturday.'

'Our inquiries are continuing but there does not appear to be any suspicious circumstances. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal as is standard in these cases.'

Mull people praised after major incident

A ROAD traffic accident involving two coaches on the narrow single-track road near to Pennyghael on the Ross of Mull saw three casualties taken to hospital.

The community on Mull has been praised by emergency services for the way in which it dealt with a major incident at first involving 15 casualties.

A report from Craignure Coastguard Rescue Team (CRT) said: 'Full team paged today by Stornoway Coastguard to assist with a multi-agency incident at the south end of Glenmore.'

'There had been an RTA between two buses with around 15 casualties.'

'Once arrived on site spoke [with] Police Scotland, requested to set up a helicopter landing site (HLS) for incoming Rescue 199.'

'[Helicopter] Helimed five was already onsite along with Scottish Ambulance Service, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Police Scotland.'

'Two members of the CRT went to organise HLS while one team member plus senior coastal operations officer continued to help onsite. Also paged were Tobermory and Ross of Mull

CRT to assist with comms and later with the transfer of casualties to Rescue 199.

'Passengers from the two buses were ferried to the nearby Pennyghael village hall to wait assessment by paramedics.'

'Rescue 199 from Prestwick landed in field next to the road and five further medical personnel made their way to the hall.'

'The road was successfully reopened after a couple of hours and thankfully only three passengers required a trip in a helicopter to Oban hospital.'

'The response from all the emergency services was amazing and a credit too all. The incident could have been far worse, a speedy recovery to all involved in the accident.'

The incident commander praised all the local volunteers who helped, including community first responders, the Coastguard, Pennyghael hall committee, Pennyghael residents and those who were working at the art exhibition in the village hall.

This was the 40th call-out for Craignure Coastguard Rescue Team, and the first time the Coastguard helicopter (AW189) has been seen on Mull.

Colonsay islanders say thanks to long-serving postie Keith

COLONSAY and Oronsay's 'beloved' sub-postmaster Keith Rutherford is semi-retiring from his island deliveries after 40 years of service.

The 70-year-old's journey featured a 'daily aquaplane' over the Strand to the tidal island of Oronsay, and often involved '24 shifts' when he also ran Colonsay's only shop and petrol station.

Islanders thanked Keith at a recent meeting of the Colonsay Community Development Company, and all queued up to sign their support for his nomination for an MBE.

The children of Kilchattan Primary School (all of them - Eve and Ella, Gergu, Rosie and Felix, Izzy, not forgetting Jamie) sang a song they had written for Keith, with a little help from virtuoso Stirling University-bound Cholasach music teacher Caitlin McNeill.

The Colonsay community's tribute to Keith continued when Councillor Robin Currie, who had sailed over from Islay for the occasion, read the early day motion tabled in the House of Commons by Colonsay's MP Brendan O'Hara, honouring 'his outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of the island and its people'.

Much to locals' relief, Keith is only semi-retiring, and will remain the face of the Royal Mail, manning the desk at the Scalasaig Post Office.



Councillor Robin Currie thanked Colonsay and Oronsay postie Keith Rutherford after he retired from decades of deliveries.

Probe begins into Stornoway traffic

PLANS are being developed by the Stornoway Port Authority, CalMac and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reduce congestion on Shell Street at the entrance to Stornoway ferry terminal.

The introduction of the MV Loch Seaforth on the route has seen an increase in traffic around the Stornoway ferry terminal, and this together with later arriving vehicles, has seen particular issues during the early morning and lunchtime check-in period.

Councillor Uisdean Robertson, chairman of the comhairle's transportation and infrastructure committee, said: 'We are, of course, very pleased that the reduction in fares and the provision of additional capacity on the route mean that more people want to travel to, from and within the Outer Hebrides.'

'However, it is apparent that this additional traffic has created a number of consequences in ports such as Stornoway and, in this case, we are keen to work with CalMac and the Port Authority to ensure that any congestion or disruption to road traffic is kept to a minimum.'

'It is clear there is a growing incidence of traffic backing up onto Shell Street and causing congestion on Newton Street and even as far as the junction with James Street.'

'While we are reviewing road markings and signs on Shell Street and, in particular, the roundabout at the junction with the entrance to Pier No 3, we are working with CalMac and the port authority to review their respective operational management and marshalling arrangements to provide a more efficient check-in process.'

Finlay MacRae, CalMac's area operations manager, said: 'There are a number of factors which are contributing to the congestion on Shell Street. First, we are seeing a large number of vehicles arriving to check in at the port in a relatively short period of time immediately prior to the deadline. This leads to a build-up in the 10- to 15-minute period prior to the check-in close and we would ask passengers to give themselves a bit more time prior to that deadline.'

Community launches buy-out bid for Ulva

THE sale of the Isle of Ulva, off the western coast of Mull, has been put on hold as islanders have submitted a community right to buy application.

The 4,583-acre island was put on the market for £4.25 million.

After hearing that it was going to be placed on the market, the community came together to create a petition.

Following 'substantial support', the application was made under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 for a community right to buy registration scheme.

It is now up to the Scottish Government to decide whether

or not to agree to the registration or not.

Over the coming weeks a feasibility study will be carried out to help prepare a detailed business plan and management strategy.

The community will have the chance to have their say, as consultations will take place on the plans as they develop.

The overall aim, as stated in the application, is to 'manage the estate to provide sustainable benefits for the community in the short to medium term and in the long term for future generations, including the re-population of the island'.

Young blood boosts Colonsay Co

AN INJECTION of young blood has 'energised' the Colonsay Community Development Company (CCDC) as it aims to attract new families to the island.

Its board of management also co-opted 'experienced hand' Dannie Onn, after a public vote at its recent AGM, where each of the 44 local members present received a ballot sheet containing the names of the 10 candidates, from which they were to choose eight.

Former director Scott

Weatherstone said: 'Those in attendance were overjoyed at the prospect of another election, on the heels of several general elections, a Scottish parliamentary one, a council one and two referenda.'

'For the first time in several years, there were more candidates than there were places on the board.'

'Ros Jewell, an artist and carer for the elderly, Colm McNicholl, a crofter and fencer and Caroline Seymour, also a crofter plus a school and shop-

worker, were the three new candidates.'

'The general response among local folk to the election result was that being represented by a committee with its full complement of members could only be positive with regard to the development of Colonsay.'

'Moreover, given that attracting new families to the island is the central aim of CCDC, the contributions of the youthful new cohort will be particularly valuable.'

Six rescued from stricken yacht

ISLAY RNLI volunteer lifeboat crew rescued six people, including two children, after a yacht ran onto a charted rock on an ebb tide at the south end of the Sound of Islay.

Her captain chose to stay on board the heavily listing, 16m sailing boat Anjela.

The all-weather lifeboat Helmut Schroder of Dunlos-

sit was launched 18 minutes past midnight on Tuesday July 25 in a medium wind, fair visibility and a relatively calm sea, and reached the yacht 20 minutes later to find that she was listing heavily to port.

It was decided to evacuate all personnel by Y boat, except for the captain who wished to stay aboard, and take them back to Port

Askaig until the tide should turn and rise enough to refloat the yacht.

At about 5.30am she floated off the rock, unholed, and made her way safely back to Port Askaig escorted by the lifeboat.

Afterwards her crew said how impressed they were by the help, care and attention that they had received from the RNLI volunteers.

Tiree residents are split over campsite plan

TIREE residents are divided on a proposed campsite for tents and campervans at Balevullin.

A planning application, submitted to Argyll and Bute Council by Karl Hughes of Balevullin, proposes changing the use of land north of his property, Sunset Cottage, for a camping site, including toilets and showers.

Mr Hughes explains: 'I am the owner occupier of a seven-acre croft. We wish to diversify our income and provide a small seasonal camping site to visitors.'

'Tiree is not suitable for caravans. We wish to provide a camping location to the ever-increasing number of campervans that arrive during

the visitor season [from] April 1 until end September. We plan to cater for a maximum number of 20 campervans and a small number of tents, 10 max.'

'The area is free-draining, has good owned access and is not overlooked by other properties.'

Mr Hughes added: 'In order to provide an income for my Tiree-based family, and given the croft is a mere 2.7ha, it is necessary in order to be a viable commercial entity to diversify.'

The plan has attracted 21 objections and two in support so far. One objector argued: 'It will change the whole ambience of what used to be a tranquil and peaceful environment. The inevitable

noise, pollution and disruption can only be detrimental.'

Another objected 'very strongly', saying 'traffic in Balevullin is already very heavy' and that 'there are far more appropriate potential sites on the island... there are already several new campsites dotted across Tiree'.

Another, who runs a summer let business nearby, wrote that the proposed access route 'if used for commercial traffic involving over 40 vehicles per day [would] become a very significant issue affecting our business'.

One neighbour argued there would 'irreversible damage to the pristine machair land surrounding the site which is likely to undergo increased

erosion as visitors make their way to the local beach'.

Another neighbour feared 'there will be loud music being played through the night. I feel at 79 years of age I should be able to sleep without being subjected to constant thumping of music'.

And a third wrote: 'Campers are able to look directly into our house and we had a nasty experience with a naked campervan person.'

However, supporter Iona Larg, a surfing business owner whose Balevullin beach hut was denied retrospective planning permission by the council, argued: 'On Tiree, tourism is the only growth industry with a growth of 160 per cent in 10 years. The

campsite is located within a development zone already popular with tourists.'

'Tiree's population continues to fall (15 per cent between 201-2011), especially with young economically-active families. The application is a croft diversification that will allow this man to live, work and sustain his young family on Tiree year round. It is essential that sustainable businesses are supported if fragile economies such as Tiree are to be given any chance of survival.'

Another supporter, a visitor to Balevullin Beach, noted 'many motor homes parked in the vehicle parking area, but no disposal points for foul water and in many cases the dunes used as toilets'.

ADVERTORIAL

ARGYLL CONVENTION 2017

A Christian Conference for
21st century Scotland

8th to 10th August

Theme: *Finding Meaning in a
Meaningless World*

Main speakers: Simon Austen and Dominic Smart

Open to all – no charge

Times: main sessions – 11am and 7.30pm

Venue: Argyllshire Gathering Halls,
Breadalbane Street, Oban

www.argyllconvention.org @argyllconvention

Scottish Charity No. SC042822

In 2013 a group of Argyll ministers and elders from different Christian denominations organised a two-day Bible teaching Christian conference in Oban. This first *Argyll Convention* was modelled on the world famous Keswick Convention located in the Lake District and attended annually by tens of thousands.

Argyll Convention is in its fifth year and is now a three-day event. It aims to bring the country's best Bible teachers to Argyll to promote the relevance of Biblical teaching to 21st century living.

The 2017 Convention takes place in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in Oban on the 8th, 9th and 10th August. The Convention theme this year, *'Finding Meaning in a Meaningless World'*, will see keynote speakers Simon Austen and Dominic Smart bring teaching from the Bible which is 'up to date' and which

will speak directly into contemporary life and culture.

Simon Austen of St Leonards Church of England in Exeter will speak at the morning sessions. A former chaplain at Stowe School his writings include the book *'Why Should God Bother With Me?'* The evening meetings will hear Dominic make sense of life using the ancient wisdom Book of Ecclesiastes. A leadership consultant, conference speaker and author, Dominic pastored churches in Dundee and Aberdeen for 27 years.

The Convention is open to all and the organisers hope that not only Christians, but those who are curious about matters of faith or have no faith at all will come and join in what promises to be a challenging and fulfilling experience.

Great Oban Raft Race will be hotly contested

WHILE some may be sad to see the West Highland Yachting Week finishing this week, others will be delighted that the 'proper' racing starts in the Great Oban Raft Race this Saturday August 5.

Annual entrants Autoglass will again throw down the gauntlet to the other teams entered in the annual event.

Jim Edge, of organisers Oban and Lorn Lions, said: 'Claiming bragging rights will be Autoglass ... if and when they win on Saturday afternoon. 'This may come as challenge

to the RNLI, who consider themselves well trained in all things seaside and have an excellent chance of claiming top dog status.

'The rest of the challengers will not take this lying down and will make this year's race really competitive.

'There is a good entry for this year's event with the rafts and the fancy dress outfits kept a closely-guarded secret.

'If you want to witness this annual spectacle it all happens about 2pm this Saturday from the town centre beach.'



To Boldly Go! reached warp speed to win last year.

Town's new transit berths are officially now in use

LOUISE GLEN
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ONLY a few hours after the keys for the Esplanade pontoon were handed over to Argyll and Bute Council by the contractors, the much-anticipated marina was open for business.

Councillor Elaine Robertson, the council's area chairwoman, praised officers for the swiftness in which the pontoons were opened.

Mrs Robertson said: 'This is not the official opening. That will happen at the end of August. This was simply to get the message out that the pontoons are open and ready to be used.'

Argyll and Bute Council believe that Oban's status as a 'must visit' location for sailors has increased significantly with the construc-

tion of the £2.5 million transit berthing facility.

A spokesman said: 'The project is designed to benefit the local and wider economy and is already bringing vessels and visitors to the town.

'The Ocean Youth Trust was among the first pontoon customers and Councillor Elaine Robertson was on hand to welcome its charter vessel to the state-of-the-art facility.'

The berths are being marketed under the name North Pier Pontoons and will, Mrs Robertson explained, be managed by the pier staff there.

A code will be given to sailors who have paid the berthing fees of £12 per day (between 11am and 4pm) and for up to three nights at £3 per metre, including vat.

Councillor Aileen Morton, leader of Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'This is a landmark day for Oban and for the whole West Coast tourism industry. The substantial investment in these first class facilities will attract new people and businesses and bring economic benefits to the town and the surrounding area for years to come.

'I am so pleased to say that we are now able to welcome kayakers, yachters, cruise ships and tour operators.

'The finger-berth pontoons and concrete floating breakwater are now capable of providing excellent flexible short-stay capacity and make it easier for marine visitors to come to Oban.

'As well as council funding, this project benefited from financial support from the Scottish

Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. Our thanks go to all who helped make it possible. This is all about investing for prosperity.'

Councillor Robertson added: 'This project will complement Oban's existing marine facilities and will bring new customers for other local facilities, industries and retailers.

'It had been expected that the pontoons would open later in the summer, but thanks to the hard work of contractors GSS of Rosneath, North West Marine of Mull and Oban, D&K Lafferty of Oban, and Gaelforce, the facility was open for business in July.

'This has been an outstanding demonstration of the quality of our home-based contractors in Argyll.

'This is a great step forward for

the long-term economic prosperity of Oban.'

The facility, comprising 15 finger berths, three hammerheads and 12 concrete breakwaters, has been built according to the original plans. This season the facility will be operated by Argyll and Bute Council in partnership with BID4Oban.

Work on the associated maritime visitor facility, costing £1.6 million, is scheduled to be completed later this year. This facility will provide a harbour master's office, toilets, showers, lockers and a changing area.

Concerns had previously been raised through social media on the 'free use' of the pontoons. A council spokesman said the berthing of a number of vessels over the past three weeks was 'not authorised' by the local authority.

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

Careless driving

AT ABOUT 4am on Tuesday July 25, on Laurel Road, Oban, a blue Volkswagen Golf car allegedly struck a stone wall, causing damage.

Subsequently, the driver of the car, a 22-year-old man, was charged with careless driving.

No persons were injured as a result of the incident and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Theft from car

AT ABOUT 1.35am on Wednesday July 26, in a car park near Lorn Avenue, Oban, a van was broken in to and items were stolen. A short time later two men, both aged 17, were detained by police.

The men were subsequently arrested and charged with the theft and one of the men was also charged with giving false details to police and littering.

A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Racial abuse

AT ABOUT 3.40pm on Saturday July 29, in George Street, Oban, a man was allegedly subjected to racial abuse by another man.

Later that day, a man aged 33 was arrested and charged with the offence and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Dangerous driving

AT ABOUT 11.40am on Sunday July 30, on the A82 near Bridge of Orchy, a coach overtook a lorry, causing oncoming motorcyclists to take evasive action to avoid a collision.

Subsequently a 45-year-old man was charged with careless driving.

No-one was injured as a result of the incident and a

report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Theft from shed

BETWEEN Sunday and Saturday, July 23 and 29, a shed in a rear garden at Dalintart Drive, Oban, was broken into and a set of ladders and two children's bikes were stolen.

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

Vehicle damaged

BETWEEN 7pm Monday July 24 and 8.40am on Tuesday July 25 on Victoria Street, Tobermory, a black Renault Clio motor car, was damaged by having the rear bumper and wheel arch struck by another vehicle which failed to stop and report the incident.

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

Van stolen

BETWEEN 6pm on Sunday July 30 and 6.30am on Monday July 31, a white Renault Traffic van, registration mark SD07 XZW, was stolen from Cruachan Cottages, Taynuilt.

The van does not have any markings on it, has a roof rack and was containing power tools.

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

Numbers to call

ANYONE with information about any of these incidents is asked to call police on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



MORRISON

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Katie wins coveted Rotary music prize

Oban Rotary's Young Musician of the Year for 2017 is Katie Houston, a fifth-year pupil at Oban High School. Katie, who plays the flute, performed at the senior prize-giving at the Argyllshire Gathering back in June when Rotary president Graham Fraser presented her with the club's engraved quaich, a certificate and a cheque for £50. Iain MacIntyre, of Oban Rotary Club, said: 'Katie committed fully to the range of extracurricular music opportunities that her school offered, often performing at school concerts and recitals. 'Katie also passed her Royal School of Music grade five flute this year while also balancing five Highers – quite an achievement.'



BID4Oban appoints chief to guide it through election

LOUISE GLEN
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COMMUNITY interest company BID4Oban has announced the appointment of a new chief executive to steer the organisation through its second term.

Andrew Spence, formerly the manager of Oban's Homebase store, is to take up the appointment later this month.

Graeme Bass, chairman of the BID4Oban company, said: 'Following the resignation of Derek Connery as chief executive, BID4Oban Limited is delighted to announce that Andrew

Spence has been appointed to assume these responsibilities.

'Mr Spence has long been an enthusiastic and committed supporter of the town's business community in general and of BID4Oban Limited in particular. 'He was involved in the original steering group which paved the way for the Business Improvement District to be established and, in addition to his role as manager at the Homebase store in Oban, served with distinction as chairman of the board of volunteer directors.

'While we are very sorry to see Derek Connery leave the post – and he goes with our sincere

thanks and good wishes for his new venture – we are delighted to have secured the services of an individual of Andy's calibre.

'We very much look forward to his input and guidance on a successful second ballot for BID4Oban Limited.'

BID4Oban was a company formed in November 2012 with a large mandate from businesses to invest £840,000 from a business levy into the town's future.

The tenure of the BID company was for five years and a re-election ballot is due to take place towards the end of the year.



Derek Connery is stepping down from BID4Oban.

Sea Cadets learn the ropes on French Navy's oldest sailing cutter

FOUR Oban Sea Cadets and three of their instructors have been learning the ropes aboard the oldest serving sailing vessel.

Petty Officer Rab Neil and civilian instructors Richard Dobson and Thomas Kennedy took cadets Callum Neil, Charis Simpson, Kate Home and Christopher Den Heijer, from the training ship Pharos, aboard Le Dundee Mutin – a 91-year-old cutter built in 1926, which joined the French Navy in 1964 – and helped sail her from Corpach canal basin at Fort William to Oban.

This was an honour for Oban Sea Cadets to be invited aboard this extraordinary French Navy vessel, especially as it was Bastille Day.

The Mutin currently provides a nautical role in the form of a training ship but also a cultural one, representing French national heritage, and a historical tie with the British Secret Service's Special Operations Executive as a spy-boat during the Second World War from 1940 to 1945 carrying out various missions as far as the Adriatic coasts. She was handed back to France in March 1945.

The moment the cadets boarded the Mutin they were immediately encouraged to get involved in all aspects of crewing the vessel, learn about her

history, participate in practical seamanship and navigate with the crew.

The French sailors had very little English but were nevertheless able to communicate, help and encourage while showing patience and professionalism in their teaching ability.

Most of the seven-hour trip was done under sail which was an impressive sight to see along the Firth of Lorne.

A wonderful sailing adventure was had by all on the day, including a three-course lunch provided by the ship's cook, and the cadets would like to thank the French Navy, Commandant Pierre and his crew for this memorable experience.

The commandant and crew were extremely interested in the formation of the Sea Cadet Corps as they do not have anything like it in France. Further to this, Commandant Pierre complimented the cadets on their exemplary presentation, conduct, behaviour and eagerness to participate, and for showing interest aboard the Mutin.

Oban Sea Cadets have a junior section for youngsters aged 10 to 12 who meet every Tuesday evening and seniors aged 12 to 18 who meet every Thursday evening at Tweeddale Street Cadet Hall in Oban.



The cadets and their instructors prepare to leave Corpach, main picture; Callum Neil assists the French sailors; and Le Dundee Mutin sails into Oban bay.

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Don't miss this year's Great Oban Raft Race

I SPOKE too soon about the weather last week, sorry!

I'm just keeping my fingers and toes crossed for The Great Oban Raft Race on Saturday, writes Oban town ambassador Kay MacDonald.

It is always such good fun to watch and the effort put into the rafts and the costumes impresses me every year.

Don't forget there's still time to enter if you haven't already, even on the day of the race itself which starts about 2pm.

Good luck to everyone taking part and thank you in advance for the laugh I always have watching (I'm not laughing at you, I'm laughing with you, honest).

If rugby is more your thing, then have a wander up to Oban Lorne Rugby Club on Saturday for the Tower 10s.

Ladies can try rugby from 10am to noon with the first match at 11.30am and a disco in the evening from 7.30pm. The bar will be open and food will be available so it sounds like a very full day.

If you're looking for something to do in the evening, then it's the Argyll Ceilidh Trail Finale in Skipinnish Ceilidh House which will be a fantastic evening, as well as all the other great music in the pubs around the town.

We also have a household name playing in the Corran

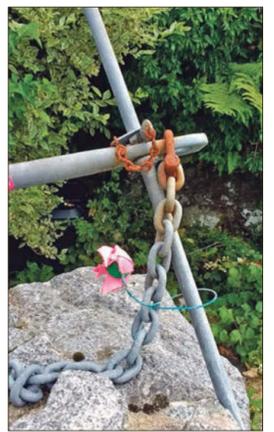
WHERE IS THIS?

Halls next week when John Bishop brings his 'Wingin' It' show to Oban on Thursday August 10.

So much to do and so little time!

Hopefully, most of you noticed that last week's photo was on the corner of Stevenson Street as you turn in from George Street. It's been there so long, I've been oblivious to it for years.

This week's photo is slightly further afield but it is a lovely wee walk.



Vegans prepare to stage public street event

OBAN vegans will hold their first public address, organised by Earthlings Experience, in George Street from 1pm to 4pm on Sunday August 27.

Vegans are asked to wear black and bring graphic images via laptops, tablets and other devices. Some of those attending will also be wearing white papier-mache masks.

A spokesperson for the event

said: 'Those without masks will be giving leaflets for the public to understand the horrible exploitation and cruelty on all species for food, clothes, recreation and research.

'This event will be a success and a foundation stone for progressive future events to stop the oppression of all species, including humankind.

'People taking part should

be members of the Earthlings Experience Scotland.'

Earthlings Experience was set up in February 2015 and offers a number of resources to campaigners who are involved in promoting animal rights.

Hard-hitting slaughterhouse and animal welfare videos and leaflets show the view of a vegan on mass meat production.

The brother and sister found-

ers of the Earthlings Experience group say that all you need to be a campaigner is a 'a laptop, a mask and a public space'.

Now an international movement, this will be the first march and larger campaign in Oban.

In the past, Earthlings Experience campaigners have been seen outside Oban High School with messages about meat and the methods used in its production.

Lifeboat races to diver stricken with bends

OBAN RNLI lifeboat launched on the morning of Friday July 28, to help a diver suspected of suffering from the 'bends' in the Sound of Mull.

Oban's lifeboat, the Mora Edith MacDonald was requested

to launch at 10.55am on Friday by the Coastguard in Stornoway to evacuate a diver who was suspected of suffering from decompression sickness, also known as the 'bends', following a rapid ascent while diving on

a wreck in the Sound of Mull. Once on scene the diver was transferred on board the lifeboat, by 11.30am.

The volunteer crew then made their best speed possible back to Oban, following which the

casualty was transferred on to a waiting ambulance for further assistance.

Oban lifeboat then returned to station where she was refuelled and made ready for service again by 12.20pm.

Barra bomb victim Laura is now 'stable' in Glasgow

LOUISE GLEN
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

THE first condition update on Manchester bomb victim Laura MacIntyre, from Barra, has been made by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

The short statement confirming Laura's condition as 'stable' was made to *The Oban Times* on Friday.

The teenager was transferred to a Glasgow hospital a month ago to continue her recovery from serious blast injuries.

Previously the 15-year-old was said to be making 'good progress' having suffered serious hand and leg injuries in the blast.

Laura was at the Ariana Grande concert with friend Eilidh MacLeod. Eilidh was one of eight people killed in the attack at the Manchester Arena. Michael and Nan MacIntyre

had previously thanked the people of Manchester for their help, particularly a man who stayed with Laura in the aftermath of the bombing.

In early July, Laura's parents issued a statement that said: 'We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Manchester and in particular all those who have done so much to help Laura and our family.'

'The kindness and care started from the first moments after the bombing when a young travel safe officer held Laura's hand and comforted her for an hour while she waited for treatment.'

'We believe he helped save Laura's life that night and he will always be a hero to our family.'

'Since then, he has been to visit Laura in hospital and it was a privilege to meet him and thank him in person.'

'Loganair Glasgow and Do-

lina at the airport in Barra have also been fantastic, helping fly family members to and from Manchester.'

'We'd also like to thank Ronald McDonald House for providing accommodation during our time in the city.'

'Finally, we'd like to thank Michael's employers, Marine Harvest, for their patience and help.'

'All these people and organisations have made a big difference during a very traumatic time and we will always be grateful.'

'Laura continues to make good progress in her recovery but it will be a long process. Her hand and leg injuries are significant but we are glad that she has been able to move to Glasgow.'

'She is now one step closer to eventually returning home to Barra, from where we have received enormous love and support.'



Laura MacIntyre and Eilidh MacLeod were victims of the bombing.

Congestion adds to traffic problems in Oban

ONE of the arguments over safety on the A85 is the wait to get into town.

Some people say the backlog might be alleviated if there were more places for people to park.

Now that Argyll and Bute Council has opened its multi-million-pound project for berthing boats, is it time to focus on improving the length of hold-ups on the A85?

ObanTimes reader Ian Fletcher raised the matter on social media, saying: 'Now that we've got somewhere to park our yachts, maybe we could get a multi-storey car park for our cars.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish has long advocated cash from the parking revenue should go to Kilmory, but any excess should be put into the town to improve infrastructure.

In the past he has wanted to see a multi-storey car park to remove some of the vehicles from the streets.

The council has released a

parking consultation, due to finish on August 18, that will see the introduction of the first 30 minutes free in bays on George Street (A85 trunk), Corran Esplanade (A85 trunk), William Street, Queens Park Place and Argyll Square, after which standard charges apply.

There will be an introduction of on-street parking charges on Gallanach Road (sailing club to Brandy Rock) and Ganavan Road (from Glenrigh to the war memorial) with charges applying 9am to 6pm Monday to Saturday and 1pm to 6pm on a Sunday.

Parking charges will be introduced to all existing on-street pay and display bays on Sundays between the hours of 1pm and 6pm. Campervans will not be allowed to park in the town centre.

Sign up to our petition at change.org Stay Alive on the A85 and tell us what you think of the parking charges and whether it will improve traffic movements through the town.

Driver given parking ticket after meter rejects new £1

A READER has written to *The Oban Times* after receiving a parking ticket after she tried to pay with the new £1 coins.

She even left a note on the dashboard of her car, with the coins, explaining the situation.

Mary Brown said: 'I got a ticket today 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, and still a hard-hearted warden gave me a ticket.'

'I think the council are committing an offence in taking money from people in parking fines, when they don't provide them with the means to pay for the ticket in the first place.'

'I will see what the response

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

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We have installed a number of new parking meters which are compatible with the new coins.'

'Approximately 60 older-style meters across the council area are also having their software updated to allow them to accept the new £1 coins.'

'This process is ongoing and will be complete by the time the old-style coins are phased out in October.'

'Machines continue to accept other coins, including £2, 50p, 20p, 10p and 5p.'

Billy's Yvonne writes movingly to supporters



Yvonne MacHugh.

YVONNE MacHugh, the fiancée of Billy Irving, from Connel, one of the Chennai Six [former British servicemen] languishing in an Indian jail, has written an emotional letter to supporters.

In her letter, Yvonne blasts the lack of action to have the men released but takes encouragement from recent developments and says the campaign is gaining momentum and support online.

Yvonne writes: 'Two years in prison. How did it get to this?'

'35 men went to work and on October 12, 2013, 35 innocent men were arrested while doing

their job protecting seafarers. 35 innocent men lost their freedom.'

'I still struggle to believe this has happened and continues to go on.'

'What I struggle most with is coming to terms with the fact one country's failing judicial system has the power to imprison 35 innocent men from four different countries for a crime they didn't commit and despite overwhelming evidence and knowledge that these men commuted no crime.'

'Not one of four countries' most powerful leaders have the guts to stand up for their citizens and demand they are

released. 35 families are left without the men they love. 35 men are languishing in a prison in the most filthy conditions.'

'The treatment is barbaric, human rights are being violated. They are surrounded by rapists and murderers and the are a thousand miles from home.'

'Can this really continue for another three years?'

'For four full years our lives have been turned upside down, living day to day not knowing if the men who went to work in 2013 will return.'

'Despite all of this, the friendships, support and love we have

had from so many people all over the world, family, friends and strangers, have filled our hearts with love and given us the strength we so desperately need throughout this testing and unbelievable ordeal.'

'It certainly doesn't get easier the longer this goes on, and every day is harder than the last, but with your help we've got stronger and learned how to cope and deal with the battles that are thrown at us.'

'Never underestimate the power your words and actions of support has on everyone involved.'

'Thank you.'

Planners deal blow to quarry proposal

A PROPOSAL to build a quarry in Glen Creran has been dealt a blow by council planners, who argue it is not consistent with the local development plan.

Argyll-based applicant A & L McCrae Ltd, which mines aggregates at Barrachander Quarry near Kilchrenan, lodged a planning application last October to extract and process sand and gravel at Glasdrum, in particular high-quality building sand for which, it argues, there is a shortage in Argyll and Bute.

Argyll and Bute Council's planning department wrote to the applicant's agent, Willie Booth of Dalgleish Associates, to say it was now in a position to determine the application.

'The policy states that a need must be demonstrated for the opening of a new site. Within a 30-mile radius of this area there are Kilmartin, Clachan, North Connel, Benderloch and Dornie quarries all producing sand and gravel.'

'The number of sites producing material would not support the argument of an existing shortfall in demand. Feedback from existing operators would suggest the material is available but developers are choosing to go elsewhere, perhaps as a result of already nationally agreed contracts.'

'You comment that one-third of the material will be building sand with the rest other products and would meet the needs of the applicant as a contractor



An application has been lodged to quarry at Glen Creran.

and for their ready-mix concrete plant. I don't see how this will meet an existing demand.'

'Concrete is already available from Benderloch and the applicant could purchase sand from any of the existing sites nearby. From a policy perspective, the application is not consistent with LDP 10 or SG LDP MIN 2.'

In response, Mr Booth argued that 'a local need has been reasonably demonstrated'. He said: 'The council has not undertaken a detailed survey of minerals demand or distribution within Argyll and Bute for over a decade and can make no definitive comment on regional or local demand. However, the latest aggregates survey undertaken by the Scottish Government states that Argyll and Bute is dependent on supplies from outwith the region to meet demand.'

'While it is appreciated the

council has sought to gauge demand/distribution in the Argyll and Bute area, it has to be acknowledged the operators responding to the consultation would in fact be in competition with Glasdrum and, as the proposed site would be in a position to provide sand at a more competitive cost compared to existing operations, hauling materials over significantly greater distance. Any response is likely to be guarded and unlikely to be supportive of potential competition.'

'We are concerned the council has made no reference to representations received from developers and building suppliers.'

'These provide a consistent and alternative view from quarry operators; the response being a concerted agreement that building sand, and other products, have not been avail-

able locally for various projects in the past and that, under current circumstances, they are concerned that materials will continue to be locally scarce for future projects as well.'

'One such letter, from Jewson, states, "We have used local quarries previously but unfortunately due to the quality of sand we were forced to move to a supplier from the east coast of Scotland.'

'If it is found that this local quarry has sand that my customers are happy with, I would be more than happy to support this new venture and get all my aggregates sourced from here in the future.'

'This is a clear statement in relation to the quality and availability of supply currently available locally and clearly demonstrates that the main UK distributor is not tied to a nationally agreed contract.'

Police appeal for more youth volunteers

ASPIRING police officers and peace-keepers are being invited to join an innovative programme from Police Scotland.

Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV) are being recruited in Oban by PC Claire Brown to be part of a growing group of young people who get together to promote the work of the force.

PC Brown told *The Oban Times*, said: 'PSYV are groups of up to 24 young people who are supported by adult volunteers and led by a police constable.'

'For instance, we might be helping out at Oban Live or one of the many Highland games across the area, alongside officers at other commu-



Claire Brown.

nity and national events across Scotland.

'There is also an opportunity to get involved with national

campaigns and receive training from expert officers on issues such as drugs and knife crime.'

'The aim is to strengthen the relationship with the police and young people, breaking down barriers and promoting positive role models.'

'PSYV promotes a practical way for young people to understand policing by supporting the police in their local area through volunteering.'

'As part of this, young people are given a chance for their voice to be heard and encouraged to promote good citizenship.'

'The programme is open to all young people aged 13 to 17, and this allows those people to

get an insight into policing in Scotland and inspire individuals to participate positively within their communities.'

'As the co-ordinator, I will be supported by a group of adult volunteers who come from all walks of life.'

'At the moment, the plan is to meet once a week in the high school.'

'There is no set day at yet as it will depend on what suits the majority of the PSYV volunteers. Anyone who would like to join should contact me directly.'

PC Brown can be contacted at claire.brown2@scotland.pnn.police.uk or via 101 asking for Claire Brown, PC L443.

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OT

Skye

FOLLOWING a record-breaking year for the Isle of Skye Half Marathon, lead sponsors The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) joined event organisers on Wednesday July 12 to present cheques to community groups who volunteered their time and support for the race.

A total of 741 runners completed the 13.1 mile race on Saturday June 10, making it the biggest turnout in the event's 33-year history.

Community groups were rewarded for their efforts in ensuring the smooth running of this year's half marathon at the Portree Hotel.

Cheques totalling £2,400 were distributed and Ewen Maclean, Senior Marine Sites Manager at SSC, was on hand to congratulate representatives from each organisation and help Alistair Danter, chairman of Skye Events, present the donations.

Organisations who received donations for their volunteering efforts included Isle of Skye Pipe Band, the local Brownies, Guides, Beavers and Cubs, Skye Rotary Club, DAES dance group, Skye Dance, Skye Gymnastic Group, Skye Camanachd (shinty), Skye and Lochalsh Football Association and Skye Strings Band.

Craig Anderson, chief executive of The Scottish Salmon Company, said: 'A big thank you to everyone who gave their time and played such an important part in this year's event.'

'The pride, passion and dedication all the volunteers have is amazing to see and they deserve huge congratulations for their hard work. We are very proud to sponsor the Isle of Skye Half Marathon.'

Mark Crowe, Isle of Skye Half Marathon race director, said: 'The work of volunteers is critical to the success of each year's race. The selflessness, passion and dedication shown by local helpers is very much appreciated and these donations are a fitting reward for their hard work.'

Crinan

VIRTUAL visitors can now take a digital turn on the world's most scenic shortcut at Crinan thanks to a partnership between Scottish Canals and Google's 'Street View'.

From Beijing to Barcelona, 'armchair explorers' are able to discover the many sights on Scotland's historic waterways as 137 miles of the nation's canals are added to Google's 'Street View'.

The project allows a virtual audience to take to the towpaths of some of Scotland's most scenic and spectacular locations including the west coast wonders of the Crinan Canal.

Andrew McSherry, head of ICT at Scottish Canals, said: 'Scottish Canals is delighted to team up with Google to bring our 250-year old waterways to a virtual audience.'

'When Scotland's canals were first carved through the heart and highlands of the nation during the industrial revolution, they were considered at the cutting edge of engineering and design. It's been incredible to see every nook, cranny and lock captured using this 21st century equipment.'

Meall Mor

FORESTRY Commission Scotland is to step up the fight against tree pests and diseases by quantifying drift patterns by spraying a common food colouring from a helicopter.

Commission staff will undertake an aerial spraying trial, with no pesticides, to improve their understanding should this technique ever need to be used.

The trial will take place near Meall Mor approximately 10km south of Inverness and, subject to weather conditions, is scheduled within a ten day window from August 1 to 10.

Regarded as a last resort in combating virulent, fast spreading tree pests and diseases, this trial follows two others on the national forest estate in recent years.

The trial will be managed by Forest Research and will focus on the more technical aspects of drift management in Scottish conditions. This will enable the commission to verify drift models and continue to help build the necessary competence and capacity to safely deploy aerial spraying if needed. The spray mix - water, a food dye and an agent to prevent evaporation - poses no risk to the environment or to human and animal health, but a small area of the forest will be closed to ensure the helicopter can work safely. It is anticipated that during the 10-day window the site will only be closed for a few hours on each of two or three days. Signs will forewarn forest users about the temporary closures and the site will re-open once flying is completed.



Taynuilt ceilidh hits the right notes

Last week saw another highly enjoyable Taynuilt ceilidh with a nice blend of youth and experience amongst the guest artistes. Those taking part were: piper Innes Munro, Isla Sinclair dancer Katie MacDonald and singers Isabel Potter, Brodie Crawford, Hollie Renton and Duncan MacDonald, with help from grand daughters Isobel and Laura. Other musicians were Calum MacDonald on the accordion and Jake MacKay, mouth organ. Fear an Taighe was Duncan MacNeil.

Euan rides high onto podium

A YOUNG Taynuilt boy is riding high having recently won the 2017 ACU Acklams British Youth Solo Trials D Route Championship.

Accompanying Euan Sim, 8, on the podium was trials legend Dougie Lampkin who has won five consecutive World Indoor Championships and seven consecutive World Outdoor Championships.

In round one of the British Championship at Elton in Derby, Euan achieved an excellent third place. In round two at Skipton, Yorkshire, he went one better and finished second and in round three at Brimham Rocks, Yorkshire, he achieved another second place. In an exciting final round at Bracken Rocks in Derby, he hit top form and finished first.

Up until the final round, Euan was sitting in second place, three points behind championship leader Elliot Smith, the son of Oset Bike president Iain Smith, and only one point ahead of third-placed Will Sagar.

It was clearly all going to be down to the final round and, thanks to some brilliant riding, Euan won decisively to take the coveted championship.

He finished on 69 points with Will Sagar second on 65 points and Elliot



Euan on the podium.

Smith third on 65 points. The young Taynuilt rider also competed in the Oset Trial at the GB round of the World Trials Championship in Bradford and won the D Hard route.

What gave him more pleasure than anything, however, was getting to watch the world's top trials riders who inspire him.

Talking about his win, Euan said: 'I'm so happy

to be British champion and bring the title back to Scotland, but most of all I like riding with my mates and having fun.'

Simon Armstrong from OSET Bikes said: 'We're all delighted for Euan. He's practised a lot and it's been a pleasure to watch his ability increase and his riding mature, which has resulted in him achieving the highest award possible in the UK.'

Hill House shines in fashion images

THE NATIONAL Trust for Scotland's Hill House, 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 conservation charity 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.

Lochaline

SCOTTISH Water has completed the installation of its new water treatment works in Lochaline which use the latest technology to ensure delivery of a high-quality water supply.

The £4.5 million project involved the design, build and installation of a transportable water treatment Unit (TTU), which is now fully operational.

The work was carried out by Scottish Water's alliance partner ESD and contractor Ross-shire Engineering.

The TTU was designed and assembled at Ross-shire Engineering's base in Muir of Ord before undergoing comprehensive testing. It was then divided into modules for the 118-mile journey by road to its permanent home via the A9, the A82 and the Corran ferry crossing.

Jeff Forrester, project manager from ESD, said: 'Part of the challenge with a project like this is the potential disruption



to the local community and the team was committed to keeping this to a minimum.

'We started work onsite early this year and construction was completed before the summer, so a very quick turnaround was achieved.'

A new pipeline was also installed through the nearby forest to provide the new treatment works with raw water.

Aberfoyle

A MAN, 23, has been arrested and detained in police custody in connection with paint ball incidents on Friday June 23.

Witnesses said a man in a black vehicle was seen in the area paint balling by-standers. Detective Sergeant Raymond Sagan from Drumchapel CID said: 'The response

from members of the public has been excellent and I would thank everyone who got in touch to assist with this investigation.

'Some of the information provided proved to be absolutely vital in helping us establish the circumstances of this reckless and dangerous incident.'

Islay

SECRETARY of State for Scotland David Mundell is due to visit Islay today (Thursday August 3) to meet whisky industry representatives and discuss how the UK government is

working to reduce export tariffs on Scotch whisky and other landmark Scottish produce as the country prepares to leave the EU.

Mr Mundell is visiting the building site of the Ardn-

hoe distillery, set to be the ninth distillery operating on the island, before meeting with representatives of the Scotch Whisky Association and whisky producer Diageo at Caol Ila distillery.



Ranald, Harris, Robert, Richard and Elkie, with dogs Scooby and Jack.

Stepping out for charity funds

FIVE children joined 22 walkers on a gruelling 15-mile hike along Loch Ness for the Isle of Luing's annual sponsored walk for Cancer Research UK.

Walkers from Luing, Seil, Oban, Liverpool and Dublin hiked the high road from Invermoriston to Drumnadrochit, including Ranald, aged five, and his brothers Robert and Richard Housley also Elkie and Harris Cargill - all primary school children.

Organiser John Blackwell BEM of Black-

mill Bay, Luing, said there was no final figure yet, but the event is expected to raise around £3,000 for Cancer Research UK.

Mr Blackwell said: 'The weather on the day was unusually kind for this summer allowing the scenery to be enjoyed. Happy memories were made on the day for all, despite the absence of Nessie the Loch Ness Monster.'

John thanks everyone who took part and looks forward to seeing them at next year's event.

At Random

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



An unspeakable tragedy

THERE was an overwhelming outpouring of grief following the tragic death of little Kayla MacDonald a few days ago.

Kayla, who was just eight years old and from Dunbeg, with strong family ties to Tiree, died after an accident near Benderloch.

This dreadful loss follows so soon after Eilidh MacLeod, the teenager from Barra, was killed in the Manchester arena bombing.

Our rural communities and the islands have been rocked to their core by these shattering events but there has been a tidal wave of sympathy and support from all over Argyll and Isles, as well as further afield.

People have been visibly shaken by Kayla's death, and emotions have been left raw. One of the responses that resonated with me was how often people reacting on social media used the phrase 'no words'. It was genuinely an unspeakable tragedy.

I cannot begin to imagine the pain that Kayla's family are suffering but I offer my sincerest condolences.

One notable consequence was the decision to cancel this year's Lorn Agricultural Show, which was to have taken place this Saturday, August 5.

The show was called off as a mark of respect to the MacDonald family following their grievous loss.

It was the correct decision.



Abi Evans congratulates Chloe Rollie as she scores for Scotland.

Did photo frame pose a safety issue?

I TAKE my hat off to Bid4Oban's work and its innovative ideas to welcome visitors to the town.

Among its many initiatives was the installation of a 'photo frame' on George Street so people could take memorable selfies with a framed backdrop of the bay, Kerrera and Mull.

The only problem was that there were reports of people clambering over the railings to get behind the frame, thus putting themselves in danger of falling into the bay.

That said, I haven't heard of anyone falling off the sea wall or being injured but it was prudent to remove it and consider a different location.

The best of luck to islanders on Ulva

SO, THE good people of Ulva have launched a bid to purchase the island under community right to buy legislation.

As we report this week, the move came about after the island off the west coast of Mull was put on the market with a price tag of £4.25 million.

I have no idea if the islanders will be able to raise the necessary funds, or if there is public money available

to assist them, but I wish them every success in their attempt.

It doesn't matter which way you cut it, no-one has a greater vested interest in the welfare of the island and its residents than the people who live there.

It would be best all round if the community owned its home.

Brilliant for Oban rugby star Abi

OBAN rugby player Abi Evans deserves huge plaudits for her success with the Scotland Women's 7s team.

The girls last week won the Rugby Europe Women's Sevens Trophy and gained promotion into the Grand Prix next season.

Abi was one of the key players during the march to triumph, contributing two tries as they went unbeaten through the competition.

The success puts the Scots girls a step closer to the long-term aims of qualifying for the HSBC Women's Sevens Series and the Commonwealth Games in 2022.

What a great experience that would for Abi. Well done to another real local sporting star.

What do you think?

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

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Liam Griffin found the graves of First World War soldiers next to one another at Kilbride, and has organised a remembrance ceremony. Inset, one of the headstones.

Rich history of Kilbride is a journey of discovery

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

LERAGS Glen near Oban is another corner of Argyll that feels heavy with history.

Lying deep in the glen is Kilbride Kirk, a religious site since at least the 13th century, and perhaps even as early as the sixth century.

Its historical record begins in 1249, when Alexander II granted 'the see of Argyll the Parish Church of St Bride the Virgin in Lorn'. This church dedicated to St Bride or Bridget became ruinous by 1671, and was replaced by a rectangular kirk in 1706, which again has now become a roofless ruin.

Inside lies the MacDougall burial aisle of clan chiefs, and so far 319 graves have been identified at Kilbride, dating from the

13th century to the present day.

A small band of volunteers called the Friends of Kilbride was formed in 2015 to rescue the historic kirk, graveyard and archaeological sites from near oblivion, donating their time, labour and money - which totals £20,000 so far. The church has 'a past too rich to have no future', their website appeals. To develop a preservation plan approved by Historic Environment Scotland, the Friends of Kilbride have also announced a £165,000 fundraising campaign.

Centuries of history are often crammed into one stone, let alone a whole graveyard, and one small inquiry set one volunteer on a journey of discovery. Liam Griffin, who lives next door, said the Friends of Kilbride offered to help a Canadian visitor search their records for traces of her

family, who had emigrated to Canada from Oban.

'Thanks to Dr Robert (Bob) Irvine's survey, and the work of his volunteers, we have mapped 239 graves at Kilbride and recorded, where possible, the inscriptions and details,' Liam explained.

'By coincidence,' he related, 'grave number three, just a few pages into the record, revealed "Private Hugh McIntyre, 48th Canadian Highlanders killed in action at St Julian, 1915". Next to the grave, both in the survey and kirkyard, stands grave number 59: "Stone 59 recorded the deaths in action of the McCulloch brothers: Iain Hugh who died on September 25, 1915, and Donald, killed in action on August 8, 1917".'

The two gravestones that stand almost side by side list two unconnected local families

back to the 1880s, yet they also both record Kilbride kirkyard's only deaths from the Great War, Liam added. His further research revealed that Hugh McIntyre and Donald McCulloch are also recorded on Oban's Dunollie War Memorial.

'To further underline the poignancy of these events, just a few steps away from these memorials to men who died fighting their German enemies, lies the grave of my friend, Michael Hulman, lately resident of Oban, but born and raised in Hamburg, Germany.

"Man's inhumanity to man" might have seen these poor souls, of different nationality, aiming to kill each other, but now their names are recorded, virtually side by side, at eternal peace, in a quiet graveyard among Argyll's hills.

'August 2 will see the centenary of Donald McCulloch's death. The Friends of Kilbride plan to hold a simple, dignified ceremony at Kilbride to commemorate his life and death and the deaths of all those killed in the awful conflicts we human beings manufacture for ourselves. We would be especially pleased to hear from relatives or friends of the McCulloch brothers or from those of Private Hugh McIntyre.

'The Friends of Kilbride would like to record our thanks to Lodge Saint Modan, the Oban Commercial Lodge, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Canadian government and genealogist Caroline Boswell, whose help in tracing the histories of these brave Oban soldiers was invaluable.'

MORVERN lines

A bridge too far

THE disruption to the ferry service across the Corran Narrows for five days recently brought the inevitable knee-jerk reaction that it should be replaced by a bridge.

True, many motorists, cyclists and foot passengers were inconvenienced, but accidents happen and all things mechanical break down at some time, especially well-used marine components. The problem came about because the standby ferry wasn't standing by but was sitting in some distant yard where it had been for months.

Complacency had clearly reigned supreme and, for leaving the peninsula vulnerable, the council official in charge should consider resigning.

For the Highland Council's representatives, salaried or elected, to talk of a bridge without having a long-term strategic plan for upgrading the single lane carriageways to Lochaline, Salen, Acharacle and Kilchoan, is ridiculous. Long sections of these roads are in an appalling state and deteriorating by the day. They can hardly cope now with the traffic from Mull which CalMac is diverting from Oban to Lochaline and Kilchoan because their ferries to Craignure are fully booked. Clearly, the situation is going to worsen, particularly in the summer months, and that a slow-moving convoy system will ultimately be necessary.

One of the grumbles about the ferry being off is having to negotiate heavy vehicles on the twisted single-track road on the south side of Loch Eil. Yet this is exactly what all drivers would face on the A884, A861 and the B80047 if a bridge was built across the Corran Narrows.

Lest it be forgotten, the Corran Narrows form part of the Great Glen fault which is prone to seismic movement. While perhaps not impossible to construct, expensive compensatory arrangements would need to be included in a fixed link that would also need to be



A wreck at the Corran Narrows. Picture: Iain Thornber

high enough to allow shipping to pass under. Who would fund a bridge? The Highland Council and its Holyrood paymasters are not exactly flush. Tolls perhaps?

The ferry regulates the flow of vehicles which is the key to good traffic management in rural areas and the 15-strong local crew who operate it, are the eyes and ears of the peninsula. If a bridge was built, what of their full-time jobs?

If there is one place a relatively inexpensive fixed-link could and should be built for light private and commercial vehicles, it is across the Loch Eil Narrows from Corpach to Achaphuibuil. The span is short and there are no large merchant vessels passing through. It would be a boon to the folk on the south side of the loch for accessing Fort

William and useful for those of us who live further down the peninsula when the ferry is storm-bound.

There has probably been some type of ferry arrangement over the Corran Narrows since dugout canoes were around. Records exist of a ferry in the 15th century and of it being put out of use when the Hanoverian troops ransacked Maclean of Ardgour's property after Culloden.

The stone piers on either side which underlie the existing ones were built in 1817 by Thomas Telford. The stone came from Strontian by way of Loch Sunart, the Sound of Mull and Loch Linnhe.

The ferry was on the cattle droving route from Mull, Morvern, Sunart, Ardnamurchan and Ardgour to the great Falkirk Trysts. Large flat-bottomed

boats, called wherries, occasionally took animals over but more often they were forced to swim at slack water.

The narrows form a bottleneck through which the currents flow at speeds of up to eight knots, making it a dangerous place in the days of sail or when oars were the only form of propulsion. In a note in the 1842 admiralty chart for Loch Linnhe, it was recommended that two steam tugs of about 90hp should be stationed in the vicinity to assist vessels struggling to make any headway or in danger of being pushed onto the rocks by the powerful back eddies.

Judging by logs kept by the Ardgour lighthouse keepers, there were many casualties: 1870, the Fortune at Corran point and the Gagella at Black point; 1872, the Moir, east Corran pier; 1874, the Margaret, Sallachan point; 1881, the Petrel, flat rock Corran and the Lord Clyde, half tide rock Bunree point; 1892, the Merganser, Cuilcheanna spit; 1909, the Ness Queen, Corran; 1911, the Glenrose, Cuilcheanna point and the Feishaic, Corran Narrows; 1912, the Loch Nell, Keil Bay and the Treasure 504 INV, Sallachan Point; 1918, the Margaret, Corran Narrows and the Backwash GY 1299, Ardgour slip; 1924, Drodgena schooner, south of lighthouse.

There is little doubt that if a bridge was built at Corran it would alter an entire way of life forever. The crime level would rise and housing and ugly industrial development would run rampant, taking away the charm and uniqueness of the area which every B&B and holiday cottage owner raves about.

The country needs places like West Lochaber. Would it be too direct to say to those who grumble about its isolation and find being cut off now and again difficult to cope with: 'Perhaps you should try somewhere else - we like it just as it is.'

Iain Thornber
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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.



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#MeetTheCairns

Environmentalist blasts Oban's litter problem

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

AN ENVIRONMENTAL campaigner from who has set up a Keep Oban Beautiful group was in despair this week after reading a story in *The Oban Times* about rubbish and drinking parties on Pulpit Hill.

Maurice Wilkins said there was a 'sorry tale' to be told about rubbish throughout the town and he hopes police foot patrols can be extended throughout the town.

Mr Wilkins, a well-respected environmentalist, said: 'Not only is Pulpit Hill a rubbish dump, but Oban's premier tourist attraction, McCaig's Tower, is likewise.'

'It helps, of course, that most of the drinking and eating fraternity lob their detritus over the edge of the viewing platform,



Maurice Wilkins and Barbara Macfarlane from Keep Oban Beautiful.

where it's not so readily seen, though the holiday-makers can gaze down upon it while they take pictures of the view.

'Dumping, unfortunately, is not limited to rubbish, as the kind person who used the word in a slightly different

sense on my garden path recently will know.

'Many of our visitors make their way up to the tower via the steps of Jacob's Ladder, where they will be able to take note of more offerings from the generous drinkers of the town.'

'The two seats at the top end provide excellent comfort for the carry-out brigade, who frequently drop their bottles, cans and polystyrene boxes directly beneath their feet.

'The more thoughtful among them toss the rubbish over the fence, of course, where it lies hooked up in the undergrowth until wind and weather washes it down to join the many years' supply behind the wall of the distillery.

'This is only seen during the winter when tourists are few, so I suppose it might seem not to matter.

'The broken railings and stonework pulled out of the wall remain behind one of the seats where they were left many months ago.

'A call to the council, telling them of this mess and the dangers of rusty, broken metal,

remains unanswered. Let's hope that some innocent child doesn't tear his or her cheek on the jagged and rusty spikes.

'I'll not bring up the subject of the Black Lynn, or the Hydro, the back of the Corran Halls, or anywhere else in the town where rubbish is regularly recycled.

'Maybe the police should patrol some of these places too. I must end by thanking those loyal citizens who take the trouble to clear up some of the litter dropped by so many thoughtless people.

'Do we really welcome visitors to Oban or would we prefer that they went elsewhere?'

The police have agreed to increase their foot patrols around the town.

Anyone wishing to join Keep Oban Beautiful should contact Mr Wilkins on maurice@arduaine.plus.com.



Lord Lieutenant Patrick Stewart, left, with Margaret Worsley and Deputy Lord Lieutenant Pat Boyd.

Party as Tiree woman is awarded her BEM

A TIREE woman who is the longest-serving member of the island's fire service was presented with her BEM by the Lord Lieutenant last week.

Margaret Worsley, who has also been working as an outreach worker for Cuiram Thiriodh for the past three years, was praised for going above and beyond for members of the community.

The Lord Lieutenant for Argyll and Bute, Patrick Stewart, travelled to Tiree to present Margaret with her medal, which took place at a celebratory lunch held in the Scarinish Hotel.

Margaret was surrounded by family, friends, colleagues and other Cuiram volunteers and committee members, who all joined her to celebrate this well-deserved award.

Residents urged to check permissions

RESIDENTS living in Argyll and Bute's conservation areas or in listed buildings are being encouraged to check with the council before going ahead with developments.

The area has 32 designated conservation areas, from Campbelltown to Tobermory.

Some small-scale plans, such as a building, shed or a boundary wall, will not need planning permission as they will come under 'permitted developments'.

However, this is unlikely to apply to homes in conservation areas or to listed buildings, and people are reminded that they should get advice before doing any work.

Conservation areas are those that have been given protected status in order to preserve its natural features, cultural heritage and historic character.

Listed buildings will also need specific consent for any internal or external alterations if they affect the historic fabric of the building.

Councillor David Kinniburgh, planning spokesman, said: 'In Argyll and Bute we are very proud of our beautiful towns and villages.'

'To keep our historic landscapes intact, we have guidelines for householders and businesses who live in conservation areas to assist with any proposed development.'

'Just as important to the landscape and character of Argyll and Bute are the 2,000 listed

buildings we have across the area. They are a special part of our rich heritage.'

'That's why anyone who wants to do work on a listed building needs special consent to ensure we all preserve this piece of history.'

'Please see the planning pages on our website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk, which have full details of how to apply for permission.'

Anyone who does need planning permission can now use the council's pre-planning application service, which has been improved to make it more streamlined and speedy.

Charges for the service will be levied from now for some development. There will be no fee for householder and small-scale development.

The website also has maps of all the conservation areas and residents can check whether their property is a listed building.

The conservation areas are in: Auchindrain, Bowmore, Campbelltown, Cardross, Clachaig, Cove and Kilcreggan, Crinan Canal, Cullipool, Dervaig, Dunoon, Easdale, Ellenbeich, Hill House, Helensburgh, Inveraray, Iona, Keills Jura, Kervecroy, Kilmartin, Kilmoluaig, Lochgilphead, Lorn Furnace, Luss, Port Charlotte, Port Ellen, Portnahaven and Port Wemyss, Rhu, Rosneath, Rothesay, Tarbert, Tobermory, Toberonochy and Upper Helensburgh.



Waltraud Kaliba and partner Jürgen Trieb, inset, claim to have seen the strange creature in Loch Creran.

Austrian visitors claim to have found Nessie in Loch Creran

A UFO scientist and three of his friends claim to have found Nessie ... but almost 100 miles from her usual home.

Waltraud Kaliba and partner Jürgen Trieb, along with two doctor friends, claim to have seen a 'strange creature

in the water on July 27, at 7.30 in the morning'.

Setting about taking an image of the creature, the group managed to take two blurry photos before it submerged back into the sea. Ms Kaliba-Trieb, from Knittelfeld asked *The*

Oban Times: 'Is Nessie back? On July 27, at 7.30am, we four Austrian tourists made a strange observation while walking the shore of Loch Creran.'

'Within a distance of 200 meters the head and back of a mysterious creature popped out of the quiet waters

surrounding the Isle of Eriska. The creature could be seen by us for approximately 10 seconds and we could shoot two pictures of the creature, before it disappeared again.'

A spokesman for the police said he was not aware of claims.

What decisions are taken on your behalf?

Opinion: Stacey Felgate from the People's Council calls for live streaming to start

WHEN we held our monthly workshop, and it was the turn of Darren McGarvey, aka Loki, to walk us through how living in a deprived area impacts our stress levels, our quality of life and our access to democracy.

One of the stand-out moments was when he talked about how, post-2014, post-referendum politics is doing us actual harm, pushing otherwise sensible people to focus on huge constitutional questions and score cheap points against 'the other guys' while life goes on and people struggle.

If you haven't seen it, there has been a petition floating around online for a few weeks now, looking for public support to live-stream council meetings.

Hardly revolutionary. In 2012, a working group was set up to investigate the use of online technologies for voting, video conferencing and webcasting. They recommended fitting the chamber with over £100,000 of new equipment to allow live streaming of meetings so that we, the public, could see what was being said and decided on our behalf.

So what happened? The equipment was fitted but isn't used. A few councillors didn't fancy being on camera and the plan was scrapped.

At our hustings event a few months ago, a packed Corran Halls studio made it very clear that live streaming was something the people of Oban and its surrounding areas wanted to happen.



Make your voice heard at the council chambers in Kilmory.

Seven of the eight councillors since elected are on film agreeing with us (Andrew Vennard didn't attend). It's interesting then that all seven have not rushed to sign the petition or lend support to it. Indeed, a cynic might think that they were doing what they are told to rather than what they believe in.

You see, of the eight councillors elected to serve the Oban area, six of them joined the administration, a coalition of Conservative, Lib Dem and Independents, while the other two belong to the SNP group which forms the opposition.

This petition was put forward by

an SNP councillor, and Kilmory is so dysfunctional that the idea of giving the SNP a 'win' is beyond the pale for some.

And, so, an issue with cross-party and independent support which should be straightforward becomes a political football with petitions flying around and people taking sides while we, the public, start to wonder why we paid for £100,000 of equipment we aren't allowed to play with. Remember what we said about post-2014 politics harming us instead of helping us?

Let's be clear: live streaming council meetings is not going to

solve the problem of local democracy in Argyll and Bute - not even close - but it wouldn't hurt to send a message which says: 'This place is ours, you work for us, and we want to know what you are up to.'

So whatever side of the political divide you find yourself on, sign the petition (you'll find a link on our Facebook page @PeoplesCouncilArgyll) and demand what is rightfully yours: access to decisions being made on your behalf. Then come to our next meeting. There will be cake.

Email: contact@thepeoplescouncil.org

Neighbour assault lands in court

AN OBAN man has admitted assaulting a neighbour.

Craig Pollock, 40, of 7D Quarry Road, pleaded guilty to assaulting a man who lived next door on November 15, 2016, by knocking him to the ground, sitting on top of him, and pressing his fingers and thumbs into the man's eye sockets, all to his injury.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes told Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday he was deferring sentence until August 29 to obtain a criminal justice social work report.

Man admits New Year's Day attack

A 38-YEAR-OLD from Perthshire has admitted punching a man to his severe injury on New Year's Day.

Neil Rimmer, of 7 Springbank Road, Alyth, pleaded guilty at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday to assaulting a man in a flat on Oban's Battery Terrace on January 1, 2017, by punching him on the head to his severe injury, impairment and disfigurement.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes deferred Rimmer's sentence for a criminal justice social work report until August 29.

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Eye to eye
with John Wallace

Children's vision

Last month I discussed binocular vision problems and how many youngsters with reading problems have undiagnosed sight difficulties. As the school holidays come to an end our thoughts, as parents, are on how we can best equip our children for the forthcoming school year. The obligatory trip to the shops for the school uniform, new shoes and all the paraphernalia necessary for our children to cope in school is essential. But what if your youngster can't actually see clearly? How will they cope in school when they can't see the classroom white board or read comfortably?

With most information being available online, perhaps on a school portal or, more likely, via YouTube, children really need to be able to read comfortably if they are to achieve their full potential at school or college. They also need to see clearly in the distance to perform well in sports and in the classroom. One in five

teenagers in the UK is now myopic (shortsighted). Yet surprisingly very few children have regular eye examinations. Because poor vision is an unseen problem most parents don't think their child could have a vision problem. Even in schools, children who underperform are often labelled as potentially dyslexic rather than being advised to have an eye examination.

As part of the preparation for the new school year, all children should have a comprehensive eye examination. There are a couple of caveats I would advise. If your child is struggling to read but has been told they are seeing normally it probably indicates a subtle, but significant, problem with how their eyes work together. Also, no parent should ever accept advice that rapidly increasing myopia and ever stronger glasses is inevitable. It is now possible to dramatically reduce the rate of myopic increase in our children.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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Business group slams call for new Skye tourist tax

MARK ENTWISTE
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ANY NEW tax to fund more public services such as extra toilets risks driving away visitors as the Highlands is already an expensive destination for tourists.

That was the warning this week from a professional body representing many small businesses which hit out at calls for the imposition of a new tax.

David Richardson, the Federation of Small Businesses' development manager for the Highlands and Islands, was speaking after Skye businessman Roger Booth, who owns a food van at the Quiraing, was featured in BBC news reports calling for a small fee to be levied at the Skye Bridge to help pay for more public toilets and better car parking.

Mr Booth, who claimed he regularly cleans up mess left behind by visitors to Skye, as well as human waste on occasions, said a £1 per person tourist tax would help pay for more services.

Other local business owners were said to be in agreement with a tourist tax, or similar charge, while Highland Council leader Margaret Davidson said the local authority would need to speak to more businesses before it could make a judgement on the viability of any such move.

But Mr Richardson said taxing tourists is a bad idea. 'The recent increase in visitor numbers to Skye and the northern Highlands has helped secure the futures of many marginal tourism businesses, extending their



Skye MSP Kate Forbes.

seasons and enabling some to expand and take on more staff. It has also encouraged new businesses to start up.

'Fragile Highland communities are more secure as a result, though everyone acknowledges our infrastructure is struggling to cope. National and local governments already benefit from the tax revenues flowing directly and indirectly from tourism businesses and their customers, and they have a responsibility to support this vital industry by investing some of this income in the provision of essential infrastructure.'

'Tourists are fickle and numbers can go down as well as up for a variety of reasons. If we want a secure and stable Highland tourism industry, we must improve our product without making what is already a very expensive holiday destination more expensive.'

Meanwhile, Kate Forbes, SNP MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said she intends continuing her discussions on tourism infrastructure as part of

the Skye leg of her summer constituency tour. Ms Forbes held a meeting in Portree in June, the beginning of a process to identify and find solutions to the pressures on the island caused by increases in tourism.

She is following that up with meetings and surgeries on the island this week, ahead of a visit from Scottish Government tourism secretary Fiona Hyslop later this year.

And Ms Forbes warned that Skye's booming popularity as a tourist destination is placing ageing infrastructure under huge strain.

'There has been disgusting behaviour in Skye this summer as people leave unpleasant presents because of lack of toilets,' she said.

'There is a different way of doing things. Look at Kyle, for example, where there are fully functioning toilets which are well-maintained and only require a small contribution by users.'

'This is something which I'd like to see across Skye. We desperately need to reverse the years of closing toilets.'

The Skye MSP said there has been no preparation for the success of tourism on Skye.

'While we have been very successful in attracting visitors, there has been very little forward-thinking in terms of upgrading infrastructure.'

'If the problem is due to poor preparation over the years, then the solution will not happen overnight. It's really not that difficult to recognise that roads, parking and toilets are three immediate priorities.'



Residents loved spending time with Edwardo the pony.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson The Write Image, F31 therapy ponies 01 IF

Ponies bring smiles to residents

A LOCHABER family raised money to take two therapy ponies to a Ballachulish care home.

Siobhan Cooper and her dad Andy raised more than £500 for Abbeyfield Care Home to bring in the animals, Wilson and Edwardo.

The family has close ties with the care home as Siobhan's grandmother is a resident there. Her grandfather also lived at the care home but he died earlier this year.

Dominic Duffy, manager at the care home, told the *Lochaber Times* it is lovely to see the family still so involved with the care home staff and residents, even after their loved one has

died. 'Donations like this are what enable us to do extra activities, such as getting the ponies for the residents. We would not be able to fund things like this otherwise,' he said.

'This was not a case of us going out and twisting people's arms to get money for the ponies. Siobhan and her family wanted to do this for us which makes it extra special.'

'It was great for everyone to see the residents' faces light up when they were with the ponies. Residents who maybe would not normally participate in activities got involved with it, which was great to see.'

Shinty reaches new heights

THE HIGHEST shinty match to played in the UK will take place in Lochaber today (Thursday August 3).

To celebrate the launch of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce's new Outdoor Capital of the UK website, the group along with VisitScotland, Nevis Range and No Fuss Events will be hosting the spectacular event at Aonach Mor.

The match will throw-up on the summit at 4pm.

In a first for VisitScotland, the new Outdoor Capital of the UK website will be linked with the VisitScotland web platform. It allows Outdoor Capital of the UK website users to search for any of Lochaber's VisitScotland registered accommodation or activity providers directly from the OCUK platform.

An OCUK spokesman said: 'The setting of Britain's highest shinty match is the perfect way to illustrate the unique nature of the online partnership with VisitScotland while firmly reinforcing the Outdoor Capital of the UK as one of the strongest tourism brands in Europe. The results of the digital campaign have been extremely positive to date. Since April 2017 it has reached 7.9 million people with 3.1 million people watching the online video content and 241,000 likes and shares of the videos.'



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The tea ladies show off new T-shirts and the goodies stall.



Committee member Nicola Wilson resorts to witchcraft.



The committed volunteers who got out and about and onto the viewpoint site in Soroba.

Volunteers clear up Soroba

ON ONE of the wettest Saturdays in July, the volunteers clearing the site at Soroba Community Centre were not deterred for a moment in getting out and

about and continuing to improve the area. Spurred on by some homemade soup and sandwiches, volunteers from around the area including a posse from the

Scottish Association from Marine Science based at Dunstaffnage.

The site is soon to be Oban's only community centre for use by the whole community.



Sam from SAMS helps remove one of the heavy tree trunks.

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*source: JICREG data 01/04/2014

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OT

Viewpoint

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
email: editor@obantimes.co.ukThe Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

As expected, there was an enormous turn-out at Glenacruitten church on Tuesday for the funeral of wee Kayla MacDonald.

People from across our communities came together to say farewell to the eight-year-old, who was so tragically killed in a forestry accident near Benderloch while out walking with her grandparents.

That enormous show of compassion and support for Kayla's family was perhaps not unexpected but was gratifying to witness nonetheless.

Many people had also wanted to send flowers or show support in other ways, which is why Lachie Brown was

quick to set up a JustGiving page online so that friends and strangers alike could contribute financially.

It was heartening to see the speed with which people responded to Lachie's appeal.

Lachie, the cousin of Kayla's dad, Alastair 'Ettie' MacDonald, originally said he wanted to try to raise £5,000 to help the family with funeral costs.

As we went to press this week, the fund had generated more than £13,000, a remarkable testament to the kind-hearted nature of people across Argyll and further afield. Nothing, of course, can ease the family's pain but the financial contribution will bring relief of a different sort.



Days gone by – the 1960s

Reader Nigel MacKenzie Campbell, from Dumbarton, dropped by The Oban Times office to hand in this period picture of Lochgilphead's Main Street during the 1960s.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



WITH specific regards to playing a musical instrument, people often comment: 'It must be wonderful to be born with such talent.'

As I always reply, playing a musical instrument for me and for most has very little to do with talent. The primary factor leading to the ability is being given the chance to learn in the first place, closely followed by encouragement at home, the desire to learn and being able to enjoy and focus on the process.

Take any one of these ingredients out of my timeline and I would either not have started playing the accordion, or would have given up when the inevitable obstacles and difficulties visited the journey.

As with music, so with Highland games and one of the rising stars of that discipline is beginning to show the fruits of these same factors.

What Gordon Connell did for me and countless other accordion players from Tíree, Shaun Bate, from Oban, is doing for 18-year-old Highland games athlete Murdo Masterson of Dunbeg.

Similarly, he has strong support from his parents, has the hunger to learn and is putting the time and

focus into training and practice. Murdo is naturally a big, strong lad, but remove any of the ingredients above and he would not be able to throw a hammer the length of himself, far less distances that put him among the top of his age group in the country.

Like Gordon, Shaun has never charged a penny for his time and expertise but, along with his good friend Jock Ross, coaches purely because of his passion for the sport and for the pleasure of passing that on to others.

I referred to Murdo and his success at the Lorne Highland Games a few weeks ago, and his achievements deserve further highlighting.

Last weekend at the Stonehaven Highland Games, Murdo threw the light hammer (16lb) 135 feet and one inch.

This broke a ground record in the under-25 age group that had stood since 2004.

Such was the fierce level of competition on the day that 10 minutes later, fellow young star, 24-year-old, James Dawkins broke it again with a huge throw of 137 feet and two inches.

To put Murdo's throw in perspective, the winning throw in the 2016 Scottish Championships at Crieff

– which in the Highland games world is 'the one to win' – was 139 feet and one inch' from championship winner, Scott Rider.

Murdo's throw of 135 feet and one inch for an teenager who has only been throwing for four years is remarkable and good enough on the right day to win any competition against the best in the world.

His overall performance so far this season has meant that he is almost neck and neck in points with James Dawkins for the Glenfiddich Qualifying Heavy Events Championship for under-25s.

There are many events still to be competed for this year so the end is still a long way off.

Murdo may not win this year, and whether he does or not is of less importance than the great achievements he is destined to attain in his long-term future in the sport if he continues consistently and carefully training towards his goals.

However, already he has broken new ground for someone of his age and this should be recognised along with the generosity and skill of his coaches. There is no greater gift than the gift of time.



Social media

Oban's problems with traffic congestion, especially at this time with thousands of visitors to the area, caused considerable comment.

Angela Marshall complained: 'If there maybe was less traffic lights to be stuck at traffic may flow better, other towns I've visited use pedestrian crossings rather than umpteen traffic light and many of them so close together why!!!! The high school junction is a joke 45mins it took me yesterday at 3pm to get from hospital to lidl then traffic flowed fine it's so frustrating.'

Jimmy McCallum suggested: 'An Oban by-pass would be good, but in reality most folk are either in Oban trying to get out, or outside Oban, trying to get in. The amount of traffic heading 'through,' north, or south, is probably much less, I'd have thought?

I entered Oban from the north, on Tuesday about 4pm and it was a nightmare. Traffic management is definitely going to hurt the town badly, if it isn't already.'

Gary Farlow proposed: 'Build a main road on the out skirts of Oban so not everyone has to pass through the town to get to work at the other side, that is the only thing u can do, problem solved.'

Gordon Cooper recalled: 'It was ever thus. Years ago, there were two traffic wardens who kept the traffic flowing and directed it to parking areas near what is now Tesco. However they were so abused and one physically assaulted that they left.'

Davie Walker posted: 'High School junction is a joke and the biggest cause of all the chaos. A large roundabout is

needed, meaning the compulsory purchase of the halls and the b&b allowing 2 lane access from all directions onto the roundabout. Simple as!'

Mark Stuart said: 'Using Public Transport helps, but could do with Lots more input into Public transport in terms of finances, a by-pass would help, with rail, trams, ferries or even air!'

Barclayish Adamski wrote simply: 'Walk.'

Andy Kerr advised: 'Enjoy the view, ride a bike or open a business selling something in car windows (or all 3).'

Colin Cooper prompted: 'Peak time congestion charge. Free bus transport. Hire pedal bikes.'

Karen MacPherson advised: 'Bypass and a park and ride facility.'

Marie Archer agreed: 'Bypass road is long overdue the only solution to this!'

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Litter problems is far more widespread

Sir,

I read the front-page news last week about the state of the Pulpit Hill viewpoint ('Viewpoint is littered with rubbish', *The Oban Times*, July 27) and feel I should add a little more to this sorry tale.

Not only is Pulpit Hill a rubbish dump, but it is Oban's premier tourist attraction. McCaig's Tower is likewise. It helps, of course, that most of the drinking and eating fraternity lob their detritus over the edge of the viewing platform, where it is not so readily seen, though the holiday-makers can gaze down upon it while they take pictures of the view. Dumping, unfortunately, is not limited to rubbish, as the kind person who used the word in a slightly different sense on my garden path recently will know.

Many of our visitors make their way up to the tower via the steps of Jacob's Ladder, where they will be able to take note of more offerings from the generous drinkers of the town. The two seats at the top end provide excellent comfort for the carry-out brigade, who frequently drop their bottles, cans and polystyrene boxes directly beneath their feet.

The more thoughtful among them toss the rubbish over the fence, of course, where it lies hooked up in the undergrowth until wind and weather washes it down to join the many years' supply behind the wall of the distillery. This is only seen during the winter when tourists are few, so I suppose it might seem not to matter.

The broken railings and stonework pulled out of the wall remain behind one of the seats where they were left many months ago. A call to the council, advising of this mess and the dangers of rusty, broken metal remains unanswered. Let's hope that some innocent child doesn't tear his or her cheek on the rusty spikes.

I'll not bring up the subject of the Black Lynn, the Hydro, the back of the Corran Halls or anywhere else in the town where rubbish is regularly recycled. Maybe the police should patrol some of these places too. I must end by thanking those loyal citizens who take the trouble to clear up some of the litter dropped by so many thoughtless people.

Do we really welcome visitors to Oban or would we prefer that they went elsewhere?

Maurice Wilkins,
Laurel Road, Oban.

Health service in Oban and Argyll is excellent

Sir,

I am writing in response to the incredibly confused letter from your correspondent Mike Foster (*The Oban Times*, July 27), which mixes up BBC salaries, NHS Highland, and our Oban GP service.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



NUAIR A BHIOS NA MÌLTEAN a' cruinneachadh aig Fèill Àiteachais an Eilein Duibh an-diugh 's neònach mur a bi co-dhùid cuid a' ceasnachadh dè an seòrsa uidheamachd air am bu chòir dhaibh a bhith ag amas airson obair-tuatha neo cruite anns na bliadhnaichean air toiseach. Agus an bi gin dhiubh sin a' ruith air dealain?

Tuigear carson a tha luchd-iomairt dìon na h-àrainneachd a' strì gus cleachdaidhean an t-saoghail atharrachadh agus lùghdachadh a thoirt air truaillidhean cheimigeach de gach seòrsa, agus chan eil teagamh nach eil einnseanan dìosail agus peatrail a' cur ris an trioblaid. Ach am bheil an dùthaich seo gu bhith deiseil ann an trì bliadhna fichead gus làn-chasg a chur air càraichean agus bhanaichean ùra a bhios a' ruith air na connaidhean sin?

Chan e ùine fhada a th' ann an trì bliadhna fichead idir, agus gu dearbha chithear iomadach carbad air na rathaidean againn gach latha a tha nas sine na sin, is anns an t-seadh sin tha co-dhùnadh an Riaghaltas dol a thoirt buaidh air luchd-ceannach càraichean agus bhanaichean gu math luath. Tha cuid a' cumail a-mach gum bheil teicneòlas charbadaid dealain air a bhith comasach bho chionn fhada ach gun robh companaidhean ola ga chumail air ais fhad 's a bha fortan ri chosnadh à ola, agus aon uair 's gun tigeadh gainnead ola neo riaghailth na h-aghaidh gun leigeadh iad cumhachd dealain air adhart.

'S dòcha nach robh bunait sam bith aig na beachdan sin agus gum bheil slioghe mhòr fhathast a dh'ionnsaigh innealachd dealain a ghabhas àite einnseanan dìosail is peatrail. Chan eil teagamh nach eil an t-uamhas obair-deisealachaidh ri dhèanamh ged nach biodh ann ach na dh'fheumar de ghnoireasan far an gabh dealain a chur dha na carbadan ùra sin. Ged a tha eisimpleirean againn mar-thà de chàraichean a' ruith air dealain agus peatrail chan eil iad air cus buaidh a thoirt saoilidh mi, agus ged a dh'fhaodadh carbad le comas ceud gu leth mìle a shiubhal air aon lìonadh cumhachd a bhith

Like your correspondent, I would be happy to see BBC staff well paid, but I doubt that any BBC employee can justify a salary that is three or four times that of our Prime Minister.

My wife and I have received excellent service from our local hospitals but, sadly, the services that they can provide now are limited by the inability of NHS Highland to attract the necessary staff. No doubt this is due partly to the lack of proper forward planning by the NHS administrators and failings on the part of our Scottish Government, which has been responsible for the NHS in Scotland for the past decade.

Turning now to the focus of Mr Foster's ire, in my view the staff of our Lorn Medical Centre are quite outstanding, from both administrative and medical points of view. If he wishes to communicate by email, he can do so, but perhaps he has not asked. And when it comes to repeat prescriptions, the adjacent pharmacy staff frequently ask me if I wish this service; again perhaps he should ask.

Personally, I am happy with the telephone service provided. Maybe his rose-tinted spectacles are focused on a previous era in England. He should count himself lucky that we have such an excellent service in Oban.

Colin Davidson,
by email.

Fish farm proposal is to be resisted

Sir,

In a letter published in the *Argyllshire Advertiser* (July 21), Alexander Hamilton dismisses, in a very patronising manner, my concerns about the proposal for a fish farm in the Sound of Jura Marine Protected Area.

I find the proposals unacceptable and have raised several issues with the relevant government minister. I have met objectors and I am more than willing to continue to argue the case against the development in question.

I would have thought that Mr Hamilton, if his objective is to ensure a united front against this particular plan, would have welcomed that.

I am not, however, going to be part of a wholesale rejection of every aquaculture proposal, which is the position of some, like Mr Hamilton, who – as his letter illustrates – often take an abusive and very partisan approach to anyone who rejects their fundamentalist views.

To describe aquaculture as 'seabed rape', as Mr Hamilton does in his letter, is extreme, foolish and fundamentally untrue.

Aquaculture, in the right place and managed in the right way in accordance with the strict regulatory framework, provides high quality produce, much-needed local employment and – in places such as Argyll – helps the perpetual fight against depopulation and economic decline.

Furthermore, neither I nor the SNP will be the final arbiter of any plan-

ning or licensing application. That will be decided by the laws currently in force, as it should and must be.

Michael W Russell,
MSP for Argyll and Bute.

Proud of Argyll and Bute stem cell donors

Sir,

A cross-party parliamentary event on stem cell transplantation, supported by blood cancer charity and stem cell register Anthony Nolan, was held on July 18 to celebrate the number of people who are registered as stem cell donors.

In Argyll and Bute, the number of potential stem cell donors registered with Anthony Nolan is 2,139. Some 42 per cent of these donors are male, and the average age is 34.

I am very proud that Argyll and Bute has 2,139 people who have selflessly volunteered to give someone a second chance at life. Donating stem cells is straightforward but it could make an enormous difference to someone with no other chance of a cure.

Across the UK, and out of 650 constituencies, Argyll and Bute ranks 15th, which, for an area which is largely rural, is exceptional.

I would like to encourage more people from Argyll and Bute, particularly men aged 16-30 and people from black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds, to register as stem cell donors.

For more information about the all-party parliamentary group for stem cell transplantation, visit www.appg-stemcell.org.uk. For more information about Anthony Nolan, visit www.anthonynolan.org.

Brendan O'Hara,
MP for Argyll and Bute.

Reckless behaviour led to family's murder

Sir,

Anyone who travels by air anywhere will know the drill. Laptops out, toiletries under 100ml in plastic bag, belts off, watches off and shoes off.

It's the price democracies pay for standing up to terror. That's why the latest violence in Israel caught my eye.

On July 14 two Israeli police officers were murdered in Jerusalem by three Israeli Arabs who had smuggled automatic weapons into the Al Aqsa mosque. Israel then introduced metal detectors to prevent weapons being taken into the site and that led to Palestinian leaders calling for violence against Israel.

As a direct consequence of that call for violence, a family of three, sitting down to dinner, were slaughtered by a Palestinian terrorist on July 21.

I was appalled that a group of people who want to be seen by the world as viable leaders of a new Palestinian state behaved so recklessly that it led to the murder of an innocent family.

Susan Wallace,
Fort William.

Ailean Caimbeul

freagarrach gu leòr ann am baile-mòr, cha bhiodh sin gu mòran feum airson siubhal astaran fada na Gàidhealtachd.

'S e deagh amas a th' aig an Riaghaltas agus chuireamaid uile failte air àrainneachd nas glainne agus nas sàmhache a thigeadh an lùib seo, ach tha iomadh dùbhlhan ri fhreagairt agus gu cinnteach feumaidh smachd air cumhachd chompanaidhean reice dealain a bhith àrd air an liosta sin.

SOME CONSERVATIONISTS would prefer quicker action but the government decision to ban the sale of new diesel- and petrol-engined cars and vans by 2040 is a bold step. It is also a proposal that will influence purchasing decisions relatively soon, and there are major challenges to be resolved, not least for charging facilities and mileage capability in these new vehicles, particularly outwith urban areas. We must also pre-empt any new form of fuel-poverty as personal transport control moves to energy suppliers who have hitherto proved grasping.

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

Le taic bho



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BUSINESS NEWS

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Oban Bay Hotel is bought by firm based in Thailand

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk

THE Oban Bay Hotel and Spa is set to be sold to a company from Thailand.

The Crerar Hotel Group is selling its entire portfolio, which consists of 13 hotels including the Isle of Mull Hotel and Spa, the Loch Fyne Hotel and Spa and the Glencoe Inn and Gathering. Of the hotels, 12 are in Scotland, while the other is located in Yorkshire.

In addition to the hotels, FICO Castle Ltd is also purchasing the brand name Crerar Hotels and Crerar's shortbreak company Easy Breaks. The proposed takeover by the Bangkok-based company will be in late August.

The price of the sale hasn't been disclosed, but the net turnover for the Crerar Hotel Group Ltd in

2017/18 is forecast to be around £30 million.

Half of the net proceeds will be donated to the Crerar Trust, a charity run by the Crerar family. The trust gives money to good causes that have links to where Crerar hotels have businesses or interests.

A spokesman for Crerar Group said: 'We are delighted to announce that, subject to legal contract, we intend to sell all of our assets.'

'The discussions undertaken over the past year have been entirely positive and we feel very certain that the new owners' input and fresh global perspective will bring out the best in our soon to be former hotels and associated business interests.'

'In particular, we were impressed about the focus, care and attention they demonstrated when discussing



The Oban Bay Hotel has been sold as part of a package.

how the people in the organisation will continue to be given every opportunity to flourish.'

The other hotels that will be included in the sale are the Ben

Wyvis Hotel, Strathpeffer; Chevin Country Park Hotel and Spa, Otley; the Craiglynn Hotel, Granton-on-Spey; the Deeside Inn, Ballater; Eight Acres Hotel and

Leisure, Elgin; Glencoe Inn and Gathering, Glencoe; Golf View Hotel and Spa, Nairn; Go Glasgow Urban Hotel, Glasgow; Scotland's Hotel, Pitlochry; and Thainstone House, Inverurie.

'We have been very lucky to have had two amazing supporters over the years and it's important that we pay tribute to them,' a spokesman for Crerar Hotels added.

'Thank you to our great general managers and the fantastic teams they have with them - hospitality is all about people and they are exemplars of what great hospitality is about. And, of course, without the many, many loyal customers of both Crerar Hotels and Easy Breaks, we would have had nothing.'

'I know both these supporters will very much enjoy a refreshed approach that will come with the enthusiasm of new ownership.'

Bumper year for Business Gateway Argyll

SIGI KOERNER
editor@obantimes.co.uk

NEW figures from Business Gateway Argyll and Bute indicate a year of success.

Between April 2016 and March 2017, the organisation has helped 104 companies start up and has supported almost 1,000 existing businesses.

Business Gateway held 154 workshops in Argyll and Bute, drawing nearly 1,000 attendees. It also boasts an 86 per cent one-year survival rate for its clients - higher than the 80 per cent national average.

The annual first-year turnover of Business Gateway's clients in Argyll and Bute is projected to be £3.7 mil-

lion, and the new businesses expect to create 109 full-time jobs.

Argyll and Bute Council leader Aileen Morton said: 'These figures are a real success story for Business Gateway Argyll and Bute.'

'We are proud to be one of Scotland's most promising regions, and this hugely successful year is testament to that.'

'Together with the council and our other partners, Business Gateway is helping build a prosperous future, boost the economy and make Argyll and Bute an attractive place in which to invest, work and live.'

'With results like this, a host of new businesses launching and existing firms growing,

we're going from strength to strength.'

'If you are thinking of starting a new business, or are already operating and would like to take advantage of Business Gateway's support, please get in touch and the advisers will be happy to help.'

Business Gateway offers free and impartial advice to anyone wanting to start up or develop a business and provides one-to-one support from its advisers and arranges a variety of locally-run courses.

Among the success stories is Helensburgh resident and former army medic Melanie Neil, who launched an artisan chocolate shop called CocoaMo.

Melanie said: 'I was keen

to make Business Gateway my first stop before I launched CocoaMo, as I had no previous business experience. My adviser had a wealth of information, providing me with details from accounting to food standards contacts.'

Business Gateway also supported the Dunoon-based firm Architeco.

Founder Colin Potter set up Architeco in 2011 to offer technologically competitive sustainable architecture. Mr Potter called the scheme 'a huge investment for a small business'. He added: 'Our adviser has been incredibly helpful and we are now looking at other opportunities to explore, such as staff training that will bring new skills to our practice.'



Melanie Neil launched chocolate shop CocoaMo.

Argyll and Lochaber firms up for awards

FOOD and drink businesses from Argyll, Lochaber and Skye put on a good show in this year's Food Awards Scotland finals, but there are virtually none from the Hebrides.

The awards 'celebrate and reward the very best in the Scottish food industry', the website says, and are voted for by the public.

Ee-usk in Oban and Loch Fyne Oysters face each other in the best seafood establishment category, Inverawe

Smokehouses is up for the seafood supplier of the year, and JM Breckenridge is a finalist for the fresh produce provider of the year.

The Barn Bar in Lerags, The Drivers' Inn by Loch Lomond, the Ben Nevis Inn and the Lord of the Isles in Croabh Haven are finalists for the gastro pub of the year, while Abbies Café in Oban is nominated for the café/bistro of the year.

Annabel Gregory is up for

restaurant general manager of the year at Kilchrenan's Ardanaisig Hotel, which is also in the shortlist for hotel restaurant of the year alongside the Airds Hotel and Restaurant in Port Appin, Tarbert's Stonefield Castle, the Falls of Lora in Connel, Manor House in Oban, and Restaurant at Duisdale in Isleornsay.

The finalists for the takeaway of the year category are the Waterfront Fish and Chip Shop and Takeaway in Broadford,

Sammy's Fish and Chip Shop in Fort William and the Oban Fish and Chip Shop.

Making the finals in the restaurant of the year category are the Laroch Restaurant and Bar in Ballachulish, the Waterside Seafood Restaurant in Lochalsh, the Stables Restaurant and Grill in Fort William and the Hawthorn Restaurant in Benderloch.

Prize-winners will be announced on August 14 at the awards ceremony in Glasgow.

Highlands firms want to stay in single market

MORE than two-thirds of businesses across the Highlands and Islands believe membership of the European single market is important to the Scottish economy, according to new research.

And Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus MacNeil said that the Tory UK government is focused on a hard Brexit which includes leaving the single market and the customs union - a move which is also supported by the Labour Party led by Jeremy Corbyn.

The Ipsos MORI survey of 1,014 Highlands and Islands businesses and social enterprises, commissioned by development agency Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), found that 70 per cent of businesses surveyed said single market membership was important to the Scottish economy.

Mr MacNeil said: 'Business owners are experts in their own sectors and are the best source of knowledge on what the im-

plications of leaving the single market will be on the economy.'

'Experts in various sectors are increasingly of the view that, even if Brexit was planned well over a long period of time, it would still have negative implications on business and the wider community.'

'The view of the Tory government and the Labour Party is that the UK should leave the single market and pursue a Brexit deal without member-

ship. That is a view contrary to the majority of businesses asked in this survey.'

'Whatever deal we get post-Brexit, it will be worse than what we have right now.'

'There are other challenges for businesses in the Highlands and Islands at this time but there is no doubt that leaving the single market, as is the aim of the Tories and the Labour Party, is not supported by the business community.'

ALDI launches Highlands recruitment drive

ALDI is looking to recruit 19 employees across the Highlands within 2017, as it continues to attract more new customers than other UK supermarkets.

The jobs in the Highlands include deputy store managers, store assistants and apprentices and will be spread across the retailer's stores in Inverness, Fort William and Aviemore.

As the UK's highest paying supermarket, all store employees will earn a minimum of £8.53 an hour. The recruitment

drive follows a surge in sales, with more than 418,000 new customers heading to ALDI in Scotland in the past year. As part of ALDI's commitment to Scotland, the retailer recently outlined plans to boost its investment in products.

ALDI will increase its range of Scottish products from 350 to more than 400 in the next two years, underlining a long-standing support of Scottish producers across all sectors of the food and drink industry.

ALDI currently has 74 stores in Scotland with plans to open an additional four by the end of the year.

Richard Holloway, managing director for ALDI in Scotland, said: 'Attracting the best people is crucial to our future expansion plans.'

'Our approach is to recruit the best people in retail, build amazing teams and invest in each employee's long-term career development to ensure they operate in an environment

where they feel engaged, motivated and challenged.'

'Working at ALDI comes with market-leading pay, benefits and career opportunities that are unrivalled in the supermarket sector, and we're looking forward to receiving applications for these new roles in Scotland.'

For more information about recruitment or to apply for any of the vacancies visit <https://www.aldirecruitment.co.uk/>.



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Arena

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

The sea is the star of new picture show

Scotland's coastal communities will take a starring role in *Made by the Sea*, the latest outing of A Kind of Seeing's touring programme. From high drama on the fishing boats to popular seaside destinations, the sea has an important part to play in Scotland's national moving image collection. Featuring archive films from as early as 1908 on the big screen, the *Made by the Sea* tour opened with a live screening at Portsoy Salmon Bothy as part of the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival before travelling to five seaside venues across Scotland during the summer: Ullapool, Tobermory,

Johnshaven, Thurso, and Castlebay on the Isle of Barra. Hosted by Shona Thomson, each event will offer the opportunity for an informal post-screening bletcher with local historians and special guests connected to the films. Tour producer, Shona Thomson of A Kind of Seeing said: 'From warships sailing into 1950s Ullapool to the important work of the RNLI lifeboats in the treacherous Pentland Firth, portrayals of life on and near the sea have often been dramatic. 'But *Made by the Sea* audiences can expect the lighter side too, with fabulous seaside holidays on the West

coast and television's legendary wanderer Tom Weir exploring the island of Vatersay near Barra.' Following the success of the 2016 rural tour *Made on Our Land*, A Kind of Seeing is again partnering with Regional Screen Scotland to present three of the *Made by the Sea* screenings in the newly-refurbished Screen Machine, Scotland's mobile cinema in the Highlands and Islands. The screen machine visits Tobermory on Tuesday August 1, and Castlebay on Barra on September 13, with both showings starting at 5:30pm. For more details visit www.made-bythesea.net



Herring drifter



Tobermory ferry terminal in 1930s



Cockle-picking in Castelbay in the 1930s



Ullapool harbour in the 1950s

Arrive in style at Mid Argyll showground



Kilmartin to Lochgilphead carriage ride tickets are on sale.

An outstanding equestrian spectacle will wind its way between Kilmartin and the annual Mid Argyll Show in Lochgilphead. Carriages from all over Scotland will make the eight-mile or so journey between Kilmartin along the main route to the show field- and spectators are invited to line the route to see what is a unique sight. The idea for the event came from a conversation between the organisers of the Mid Argyll Agricultural Show and Ewan Mac-

Innes, an enthusiastic carriage driver now based on Deeside but formerly from Lochgilphead. Ewan will be carrying passengers from Kilmartin to the Showground in Lochgilphead on the day of the show Saturday August 12. He will be joined by fellow enthusiasts from other regions in Scotland with their carriages and teams of horses. Tim Lister the Mid Argyll Show president said: 'This should be a spectacular occasion

and provide a glimpse back into public transport in Argyll from more than 100 years ago. 'As one of our committee members joked - "you wait 100 years for a carriage and then three or four go past at the same time!" 'There will be opportunities to see the carriages on route as the horses leave Kilmartin about 11 with a pitstop in Bridgend about midday, and through Lochgilphead arriving at the show about one o'clock.

The carriages and horses will stay on the show site offering visitors a chance to see the horses and carriages close up. To help cover the considerable costs of transporting carriages and horses to Mid Argyll, tickets are being sold to make the journey as a passenger on the carriages and can be obtained via email coachrun@mail.com or by telephoning Tim Lister on 01546605239. More information is available on the Mid Argyll Show website and Facebook page.

PETS CORNER

in association with Highbridge Kennels and Cattery



Are we killing our pets with kindness?

Recognising when a pet is overweight is the top issue vets and vet nurses wish UK pet owners knew about their animals, according to new findings released for National Pet Month. More than one in five of veterinary professionals (23 per cent) said the number one thing they wished their client knew about their pet was diet-related, with suggestions ranging from considering 'Am I feeding them the right food?' to 'Pets need a lot less food than we think!', and "We have to protect them from themselves and not give into that 'look', especially where food is concerned!" Over 500 vets and vet nurses across the UK were polled by the Veterinary Animal Welfare Coalition, which is made up of leading veterinary organisations and vet-led animal charities and aims to help pet owners better understand their pets' five welfare needs. The answers given fell into 26 different themes, covering a wide variety of pet care issues. The top five most frequently mentioned things veterinary professionals

wished all pet owners knew are:

- How to recognise when your animal is overweight
- That flat-faced breeds suffer lots of health and welfare issues
- How to recognise signs that your animal is in pain
- You have a responsibility to care for your pet properly and follow the five animal welfare needs
- That your veterinary team is the best place to go to for advice on all areas of pet care, including what pet may be the most suitable for you

Gudrun Ravetz, President of the British Veterinary Association said: 'Every owner loves their pet; however, the vet team often see animals with problems that could be avoided. Vets and vet nurses are invaluable sources for pet care information with years of training and experience under their belts, and will be more than happy to answer any queries or concerns owners may have about their pets.' Every day throughout National Pet Month, the Veterinary Animal Welfare Coalition - the British Veterinary Association, British Veterinary Nursing Association, British Small

Animal Veterinary Association, British Veterinary Zoological Society, Blue Cross, PDSA and RSPCA - will be tweeting the various things vets and vet nurses wished pet owners knew. To find out more, check out their Twitter feeds or follow the hashtag #Wewishyouknew. Samantha Morgan, President of the British Veterinary Nursing Association, said: 'People bring their pets to the veterinary practice when they are sick, however, what they also do not realise is that the Veterinary team can also provide a lot of advice for keeping pets healthy too. From diet and exercise to flea and worming treatments, veterinary nurses and veterinary surgeons have the knowledge to keep pets happy.' The Veterinary Animal Welfare Coalition was formed to meet the recommendations in the Vet Futures project and aims to deliver awareness raising and behaviour change communication campaigns, based around responsible pet ownership and the five welfare needs as outlined in the Animal Welfare Acts.

WIN

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Friday 4 – Thursday 10 August

ALONE IN BERLIN | 12A | 123 MIN
Fri: 18:00, Sat: 15:45, Sun: 19:00, Mon, Tue: 19:15, Wed: 17:00, Thu: 19:15

Berlin, 1940. The city is paralysed by fear. When Otto and Anna's son is killed at the front, their loss drives them to an extraordinary act of resistance: they start to drop anonymous postcards all over the city, attacking Hitler and his regime. If they are caught, it means certain execution. Soon their campaign comes to the attention of Gestapo inspector Escherich (Daniel Brühl), and a murderous game of cat and mouse begins.

CARS 3 | U | 129 MIN
Fri, Sat: 14:30, Sun: 12:00, Mon: 14:30, Tue: 12:00, Wed: 14:00, Thu: 12:00

Blindsided by a new generation of blazing-fast racers, the legendary Lightning McQueen (voice of Owen Wilson) is suddenly pushed out of the sport he loves. To get back in the game, he will need the help of Cruz Ramirez, an eager young race technician with her own plan to win, plus inspiration from the late Fabulous Hudson Hornet and a few unexpected turns.

DESPICABLE ME 3 | U | 110 MIN
Fri: 16:00, Sat: 13:45, Sun: 16:45, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 12:00

The team who brought you Despicable Me and the biggest animated hits of 2013 and 2015, Despicable Me 2 and Minions, returns to continue the adventures of Gru, Lucy, their adorable daughters—Margo, Edith and Agnes—and the Minions. Parker voices the role of villain Balthazar.

DUNKIRK | 12A | 126 MIN
Fri: 17:00, 19:30, Sat: 17:00, 19:30, 20:15, Sun: 12:00, 17:00, 19:30, Mon, Tue: 14:00, 17:00, 19:30, Wed: 16:30, 19:15, Thu: 14:00, 17:00, 19:30

"Dunkirk" opens as hundreds of thousands of British and Allied troops are surrounded by enemy forces. Trapped on the beach with their backs to the sea they face an impossible situation as the enemy closes in.

KIDS CLUB - CARS | U | 120 MIN
Sat: 11:30 Children's Classic. Entry £2.

A hot-shot race-car named Lightning McQueen gets waylaid in Radiator Springs, where he finds the true meaning of friendship and family.

RSC LIVE: TITUS ANDRONICUS | 15 | 120 MIN
Wed: 19:00

The decay of Rome reaches violent depths in Shakespeare's bloodiest play. Blanche McIntyre (The Two Noble Kinsmen) returns to the RSC to direct Shakespeare's brutal revenge tragedy. Titus is a ruler exhausted by war and loss. He relinquishes power, but leaves Rome in disorder. Rape, cannibalism and mutilation fill the moral void at the heart of this corrupt society.

SILVER SCREEN - THE BEGUILLED | 15 | 120 MIN
Sun: 14:30

Silver Screening - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £3! 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.

WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES | 12A | 160 MIN
Mon, Tue: 16:15, Wed: 14:00, Thu: 16:15

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.

WILLIAMS | 15 | 129 MIN
Fri: 20:15, Sat: 18:00

Charting the story of Formula One's most celebrated family, Williams is a thrilling account of how one man built a racing empire and a vivid, heart-rending portrait of the aftermath of a tragedy. Starting life with nothing other than a single-minded obsession for speed, Sir Frank Williams created one of the world's most enduring Formula One racing teams, winning nine Constructors' Championships over the last 40 years. But in 1986 at the height of this success, a near fatal car accident left Frank fighting to survive and the team's future hanging in the balance.

Bookends Festival opens for its second chapter

Benderloch's second Bookends Festival launched its week-long programme today (Thursday). This year's festival of the written and spoken word, which runs from September 23-30, features authors reading books ranging from King Arthur to free outdoor fitness.

Adam Ardrey, who will share stories of King Arthur, and where he walked in Benderloch, from his book Finding Arthur. Kathleen Anderson will then read from her book Sweaty Hugs, which details her discovery of free outdoor fitness in the USA, which is now spreading worldwide. Lindsay Campbell from Kilmelford will reveal Argyll's acts of skullduggery from her

book, Ane Compact of Villany. Graeme Pagan is well known for the marvelously entertaining tales in Once Bitten Twice Fined, and he and Alison Pringle have co-written a book on bereavement, which he assures isn't all doom and gloom. Graeme and Alison will read from Don't Mention the Coal Scuttle, and talk about how they came to write this book and how it

has helped them and others over the years. To complement the Bookends Festival, Oban's Phoenix Cinema will also show films Tuesday mornings as numbers have fallen recently. On August 9 Shakespeare's most violent play - Titus Andronicus - will be screened live from Stratford. In September the cinema will show three documentaries. Two have environmental themes: A Plastic Ocean is an adventure documentary in which a team of researchers and explorers investigate pollution in the ocean; An Inconvenient Sequel marks former vice president Al Gore's

From cartoon cars to F1 at the cinema

There are also two animated films coming out: Cars 3 and The Emoji Movie. Oban under-18s still receive a ticket discount in all films. The cinema is looking for more parents and carers to come along to parent and baby screenings on Tuesday mornings as numbers have fallen recently.

On August 9 Shakespeare's most violent play - Titus Andronicus - will be screened live from Stratford. In September the cinema will show three documentaries. Two have environmental themes: A Plastic Ocean is an adventure documentary in which a team of researchers and explorers investigate pollution in the ocean; An Inconvenient Sequel marks former vice president Al Gore's

return to cinema after An Inconvenient Truth (2006), continuing to raise concerns on climate change. At the end of September, the cinema will also host Scottish director Morag Livingston for an in-depth conversation about her work. This will follow a screening of her political documentary Belonging. The Truth Behind the Headlines, which investigates three industrial scandals under three UK governments. These are part of the cinema's year-long environmental project, sponsored by the Climate Challenge Fund.



The Bookends Festival reading room.



Oban Cinema manager Jennie Larnie with duty manager Cailean.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Green Shoots Pick Your Own Day
Glencruitten Woodland, Oban, PA344NB
Saturday 5th August 11am - 3pm
vegetables, fruit, cut flowers and refreshments
Free event (donations welcome towards produce)
Contact Catriona Pettit for more information 07775995650.

An Comunn Gàidhealach - Meur Chruachain Cruachan Branch Fifth Taynuilt Summer Ceilidh
Featuring
Bean an Taigh: Audrey Paterson Piper; Emma Law Karyn Black, Lori Den Heijer, Lily Hutchison, Lindsay Wilson Janet Fergusson, The Sequence Singers
Anna Westwell - Clàrsach, Jack Westwell - Piano & Fiddle
The Isla Sinclair Dancers, Taynuilt Village Hall
Thursday 3rd August 7.30pm Admission: £4 Children: £2
A family friendly ceilidh of song, music and dance
A warm welcome is extended to all

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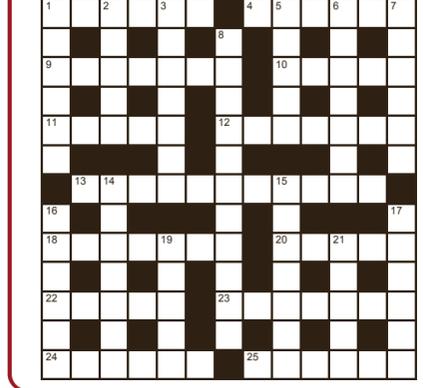
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MONDAY: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11:00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 13:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime, 18:00 Drivetime, 19:00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20:00 John McLuckie's Show, 21:00 David Cullen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

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Preserve (6)
 - 4 Film about a famous person (6)
 - 9 Paste (7)
 - 10 Stationed (5)
 - 11 Pronouncement (5)
 - 12 From that origin (7)
 - 13 Firm costing (5-6)
 - 18 Study of mechanical arts (7)
 - 20 Mature (5)
 - 22 Vessel for soup (5)
 - 23 Money or goods available without the government taking a percentage (3-4)
 - 24 Electrical appliance for coiffing the hair (6)
 - 25 Cite as conclusive (6)
- Down**
- 1 Busy oneself on the course? (6)
 - 2 Cash return on cash invested, sounds flowery! (5)
 - 3 Insane person (7)
 - 5 Suffuse (5)
 - 6 Back door (7)
 - 7 Arrange systematically (6)
 - 8 Papers to prove a pass (11)
 - 14 Parish residence (7)
 - 15 Copied (7)
 - 16 Drooping of eyelid (6)
 - 17 Belong (6)
 - 19 Time being (5)
 - 21 Hidden (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

Arena

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

Faclan: books at edge of the world

The theme for this year's Faclan: The Hebridean Book Festival at An Lannair, Stornoway, is Ultima Thule.

In other words, a place in mediaeval geographies beyond the borders of the known world.

In the popular imagination, this is the northern islands and territories, but for writers it is an endless territory to explore, revisit and reinvent.

Faclan 2017 presents a diverse, intense and ambitious programme that includes talks, discussion, film, launches, exhibitions and workshops viewed via a series of chapters and through different lenses.

Daoine nan Àite: People in Place will open the festival and bring together Gaelic cultural historian, Finlay Macleod with Murdo Macleod, long-time staff photographer with the Guardian. They will celebrate the 40th anniversary of Gaelic publisher Acair with a look at historic photography

in the Outer Hebrides, notably Robert Adam, James McGeoch and Dan Morrison.

The overture to Absolute North will be a silent film of Iceland from 1925 with live accompaniment by Jessica Danz, followed by internationally acclaimed Icelandic photographer Ragnar 'Rax' Axelsson whose austere yet lush images document The Last Days of the Arctic. In similarly elegiac mood, the decline of oceanic birds is lamented by Adam Nicolson in his new book The Seabird's Cry, described by the FT as a masterpiece.

Lands of Ice and Fire juxtaposes ancient and modern myth and reality. Eleanor Rosamund Barraclough follows the Vikings on a journey Beyond the North Lands while with Winter is Coming, Carlyne Larrington looks at how the mediaeval world has informed and nourished HBO's Game of Thrones. In-between is a special screening of the eponymous 1st

episode of this global success story.

The Outer Hebrides are a crucible for Gaelic culture and, under the banner of The Language of Eden, three events cluster for another dimensional viewpoint: Briseadh na Cloiche (Breaking the Stone), a new short film from MG Alba. BBC Radio 3 New Generation Thinker, Peter Mackay, explores 500 years of the erotic in Gaelic song and verse. In Litreachas nan Tìre, the literary landscapes of Sorley Maclean, Duncan Ban Macintyre, Neil Gunn and others are charted by John Murray.

Over Land brings geographical and philosophical perspective through Mapping Scotland's Islands with the National Library's Christopher Fleet followed by Into the Unwild, presented by and showcasing the aerial photography of Patricia and Angus Macdonald.

Anchoring these themes-within-a-theme and bringing

the programme to a conclusion will be High Altitude High Latitude with mountaineering legend Doug Scott CBE followed by best-selling author Michelle Paver on her chilling ghost stories Dark Matter and Thin Air.

Threaded throughout is a film programme that includes Capra's Lost Horizon and Powell's The Edge of the World (both 1937), Herzog's Aguirre: The Wrath of God and documentaries The Epic of Everest on Mallory and Irvine's doomed attempt and The Great White Silence (both 1924) on Scott's failed expedition to the South Pole.

Other events include arts journalist and author, Jan Patience, on the much-missed, charismatic artist George Wyllie, also known as The Why's Man.

Two exhibitions will form a backdrop to these events: HYPERBOREA: Lands of the North featuring the work of three estab-



lished and acclaimed photographers in a show-within-a-show.

They are:
Alex Boyd: Dark Mountains | Silent Islands
Chris Friel: After Ragnar Axelsson:

Faces of the North Forradh: Sly Cooking by former Sunday Herald Art Critic Catriona Black presents an exhibition of linocut illustrations of Gaelic Words and Expressions, collected by Fr. Allan

McDonald, revealing the sophistication of a language full to the brim with folklore.

Early Bird Faclan Festival passes are now available for £55, which will give pass holders entry to all Faclan

events, at a savings of over £70. Early Bird passes are available until mid-August. Individual tickets will go on sale in mid-August with the release of the full schedule of events. Grateful thanks to

Creative Scotland, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Acair, MG Alba, The Royal Literary Fund and Natural Retreats for their generous assistance with this year's rich and intriguing programme.

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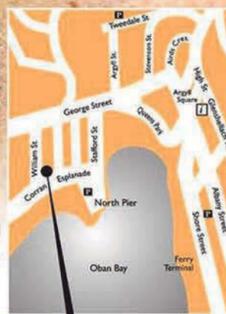


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MP backs campaign for touring musicians

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara and newly appointed spokesperson for the SNP on culture, media and sport gave his support to the creative industry at an event in Westminster aimed at highlighting the potential risks of Brexit.

Mr O'Hara said: 'It is vital that the UK government gets the best possible deal for the sector - the ability to tour and trade easily with the UK's largest export market and to attract talent, EU arts funding, workers' rights and the rights of EU citizens in the UK. 'Musicians are rightly concerned that that the Brexit process may lead to the introduction of work permits and visas for British musicians touring and working across Europe which as you can imagine would be problematic if you are working in several different European countries over the course of a few days. 'So I have no hesitation in giving my support to professional musicians and

performers in Argyll and Bute and will urge the UK Government to ensure that they can continue to travel easily across Europe post-Brexit with minimum burdens placed upon them.'

Horace Trubridge, the Musicians' Union General Secretary said: 'British musicians have long enjoyed easy access to touring in Europe, as UK venues and festivals have benefited from

easy access to European performers.

'We know from touring in the US and elsewhere, that visas and other restrictions impose significant costs and administration, and occasionally considerable financial loss when visas aren't processed in time. 'We are calling on MPs and the Government to help secure a deal that will ensure ease of movement for touring and performing post-Brexit.'



Brexit agreements must be in place for musicians.



A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 3 August - Thursday 10 August 2017

DIARDAOIN 03 LUNASTAL THURSDAY 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 Scotland's greatest King, Robert the Bruce (rpt)
21.30 **UR | NEW: Belladrum 2017** - highlights including Sister Sledge and First Aid Kit
23.00 **UR | NEW: Aghaidh ri Aghaidh**

- the rivalry between Chanel and Schiaparelli
23.50 **Binneas - Na Trads** (Dosca) - (rpt)

DIHAOINE 04 LUNASTAL FRIDAY 04 AUGUST
17.00 **A' Bhriogais Cheàrr** - Wallace & Gromit in the Wrong Trousers (rpt)
17.30 **Am Balach anns a' Bhuilgean** - children's programming
17.40 **An Là** - News
17.50 **UR | NEW: Camanachd Beò** - Live Shinty: Kingussie v Newtonmore
20.00 **Ceann an Rìgh** - revealing the face of Scotland's greatest King, Robert the Bruce (rpt)
20.30 **O Mo Dhùthaich** - life on the Hebridean islands of Uist (rpt)
22.55 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
21.00 **UR | NEW: Belladrum 2017** - highlights including The Pretenders and Feeder
23.30 **UR | NEW: An Klondike** - Dominion Creek - Drama, S1, Ep3

24.25 **Binneas - Na Trads** - music from Dosca (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 05 LUNASTAL SATURDAY 05 AUGUST
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's Programming
17.30 **UR | NEW: Scottish Premiership** - Hibernian v Partick Thistle
19.30 **Machair** (rpt)
19.55 **Binneas - Cuirm @ Celtic** - music from session A9 (rpt)
20.00 **Craic** - Women's panel discussion (rpt)
20.30 **Puirt-adhair** - behind the scenes view of airports across the Highlands & Islands (rpt)
21.00 **UR | NEW: Belladrum 2017** - highlights including Franz Ferdinand and KT Tunstall
23.00 **An Klondike** - Dominion Creek - Drama, S1, Ep3 (rpt)
23.55 **Dhan Uisge** - River Douchary (rpt)
24.00 **Marilyn Munroe** - the life &

death of Marilyn Munroe (rpt)
24.50 **Binneas - Na Trads** - music from Duncan Chisholm (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 06 LUNASTAL SUNDAY 06 AUGUST
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's Programming
18.30 **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 North Uist (rpt)
21.00 **Farpaisean chon-chaorach** - Sheepdog Trials (rpt)
22.00 **Na Worlds 2014** - music from the World Pipe Band Championships (rpt)
23.00 **Aghaidh ri Aghaidh** - The rivalry between Chanel vs Schiaparelli (rpt)
23.55 **Eadar Chliuch** - Comedy interpretation of a Gaelic song (rpt)

DILUAIN 07 LUNASTAL MONDAY 07 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 **O Mo Dhùthaich** - life on the Hebridean islands of Uist (rpt)
21.00 **Trusadh - Dileab na h-Acairseid** - legacy of the isle of Rona (rpt)
23.00 **Hòro Gheallaidh** (rpt)
23.30 **Nationwide an Alba: An Taobh an Ear** - stories from the Nationwide TV series (rpt)
23.30 **Cuide ri Cathy** - Katie Melua (rpt)

DIMAIRT 08 LUNASTAL TUESDAY 08 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 **Mnathan-Glùine** - Highland Midwives (rpt)
21.00 **Farpaisean Chon-chaorach** - Sheepdog Trials (rpt)
22.00 **Trusadh - Dileab na h-Acairseid** - legacy of the isle of Rona (rpt)
23.00 **Craic** - Women's panel discussion (rpt)
23.30 **Alleluia!** (rpt)

DICIADAIN 09 LUNASTAL WEDNESDAY 09 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 **Dualchas a' Chaisteil** - The story of renovation of Lews Castle in Stornoway (rpt)
21.00 **Nationwide an Alba: Na h-Eileanan** - stories from the Nationwide TV series (rpt)

22.00 **UR | NEW: Belladrum 2017** - highlights including Sister Sledge and First Aid Kit
23.30 **Buskers** (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 10 LUNASTAL THURSDAY 10 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 South Lochs (rpt)
21.00 **UR | NEW: Belladrum 2017** - The Pretenders and Feeder
23.30 **Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber** - music from the Mae Trio (rpt)
23.55 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)

Former OHS pupil causes dance mayhem at Fringe

Former Oban High School pupil, contemporary dance master choreographer Bill Coleman, with avant-garde composer Gordon Monahan, will present a theatre dance piece inspired by American actor Buster Keaton at the Edinburgh Dance Base Festival 17.

Both eye-popping spectacle and unique score, Dollhouse encompasses tap dancing and performance art while mechanical and electronic objects, both handmade and found, deliver disrupting and surprising rhythms for the ears and eyes.

Coleman told *The Oban Times* about the show which runs from August 15 to 27.

Mr Coleman, who works all over the world, recently had rave reviews from a show in Toronto.

1. What was it that inspired your show or performance?

I was inspired by the American actor Buster

Keaton. A basic inspiration for his work was interacting with things breaking and falling so that became a basis to the show.

The process itself became the inspiration but, like any creative journey in the studio, we wandered far from Buster and the silent comedies in which he starred.

2. Can you describe your devising process, and how did you find inspiration for creating your work?

Unbridled exploration played a large part in the creation.

3. What was it that inspired you in becoming a performer, or setting up your company?

I started tap dancing at 15, which was basically a case of making noise while moving around in front of people. I had shown glimmers of creativity at school with a play and some funny dances at dance school but it wasn't until I had encountered contemporary dance and its

'you can pretty much do anything' appeal, that I became interested in making performance.

4. What was your favourite part of the rehearsal or devising process in creating your performance?

Working with composer, Gordon Monahan.

5. Do you have a routine or pre-show ritual that you have to do before you perform?

As a dancer I warm up, but for this show I fill my pants with brittle objects and set mousetraps.

6. What is your favourite dance performance you've seen, and why?

Appalachian Spring by Martha Graham, I think is my favourite. It's so clear and simple. I was lucky to dance in it at the 50th anniversary performance in Washington.

7. If you could describe your show in three words, what would they be?

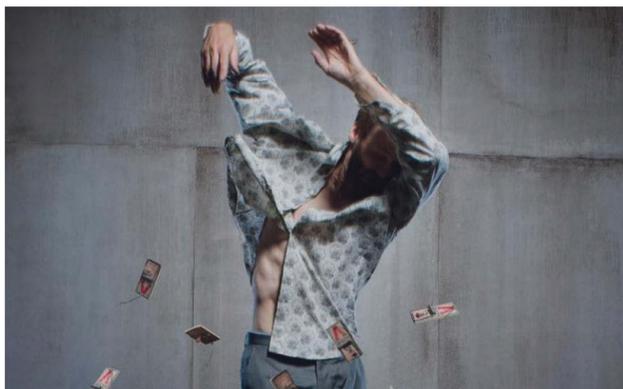
Aural, kinetic mayhem.

8. What are you most looking forward to in bringing your show to the festival?

The audiences.

9. What's your favourite Edinburgh haunt?

Edinburgh's Botanic Garden.



Contemporary dance master and choreographer Bill Coleman.

Isle of Iona

by Dr Emily Zobel Marshall, senior lecturer in postcolonial literature at Leeds Beckett University

I explored the island's gently sloping meadows glowing golden in the evening light as if illuminated from below and between the dancing grasses of parnassus. A mass of wildflowers met my eye. Cranesbill, self-heal, yellow rattle and red campion. Foxgloves, harebells and buttery meadow vetchling. Ladies bedstraw so soft it invited me to lie on its mattress of cushioned saffron petals. Sleepy amber cattle slowly chewed the cud while stately crowns of thistle stood majestic. Buttercups competed with the sunbeams to be the brightest orbs of light. Dragonflies thrummed on iridescent wings amongst the camomile and milky heads of

yarrow. White bright eye brights twinkled purple irises and this chorale of wildflowers streamed their honeyed scent into the gentle breeze intoxicating me with heady perfumes of midsummer. And beyond the tilting fields, the beach. Where ropes of tangled seaweed threw their salty stench into the evening air. Against a backdrop of slate-grey basalt rock. Little Rose gathered treasures on the shoreline. Precious shimmering shells are grouped. Pebbles whose metallic glitter delight her eye. Long feathers to decorate carefully moulded mounds

and tiny rounded bits of glass, emerald and sapphire jagged edges sculpted smooth by time and wave and sand. Beyond her, on the turquoise waves a grey seal watched all, intensely curious while indifferent gannets circled, cried and dived. All this laid bare for the senses to behold radiance overwhelming to nose and ear and eye. The believer may be sure they know the secrets of Iona's splendour. Yet those with only questions can but marvel at her grace and leave already longing to return and be wrapped once more in her scented golden evening embrace.

Lochaber's only theatre company puts on Fringe event



The Recovery Version.

Highlands. Hogamany. Three generations of men. The whisky should probably have stayed in the cupboard. Bright Productions are Lochaber's only theatre company and they are now taking their new play *The Recovery Version* to the Edinburgh Fringe but they had three local

dates before setting off. They performed in Ballachulish Village Hall on July 29, Victory Hall on July 31 and the Ben Nevis Distillery on August 1. There was a short post show talk where audiences could chat with the cast and crew. And there was even be a nip of whisky.

Three pupils from Kinlochleven High School joined them on this project. Fiona Janzen, Holly Baldwin and James Ramsay shared the role of Jack, a 12-year-old boy, and will be part of the world's biggest arts festival. Other young people have been involved

with the development of the play. S3 pupils have been testing and staging script and senior pupils have been helping designer and teacher Graeme Martin to create the set. The play is written by local playwright Iona Munro, and the music is by Paul Hornby-Batrick and Chaz Stewart.

Glasgow Letter

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



Scottish Pipe Band Championships

This week's offering has a distinct pipe band flavour.

First off, a big congratulations must go to both Inveraray and District who (under the leadership of Pipe Major Stuart Liddell) who were crowned Grade 1 Scottish Champions last weekend in Dumbarton, and to Oban High School Pipe Band, which won the Novice Juvenile A and B sections.

Some 123 bands and 40 drum majors competed at the championship and this was Inveraray's third title of the 2017 season after winning the British and European titles. St Laurence O' Toole lifted the drumming title, taking their second drumming title of the 2017 season.

The worlds are around the corner

Friday and Saturday, August 11 and 12 will once again see thousands of pipers and drummers descend upon Glasgow for the World Pipe Band Championships.

'The worlds' have been associated with the city of Glasgow for nearly 70 years now and last year was the 30th year in a row the city has hosted the competition. As well as being the biggest weekend of the year in the competitive pipe band calendar, it is also a much anticipated couple of days for the people of Glasgow because the city is always buzzing around the time of the competition.

A total of 15 nations are represented at the worlds - including pipe bands from Canada, USA, New Zealand, Australia, Denmark, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The current world champions are the Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band from Northern Ireland who, last year, fought off stiff competition from our new Scottish champions, Inveraray and District.

Piping Live

As well as the competitive side of the worlds, there is also a fantastic fringe festival. Piping Live this year features all sorts of events which will make for a great week in Glasgow.

As part of the fringe, there are a few extra competitions. One such competition is Pipe Idol - a solo competition which progresses throughout the week with three heats leading to the final on the Thursday evening.

There are also a number of interesting concerts, including the Glasgow launch party for The Music of Fraser Shaw, which I wrote about in this column previously. The

Peatbog Faeries take to the stage in the Drygate Brewery on the Friday night and the After Worlds Shindig Cèilidh is played this year by the Shimmy Grand Cèilidh Band. All tickets for fringe events are available from Piping Live website.

What's on

Monday August 7: Mac Ìle - The Music of Fraser Shaw: CD Launch Party - starting at 8pm in St Luke's, Calton.

Thursday August 10: Pipe Idol - the grand final at 5pm in the Strathclyde Suite of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

Friday August 11: The Peatbog Faeries and Jose Manuel Tejedor Trio at 7.30pm in the Drygate Brewery. Over-18s only.

Saturday August 12: The After Worlds Shindig Cèilidh at 9pm in the National Piping Centre.

Pub scene

Park Bar
Friday: Beinn Lee.
Saturday: Dogdy Ground.
Sunday: Beinn Lee.

Sunday August 6:
Islay Inn.
Friday August 4: The Keelies.
Saturday August 5: Twist of Fate.
Sunday August 6: Trail West.



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of food, crafts and other goods, a pipe band, dog show and plenty to keep the children occupied. The céilidh dance in the evening is always a popular way to wind down after the day's events and usually goes on into the wee hours.

MID-ARGYLL AGRICULTURAL SHOW

At the Mid-Argyll Agricultural Show on August 12 at Kilmory in Lochgilphead, hundreds of exhibitors enter competitions in baking, produce, crafts, flowers and vegetables as well as the dog and livestock classes. Tim Lister will preside over the 120th Show, supported by vice presidents Fergus Lyon and Cairiona MacLeod. A large crowd of spectators will enjoy watching the judging of cattle, sheep, dogs, horses, ponies and poultry competitions. Other regular attractions are the display of vintage tractors and the delightful pets section will continue together with the terrier racing

competitions. Ewan MacInnes and colleagues with four sets of coach and horses will delight the crowds at this year's show.

APPIN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

The setting for Appin Agricultural Show has to be near the top of the list of the most picturesque, looking out as it does over Loch Linnhe to Castle Stalker. Held August 19, this is the Appin Show's 60th anniversary. This small but perfectly formed show is renowned for its after show dance in the village hall, but during the day it is a focal point for the community, with a good show of stock, including from the island of Lismore, and a variety of entertainment, from children's sports and dancing to young farmers testing their strength.

DALMALLY AGRICULTURAL SHOW

The final agricultural show in the West Highlands calendar on September 2, the Dalmally Show at the village's mart is known for its Highland cattle competitions, with entries from all over Scotland. At this well attended show, visitors will enjoy a wide variety of attractions such as the ever popular shinty match, trade stalls, stockjudging and terrier racing. The judging includes Highland and commercial beef cattle, Blackface sheep, dogs, poultry, baking and preserves, as well as displays of handicrafts and horticulture.

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Sunart & District Agricultural Society Show & Family Fun Day Out



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Help NFUS to shape post Brexit agriculture policy

One year on from Theresa May taking up residence in Downing Street and as the UK government's flagship European Union (Withdrawal) Bill was introduced to the Commons, NFUS parliamentary officer CLARE SLIPPER takes stock.



Clare Slipper.

THERESA May's appointment as Prime Minister followed a short but sharp race which consigned her leadership opponents, Boris Johnson and Michael Gove, to the political sin bin.

Standing on the steps of Downing Street, the newly-appointed PM vowed to always work in the interests of families who were 'just about managing' and said she would rise to the 'great national challenge' of the EU referendum outcome.

A year later and both Johnson and Gove have risen from the ashes, being appointed as Foreign Secretary and Defra Secretary respectively. But they sit within a government that has been cut down to size following a surprise election campaign which many now consider to be simply seven weeks of precious Brexit negotiating time that we will never get back.

Clearly, the UK is not out of the post-referendum political quagmire yet.

The UK government's flagship European Union (Withdrawal) Bill is one of the biggest pieces of legislation ever to go through the UK parliament. To say that the political parties are gearing up for a major fight is an understatement.

Labour's Shadow Brexit Secretary Keir Starmer has said today that 'Labour is putting the government on notice' and will vote against the bill unless the government changes its approach on a wide range of issues running from workers' rights to parliamentary scrutiny.

The SNP has also threatened to vote against the bill unless Scotland is offered a raft of new powers – including, notably, full devolution of all powers for any future agricultural and rural policy.

Brussels law. Essentially, it will cut all EU rules, regulations and frameworks and paste them into UK and Scots law to ensure that the wheels don't come off on day one of EU exit in April 2019. It is a technical and procedural bill, and will enable the introduction of future policy bills on agriculture, immigration, trade, customs and fisheries which will come next year.

Technical and procedural though it is, the EU (Withdrawal) Bill is one of the biggest pieces of legislation ever to go through the UK parliament. To say that the political parties are gearing up for a major fight is an understatement.

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And this is before the Scottish

Parliament is even asked to grant a legislative consent motion for the bill to legislate in certain areas of devolved competence, which will no doubt create a fire-fight between the SNP government in Scotland and the UK government.

The Lib Dems have simply said that the bill will be 'hell'.

Opposition support or not, the bill will pass if the DUP's 10 MPs vote with the Conservative benches. However, the Prime Minister will need to apply a hard whip to her MPs, with dissenting voices from the left and right of the Conservative party also murmuring disapproval at the government's Brexit approach.

What does all of this suggest about the reformist zeal and conciliatory political tone which the Prime Minister espoused when she stood on the steps of Downing Street on July 13, 2016?

The interesting part lies in the nature in which the bill has been introduced. The next stage of the parliamentary process is the second reading, where the bill receives a full debate over several days on the general principles.

With the House of Commons

breaking for the long summer recess, one week from today, it is understood that the second reading – which is essentially the first opportunity for MPs to table amendments and question the government on the principles of the bill – won't take place until late September or early October.

Commentators are suggesting the reason for the delay is due to the government's nerves that opposition MPs will treat the draft legislation as 'Christmas tree legislation', where they string it up in amendments and complicate the legislative process.

Between now and then, NFUS will push hard to ensure that the interests of Scottish agriculture are taken into account in any plans for future regulatory systems.

Let's hope that we are out of the quagmire and seeing much more clarity on the road ahead by Christmas.

Remember, NFU Scotland is asking for your views on how the union can shape post-Brexit agricultural policy. Read our discussion document, Change – A New Agricultural Policy for Scotland Post-Brexit, and get in touch at Brexit@nfus.org.uk.

Around the markets



The champion beast from Rodney Steel, Killoch, his two children and judge Matthew Steel, Craignathro, Forfar.

DALMALLY – United Auctions' annual fair day show and sale of cattle held at Dalmally on Friday July 28 saw an increased entry of 412 top quality store cattle and 36 breeding cattle on offer to a packed ringside of buyers. Judging was in the hands of Mr M Steel, Craignathro, Forfar.

Prize List-
Charolais blk
1st Semple, Dippen 2nd Semple, Dippen 3rd Ronald, East Laggan
Limousin blk
1st Currie, Low Dunasherry 2nd Semple, Dippen 3rd Buchanan, Achnaba
Charolais hfr
1st Semple, Dippen 2nd Semple, Dippen 3rd MacIntyre, Gleneherve
Limousin hfr
1st Semple, Dippen 2nd Buchanan, Achnaba 3rd Currie, Low Dunasherry
Any other breed hfr
1st Lines, Killoch
Pen of Four blks
1st Semple, Dippen 2nd Lines, Killoch 3rd Ronald, East Laggan
Champion
Lines, Killoch (BRB) 416kgs £1250.

Reserve Champion
Semple, Dippen (Lim) hfr
430kgs £1200.
Best opposite sex to Champion
Semple Dippen (Char) blk
488kgs £1260.
Bullocks averaged 251.59ppk to 313.80p for a 290kg LimX from Auchgoyle and £1390 for a 615kg CHX from Baleggregan.

Heifers averaged 246.47ppk to 303.90p for a 408kg LimX from Strathnafanaig and to £1350 for a 585kg CHX from Baleggregan.
Top Prices (Bullocks)
PPH- Carskief (AA) £1350, £1320; Killoch (BRB) £1100, £1080; Baleggregan (Char) £1390, £1360; Tangasdale (Gal) £1110; Dippen (Lim) £1210 & Uigle (Lim) £1200; Baleggregan (Sim) £1170 & Strath (Sim) £1160

PPK- Point (AA) 277.30p & 262.50p; Ruaig (BRB) 308.20p & Killoch (BRB) 269.60p; Point (Char) 291p & Couston (Char) 280.40p; Auchgoyle (Lim) 313.80p & Scoor 295.90p; Kildallog (Lui) 273.40p & 268p; Barnakill (SH) 258.30p; Kildallog (Sim) 268p & Duallin 248.70p.

Top prices (heifers)
PPH- Killoch (BRB) £1250; Baleggregan (Char) £1350 & £1340; Uigle (Lim) £1310 & £1260; Kildallog (Lui) £820; Duallin (Sim) £960.
PPK- Point (AA) 239.9p & Kildallog (AA) 235.6p; Killoch (BRB) 300.50p & 264.70p; Dippen (Char) 291.70p & Couston 276.50p; Strathnafanaig (Lim) 303.90p & Achnaba (Lim) 302.20p; Muckairn (Sim) 256.50p & Starth (Sim) 251.40p.

Breeding cattle
Ledcharrie (Cow with hfr calf) £1520.
Ledcharrie (Cow with blk calf) £1270.

STIRLING – United Auctions on Thursday July 27 sold 3938 prime sheep including 2760 lambs and selling to an average of 188.9 and 1178 ewes and rams. Spring lambs – (2760) Wester Middleton (Suff) £98.50; Easterton (BTex) £97; Ardgate (Tex) £116; Whitburn (Char) £88; Fullarton (Mule) £91. Spring lambs – (2760) Wester Middleton (Suff) 216p; Easterton (BTex) 231p; Outerston (Tex) 233p; Garvald mains (Char) 193p; Lahill (Mule) 185p. Ewes – (1178) Gathercauld (Tex) £132; Outerston (Suff) £117;

Fullarton (BFL) £109; Shields (Mule) £104; Hill of Errol (Chev/Mule) £95.00; Wester Mye (Chev) £88; Elmscleugh £80. Tups – Ruchlaw (Tex) £109; West Lundie (BTex) £87; Ardacheranmor (BF) £67.

STIRLING – Caledonian Marts on Thursday July 27 sold 146 cattle, comprising 101 prime bullocks, heifers and young bulls, 45 cast cows and 20 young calves.

Bullocks sold to 250ppkg for a Limousin from J & J Wyllie, Knockhouse, Dunfermline, purchased by T Johnston, Butcher, Cow Wynd, Falkirk, and to an astonishing £1722 from C Smith, South Flanders, Kippen.

Heifers sold to 248ppkg (twice) for Limousins from JH and NT Turnbull, Meadowend, Clackmannan, and W Pettigrew, Faskine, Airdrie to D Campbell and Son, Butcher, Ancaster Square, Callander and W W Wales Ltd, Butcher, Kilmarnock, and to a whopping £1616 for a Charolais from Harold Greer, Gelvan View, Kinross. Young bulls sold to 220ppkg for a Limousin from T and T Robertson, Creochill, Mauchline to Charles Kirkpatrick and to a massive £1760 from M Lyle, Mid Cambushinnie, Dunblane. Black and white Bulls to 182ppkg from D Pickard, Straiton, St Andrews, and to £1117 for the same animal. Prime bullocks averaged – 226ppkg
Prime heifers averaged – 225ppkg
Young beef bulls averaged – 203ppkg
Young dairy bulls averaged – 164ppkg
Beef cows averaged – 124ppkg
Dairy cows averaged – 105ppkg
Leading prices
Bullocks p/kg;
248p Meadowend and Knockhouse 245p (twice) Knockhouse, Kinneil Mill and Over Inzievar 242p and 238p Knockhouse and Meadowend 240p Shields, Lochwinnoch 235p Barochan Cross 232p and 230p Easterton (Owen)
Heifers p/kg;
245p Faskine, Kinneil Mill and Over Inzievar 242p (twice) Gelvan View 240p (twice) Shields and Meadowend 240p Flemington 232p and 230p Barochan Cross, Greencraig and Priestside
Young bulls p/kg
218p and 215p Mains of Throsk 215p and 212p Cairnbog 210p
Easter Clune and Caudsheil Cattle Company 208p South Hourat and Mains of Throsk
In the cow section a poor show forward for quality upheld recent rates.
Beef cows to 160ppkg for a Limousin from T and R Crawford, Shields, Lochwinnoch.
Other leading prices;
Beef cows per kilo;
140p Airthrey Kerse 138p Gelvan View and Gartfairn 136p Fallside, Campbeltown Dairy cows to 125ppkg from Caudsheil Cattle Company, Haddington, others to 124p and 122p Gallamuir.
Also forward were 20 calves both dairy and beef.
Top price of the day went to G Paterson, Barbeth, Cumbernauld, with a Limousin X Heifer at £310.
Leading prices:
Ayrshire Bulls – £55, £40, £20
Badenheath
Black and White Bulls – £155, £94, £88, £60
Wester Lochdrum £55, £48, £48
Nyadd £92, £88, £75, £70, £68
Barbeth. Limousin X Heifer – £250.

Commission leases five crofts to new tenants

THE Crofting Commission has let five vacant croft tenancies to new entrants who will use the land and ensure it is not neglected.

The commission terminated four tenancies in the Western Isles and one in Glen Torridon, as the tenants were not complying with their duty to be resident and the landlords failed to let the crofts within the necessary timescales.

The tenancies were all advertised locally and interested parties invited to submit an application to the Crofting Commission to be considered for the tenancy.

The applications were then sifted and scored, with all those successful going forward to be chosen 'blind' by a commissioner.

New entrant Dennis McGonnell said: 'I was delighted to be selected as the new tenant for the croft 24 Gravir.'

'I have lived on Lewis for 12 years and was always very eager to get into crofting, especially working with animals. My plans for the croft

include getting some pigs to deal with all the ferns and overgrowth, before reseeding and then letting some rare sheep graze happily once I've fenced the boundary.

I'm looking forward to getting started.'

The Crofting Commission's head of regulation, Joseph Kerr, said: 'We wish the new tenants every success in their ventures.'

'The process of letting a croft tenancy can be lengthy but we are delighted that five crofts are now in the hands of new entrants, who will use the land and ensure it does not get misused or neglected.'

'We have a further five crofts to let in the near future and are having ongoing discussions with landlords to take this forward.'

'We are also currently in negotiations with a number of landlords where crofts are vacant or subject to a long-term unresolved succession in order to seek solutions which would result in the crofts being occupied and worked.'



Crofting Commissioner Iain MacIver congratulates Dennis McGonnell on securing his new tenancy.

Better Grazing plan launches in Argyll

LIVESTOCK farmers in Argyll and Bute are invited to attend the launch meeting of the new Campbeltown 'Better Grazing' programme on Monday August 14.

The new grazing project, one of six launched this month by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), aims to help farmers in Argyll and Bute identify opportunities to improve productivity through better utilisation of grass. It follows the very successful QMS Grazing Group project which came to an end in March.

As part of the programme, there will be four meetings held in the Campbeltown area each year, for the next three years. Those attending the meetings will hear from expert speakers as well as farmers from around Scotland who will share their experiences of how they have improved their grassland management.

There will also be an opportunity to visit farms of those who have already made changes to

their grazing management or to new group members keen to make better use of their grass with the help and support of the rest of the group.

The first meeting of the Campbeltown Better Grazing programme will be held at the Ardshiel Hotel on Monday August 14. The event, which is free, begins at 10am.

The meeting will also hear from Robert Fleming from Castle Sinniness, Glenluce. He has 240 hectares, split among three farms which supports 250 pedigree Aberdeen-Angus and Angus cross cows, as well as a flock of 65 Roussin sheep. Mr Fleming was an active member of the previous QMS South West Grazing Group and encouraged farmers to get involved with the new Better Grazing programme.

Places at the meeting are limited and will be on a first come, first served basis. To reserve a place, contact QMS on 0131 472 4040 or info@qmscotland.co.uk.

Funding available now to restore Scotland's damaged peatlands

SCOTTISH Natural Heritage (SNH) has urged land owners, managers, farmers, crofters and estates to apply for funding to help protect precious peatlands.

From Shetland to the Solway Firth more than 20 per cent of Scotland is covered by peat – an area almost the same size as Wales. Peatlands provide multiple benefits when maintained in a healthy condition.

Restoring these peatlands has been made possible thanks to additional Scottish Government funding of £8 million which will see another 8,000 hectares of damaged peatlands start their road to recovery this year.

The Peatland Action Fund, run by SNH and launched in April, has already had more than £4 million of applications but wants further applications before the closing date at the end of October.

Restoration techniques start with 'rewetting' of peatland, mostly through ditch blocking.



This reconnects peatlands with water catchments, helping to slow river flows and, in some cases, ease downstream flooding.

Other restoration techniques being trialled include peat hag re-profiling, re-vegetating bare peat and forest to pre-existing bog recovery.

Andrew McBride, the project manager, said: 'Our drinking water comes from these peatland catchment areas, so healthy peatlands are crucial for clean water.'

'River salmon and trout fish-

eries depend on clear water to allow the development of fish eggs laid in the river gravels.

In addition, associated species like freshwater pearl mussels benefit from the peat free waters.

'Soils are the main terrestrial store of carbon in Scotland and peaty soils are estimated to hold the equivalent of 140 years worth of Scotland's total annual greenhouse gas emissions. That is an enormous store of carbon and by restoring and protecting this precious asset now we can make proactive gains towards Scotland's climate change targets.'

Sunday was International Bog Day 2017 in which the role bogs play in maintaining a healthy environment is celebrated.

Covering just three per cent of the earth's land area, they are second only to oceans in the amount of carbon they store – twice that held by the globe's forests.

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Local residents urged to spot whales and dolphins

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcphée@obantimes.co.uk

PEOPLE in Argyll have just two days left to help scientists this year by reporting sightings of whales and dolphins.

Every year, scientists at the Sea Watch Foundation lead the National Whale and Dolphin Watch, a campaign to get members of the public contributing to protect cetaceans from July 29 to August 5.

And as regional co-ordinator, the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT), based in Tobermory, has organised a number of events.

'It is a great time of year to go whale watching in the Hebrides,' Pippa Garrard, HWDT community engagement officer, said. 'Migratory minke whales

are in the area to feed, the small native harbour porpoise are easier to spot in the calm summer weather and even rare species such as humpback whales are making an appearance.

'And there are so many fantastic places to watch whales and dolphins from shore in the west of Scotland. The public play a vital role in monitoring these animals, particularly here where there is such a long, complex coastline.

'We are urging people submit their sightings during the event or join us at their local headland to find out more about local wildlife.'

Some of the events taking place are: Friday August 4: Glengorm Estate, Mull, 10am to 1pm; Friday August 4: Rossgill, Tiree, 10am to 1pm; Saturday

August 5: Kintra, Bunessan, Mull, 10am to 1pm.

Scientists and volunteer observers from across Scotland get involved in order to boost the Sea Watch's database.

Since National Whale and Dolphin Watch began in 2002, around 4,500 sightings have been made in locations from the Channel Islands and the Scilly Isles to the Shetland Isles.

People are being urged to register and run watches of their own during National Whale and Dolphin Watch 2017, so that they can contribute data for the protection of these magnificent species.

To find out more about local events, visit www.whaledolphin-trust.co.uk or to register your own event visit, www.seawatch-foundation.org.uk/nwdw



The public are being urged to report whale sightings.

Campaign begins to save at-risk capercaillie

A NATIONAL survey has revealed that the world's largest grouse, the capercaillie, is now one of Scotland's most endangered birds.

It is estimated that there are only 1,114 individuals left. The population is assessed every six years by RSPB Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.

In order to combat the decline, the Cairngorms Nature Partnership has devised a plan to help the population thrive - the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project.

The aim is to create and manage conservation, with the help of communities, that will support the capercaillie in the long term, as well as other species living in pine woods.

Andy Ford, Cairngorms Nature manager, said: 'People are key to securing the future of the capercaillie in the national park.'

'We want to empower people to be inspired and to get involved. The project implements the Cairngorms Capercaillie Framework, a blueprint for a strategic approach to saving the capercaillie from becoming extinct in the UK through targeting future management at a landscape scale.'

'We hope to develop a programme of conservation action to support the long-term survival of the species and provide a model to save at risk species in national parks around the world.'

Capercaillie are found in mature pine woodlands in parts of the Highlands, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Perthshire, but Strathspey holds around 83 per cent of the remaining population.



It is estimated that there are only just over 1,000 capercaillie left in Scotland. Picture: Dave Braddock

Make the most of wildlife

THIS summer RSPB Scotland is offering half-priced entry at three of its reserves: Loch Leven in Perth and Kinross, Loch Garten near Aviemore, and Lochwinnoch just outside Glasgow.

Children and families can set out on mini-beast safaris, dip into rock-pooling sessions and construct cafes for hedgehogs.

Jasper Hamlet, a youth and families officer for RSPB Scotland, said: 'Connecting to nature should be a key part of any child's upbringing, experiencing for themselves what a worm feels like or learning how a plant grows.'

'The country's wildlife and the habitats that they depend on will benefit too, as children who have adventures outdoors, who feel, smell and explore nature, and build up an emotional attachment to it, are much more likely to want to protect and conserve it in future.'

Have you seen the comeback kid?

WILDLIFE lovers are being asked to head to canals and riversides this summer to chart the astonishing progress of the comeback kid of the butterfly world.

The Comma has experienced an extraordinary 138 per cent increase in population over the past 40 years, despite being rare just a century ago.

At the turn of the 20th century the Comma, with its distinctive ragged-edged wings, was restricted to a few counties in the Welsh borders and south-east England.

But just 100 years later, the comeback Comma has become a butterfly success story, spreading north 250 miles since the 1970s throughout England, Wales and the Isle of Man into southern and eastern Scotland.

Scientists believe a combination of climate change and the Comma's increased use of nettle as a caterpillar food plant may be behind its expansion in range.

As part of this year's Big Butterfly Count, Butterfly Conservation and the Canal and River Trust are asking people to look out for and record Commas on canals and riversides.

Although found in a wide variety of habitats, adult Commas can be seen feeding on bramble, thistles and knapweed along rivers and canals, and their caterpillars feed upon nettles and hops in the same areas.



The Comma was once rare but has seen a resurgence in its numbers.

In the past decade, the seemingly unstoppable expansion of the Comma has experienced a bump with poor years in 2012 and 2016.

The Big Butterfly Count is the world's largest butterfly survey, which encourages people to spot and record 18 species of common

butterflies and two day-flying moths during three weeks of high summer across the UK.

Results from the Big Butterfly Count will help track the ongoing spread of the Comma and could shed more light onto the extraordinary long-term population fluctuations of this

beautiful butterfly. The count runs to August 6.

Taking part in the count is easy: find a sunny spot and spend 15 minutes counting the butterflies you see and then submit sightings online at www.bigbutterflycount.org or via the free Big Butterfly Count app.

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and you can try before you buy.

You can walk three times with the club before joining. Further information at www.lochaber-andlorn-ramblers.org.uk. Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk.

Today (Thursday August 3) Gleann Cia-aig Circuit Loch Arkaig.

Start from the CP at Eas Chia-aig on the B8005. Take the footpath heading N, past the waterfalls and up steeply to the power station.

Follow the wide hydro road N up the glen and zig-zag up steeply to reach the forest road at NN180894. Turn N and follow the road up the glen.

After about 2.5Km, visit the dam on the Abhainn Chia-aig. The route continues N on the original forest track which diminishes to a footpath.

On emerging from the forest, continue on the path and cross the river on a bridge at NN187928. Turn NW, leaving the path, and climb up on rough ground in to Gleann Tarsuin and follow it W to a watershed at 440m alt., NN168932.

Head SW and after about 200m, reach a faint footpath heading S near the E bank of the Alt Dubh. Follow the path S to Achnasaul. Join the minor public road and follow it E back to Eas Chia-aig.

Distance: 14km. Height to climb 400m.

Meet at Fort William Woollen Mill at 9.30am.

Saturday August 5 Glais Bheinn and the Table of Lorn, Lochaline.

An interesting walk in a remote corner of Morvern. Splendid views over the Sound of Mull and Firth of Lorn.

Start at the end of the public road at Ardtornish Gardens, NM703473, where parking is available.

Walk SE past some estate buildings, then turn S, up through a band of deciduous woodland, to reach the open hillside. Continue

S up the northern flank of Goirtain Dearg to its summit, 288m.

Turn SE and gain the summit of Glais Bheinn, 479m. Descend E to a small col to reach the Table of Lorn. Descend to the S, keeping to the W side of the Dearg Allt and out of its gorge.

When the ground steepens, turn W and follow the crest of the escarpment of Aoinneadh Mor, keeping N of the fence line where the Quarry Burn plunges into a gorge.

Head NW until past the escarpment of Aoinneadh Beag, then turn S down through a band of woodland to reach the track at the head of Ardtornish Bay. A short detour S leads to the ruined castle and lighthouse at Ardtornish Point.

Return to the track and follow it N along the shore of Loch Aline back to the start.

Distance: 18km. Height to climb: 600m. Meet at Corran Ferry slip for 9.15am sailing.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

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

Sunday August 6

Meall Greigh (1001m, Munro)

Park at Ben Lawers Hotel (payment required) and walk along road for about 500m then turn left up the track.

Leave the path before it crosses Lawers Burn and head up to Sron Mhor and on to Meall Greigh.

Follow the ridge W then SW to Meall Garbh and continue on to the loose steep scramble up to An Stuc.

Continue down the ridge to reach Bealach Dubh then descend the steep grassy gully close to the stream to Lochan nan Cat.

Continue east to a track. Follow this for about 400m then join the outward path crossing Lawers Burn by a footbridge.

Distance: 16.5km. Height to climb: 1230m.

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

Boost for butterflies and bees in Scotland

A NEW strategy has been launched to make Scotland a more 'pollinator-friendly' place by protecting indigenous bee and butterfly populations.

Since 1980, the number of pollinating insects in Scotland has declined by an estimated 51 per cent.

This included honey bees, bumble bees, the solitary bee, butterflies and hoverflies.

It is feared this could have a negative impact on agriculture, food security, the economy and human health.

The pollinator strategy calls for:

the restoration and creation of flower-rich habitats, greater use of green urban infrastructures, such as roof top gardens;

the development and use of pollinator-friendly pest control,

new research into the impact of climate change on bee and butterfly numbers.

Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham said: 'Scotland's biodiversity is one of our key assets, and the contribution the humble bumble bee and other pollinators make to this wonderful environment should not be underestimated.'

'That is why we are committed to making Scotland a more pollinator-friendly place.'

'Pressures like land use change, pesticides, pollution, disease and climate change are threatening these life-giving insects, so we must act now to protect the pollinators and, in turn, safeguard our environment, our food and in turn our health.'

National park awards nominations open

LOCH Lomond and the Trossachs National Park wants to find local heroes and thank them for their work.

The community partnership for the national park distributes annual Champion Awards recognising the work that organisations and individuals carry out.

Last year, one of the winners was Callander-based Lynne Schroder.

She is a founding member of Creative in Callander, a not-for-profit organisation run by artists

and makers to support local arts and crafts.

Ms Schroder said: 'Receiving the award was a great honour but it's a community thing.'

'I could not have done it without Jimmy [my husband] and the amazing volunteers on the ground.'

'I hope it inspires others to learn that volunteering gives you back more than you can give.'

To submit a nomination for the Community Champions Awards visit www.thecommunitypartnership.org.uk



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RESIDENTIAL CARE WORKERS (£20,880-£21,296 DOE)
SENIOR RESIDENTIAL CARE WORKERS (£22,392-£26,760 DOE)
DEPUTY MANAGER (£26,950-£28,450 DOE)

Inistrynich, Dalmally

New Reflexions are a childcare organisation working with young people who have experienced trauma in their lives resulting in emotional behavioural difficulties and requiring a high level of intervention. We are currently looking to recruit Residential Care Workers; Senior Residential Care Workers and a Deputy Manager.

You will be a confident and non-judgemental person with the drive to make a difference to the lives of others and be dedicated to promoting the rights and welfare of children. Following an in-depth induction, you will be placed within one of our homes which are rated either 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted.

As this service is outdoor based, we are looking for individuals who have experience of delivering outdoor education. Holding outdoor qualifications such as SPA, ML and BCU awards would also be highly desirable. Applicants for the Senior RCW and Deputy Manager positions will need to meet the qualification requirements as set out by the Scottish Social Services Council.

Our staff members are supported and valued; as an organisation we are committed to the continued learning and development of all our employees which will enable you to develop your skills and offers opportunities to progress within the company.

You will also receive a highly competitive pay and benefits package consisting of:

- Excellent salaries
- You will work a four days on, eight days off rota pattern
- Access to a pension scheme
- Comprehensive induction training
- The opportunity to gain nationally recognised qualifications
- Childcare vouchers
- Bike to Work Scheme
- Employee Assistance Programme

Due to the location of our homes a full manual driving licence and access to transport is required. Successful candidates will also be required to complete an Enhanced Disclosure & Barring check.

For further details on the above positions and an application pack please email Lancie Abbott, HR Assistant, Lancie.abbott@newreflexions.co.uk or call 01939 210040.



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.

Please quote reference number 572 when applying for this vacancy

For more information & to apply:

In order to apply please follow the link:

<https://carrgomm.workable.com/jobs/223790>

Alternatively, please contact our Recruitment Team:

• Email: recruitment@carrgomm.org

• Phone: 0131 659 4770

Post: Carr Gomm, SPACE, 11 Harewood Road, Edinburgh EH16 4NT.

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Clerical Assistant (Temporary)

£14,964 - £15,858

Lochgilphead Ref: CMC00395

Living Wage of £8.45 per hour
 ☎ 01546 604334

Closing date: Friday 11th August 2017.

To apply visit
 our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs



We have some vacancies in our workshop team we are looking to fill. If you have an interest or knowledge of boats with skills that may be transferable please ask for an application pack.

Boat Repair Technician - 2 Positions Available

With full order books we currently have two positions available within our Workshop Team for Boat Repair Technicians. Working as part of the team successful applicants would be undertaking a wide variety of repairs, including major structural repairs and cosmetic repairs of repair aboard yachts and motorboats. Applicants should ideally have experience of undertaking FRP & GRP structural and cosmetic repairs along with a basic knowledge of timber repairs. All relevant skills and experience from would be considered.

Riggers Mate

We have a position available within our on-site rigging team here at Ardfern. With two riggers on-site our rigging team undertake all types of rigging work as well as working closely with other parts of the team. Working alongside our existing rigging team the successful applicant would be provided with extensive 'on the job' training. Successful applicants should ideally have an interest in or previous experience of sailing in some capacity.

For further details on either position or to obtain an application pack please contact Mark Cameron on 01852 500 247 or email mark@ardfernyacht.co.uk

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FERGUSON TRANSPORT & SHIPPING

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

An opportunity has arisen to join our ever expanding, forward-thinking multimodal logistics company based in Corpach, Fort William.

The post requires a qualified accountant (ACCA, CA, CIMA or qualified by experience) to prepare group monthly management and annual accounts and projections and to take responsibility for further development of the finance function and systems, joining our senior management board and reporting to our Director for Finance.

Closing date for applications: 25th August 2017

If you would like to apply for this position please contact Jacqueline MacLeod, Head of Human Resources:

Integrated Freight Facility, Annat, Corpach, PH33 7NN T: 01397 773840 E: hr@fergusontransport.co.uk

**Ben Nevis Distillery
 Office Administrator**

To complement our team, we are seeking an enthusiastic individual to help run our busy office. To be considered for this post, the successful applicant will require excellent communication skills both written and verbal, be computer literate including Microsoft packages and have broad experience and understanding of office administration.

You will be a team player but also able to work on your own initiative. An understanding of customs and excise legislation and web based applications would be of benefit but training will be given.

Please apply with full CV and covering letter to:

Aaron A R Ross, Finance & Sales

**Ben Nevis Distillery (Fort William) Ltd, Lochy Bridge, Fort William, PH33 6TJ
aaron@bennevisdistillery.com**



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.

Senior Husbandry - with Net Specialisation

Earnings Potential for this Role: (£29,000 - £32,500) + Bonus

The successful candidate will have control of 2 net cleaning vessels equipped with new SSF 245 cleaning systems. You will have direct line manager responsibility for 3 other members of staff, including a net specialist. A high level of commitment and pride is essential to deliver pristine net walls and bases. The maintenance and presentation of both vessels and their respective cleaners will also demand discipline and technical skill.

How you schedule work is ultimately up to you. What we are looking for is the highest of standards, a commitment to hard work and the success of the Nevis team. We want you to be ambitious and demanding.

The position would especially suit successful Net or Boat Specialist with a clear track record of success. Nevis is a farming zone in transition with new appointments bringing exciting new people into positions of responsibility. If required, we will support the successful applicant with relocation assistance.

Candidates will ideally be Yacht-Master Coastal qualified. Day Skipper applicant's must be prepared to gain Yacht-Master Coastal in the next 6 months. During your first month of acclimatization you will work closely with the Site Manager, the existing Nevis Senior Husbandry and our Engineering Manager, thereafter, you will take over senior responsibility for nets. You will be directly involved in the formal appointment of your team – including the Specialisation role covering the 2nd vessel.

This is an opportunity for the right person to secure 1 of the 2 senior net specialisation roles in the region. It's a job where you will be developed and can grow into your full potential. You will see your impact from the biological success of each of the 3 farms and you set the tone on standards and work ethic.

Experienced Husbandry - with Feed, Fish Health & Net Specialisation

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.

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 for applications: Friday 11th August 2017



**Community Support Assistant
 MacDougall Place, Mull**

£9.11 - £10.71 per hour
 4 hours per week (Sat-Sun)

Community Support Assistant

14 hours per week (Sat-Sun)
 £9.11 - £10.71 per hour

Dunmar Court, Oban (8 Hours)

Ford Spence Court, Oban

(6 hours)

To apply visit the recruitment section of our website at www.acha.co.uk

If you cannot access the website, please contact the recruitment team:

01546 605817 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

CVs are not accepted.

For more information, please contact Brian Murphy on 01546 605932 or email brian.murphy@acha.co.uk

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 18th August 2017

Interviews will be held on 29th August 2017 in Oban.



Oban Recruitment

An exciting opportunity has arisen for motivated individuals to effectively manage our Oban services.

Project Manager

£29,361 - £30,795 (award pending)
 35 hours per week. Closing date: 16th August 2017.

Housing Assistant (Days)

£15,015 - £16,224
 35 hours per week. Closing date: 15th August 2017.

Relief Worker

£8.25 per hour. As and when required.
 Closing date: 15th August 2017

To apply, please visit www.btha.org.uk/items/BTHA-Jobs and submit an application form to recruitment@btha.org.uk, or by post to the Recruitment team, Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association, 3rd Floor, 100 Berkeley Street, Glasgow, G3 7HU.

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£32,447 - £35,494

Campbeltown Ref: HAW01182

☎ 01546 604334

Closing date: Friday 11th August 2017.

To apply visit
 our website

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

Notice under Regulation 7(2)

Pre-application consultation by the prospective applicant
Formation and operation of a new silt storage and fresh water lagoon site and ancillary operations at Glensanda Quarry, Morvern, Oban, PA34 5QB

Yeoman Glensanda intends to apply to The Highland Council for planning permission for the creation and operation of a new silt storage site and fresh water lagoon including creation of up to 4 no. finger lagoons by the phased extraction of rock, the subsequent infilling with silt and ancillary operations, including creation of a new on-site access track, water pipes and electricity generation plant on land at Glensanda Quarry.

Yeoman Glensanda is committed to ensuring local stakeholders are kept fully informed of our plans with opportunities to learn more and comment on the proposals. Staff from Yeoman Glensanda will be available to provide further information at:

Community Consultation Drop-In Event
10th August 2017
1:00pm – 7:00pm
Port Appin Community Hall, Port Appin

Persons wishing to make comments on the proposal or obtain further information should do so by Friday 25th August 2017 via attending the community consultation event, by emailing gareth.mills@aggregate.com or by writing to Gareth Mills, Yeoman Glensanda, Aggregate Industries UK Ltd, Trilog 3, 21 Woodhall, Eurocentral, Holytown, Motherwell, ML1 4YT.

This notice does not relate to a planning application. Any comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the planning authority. If a planning application is subsequently submitted to The Highland Council, normal neighbour notification and publicity will be undertaken at that time and you will have the opportunity to make formal representations regarding the proposal at that time.



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A83 TRUNK ROAD (FURNACE TO CUMLODDEN) (TEMPORARY 40MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) ORDER 2017

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they have made the above Order, under sections 2(1), 4(1) and 14(1)(b) and (4) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, which will have the effect of imposing a 40mph speed restriction on that length of the A83 Tarbet - Lochgilphead - Campbeltown Trunk Road from a point 1.242 kilometres or thereby south west of the extended centre line of the junction with the C36 Furnace Side Road to a point 130 metres or thereby south west of the point where it meets the extended western gable wall of Number 1 Cumlodden Cottages a distance of 1.558 kilometres or thereby. The order is required following the speed limit review conducted by Transport Scotland which concluded that the speed on this stretch of road should be reduced for road safety reasons. A permanent traffic regulation order will be made to permanently reduce the speed on this stretch of road. However to reduce the danger to the public pending the permanent order coming into force a temporary reduction is required.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

An alternative route for traffic during the restriction is not required. A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk

F BROWN
 A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
 Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF



Argyll and Bute Council

Councillor Roddy McCuish
 (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
 Councillor McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 4th August 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 1.30pm - 4.00pm. He can be contacted by email - Roderick.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567854.

Councillor Kieron Green
 (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)
 Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on Friday 18th August 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm. He can be contacted by email - Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 562444.

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.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is A 0024.

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
17/02896/FUL	Land 60M NW of Bruce Cottage, Lochside, Fort William	Erection of house
17/03408/FUL	Dogha Cottage, Annat View, Corpach, Fort William	Erection of Proposed Dwelling House
17/03423/FUL	Mingarry Park Guest House and Self Catering Lodges, Acharacle	Amendment to Planning Permission 16/05432/FUL. Revised house design and site position

Time period for comments is 14 days
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
 Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
(C1200 FASSIFERN ROAD (EAST), FORT WILLIAM)
(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2017

On 31st July 2017 the Highland Council made the above Order in terms of Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to enable contractors a safe working zone to carry out essential works for Openreach

The use by vehicles of the length of road specified in the Schedule hereto is prohibited between the hours of 8am – 6pm Mondays to Friday from Monday 11th September 2017 until Friday 15th September 2017 The road will re-open at 6pm until 8am each evening.

Access will be provided for emergency service vehicles and pedestrians. A signed diversion route will be in place for all other vehicles.

A copy of the Order can be inspected at the Service Point, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William, on weekdays during normal office hours. The Order will be in force from 8am on 11th September 2017 until 6pm on 15th September 2017

31st July 2017 date Mrs Lesley Howie, Legal Manager Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness

SCHEDULE
 Road Affected
 C1200

The closure will commence at it's junction with Hill Road (U1285) extending in an easterly direction for a distance of 174 metres or thereby.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

*M Watt
 12 & 13 Upper Inveroy, Kilmornaig
 0.525 ha – to remove from the scope of the act 81567

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 01/09/2017 – Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

*The Commission will consider any expressions of demand when deciding whether to issue a Direction.

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
MARINE FARM/
PORT NA MINE, LOCH ETIVE

Notice is hereby given that Dawnfresh Farming Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of increasing the size of the marine farm at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Port na Mine, Loch Etive	56° 26.9416 N	05° 11.3666 W
	56° 26.9161 N	05° 11.4111 W
	56° 26.8982 N	05° 11.4661 W
	56° 26.8878 N	05° 11.5311 W
	56° 26.8699 N	05° 11.5863 W
	56° 26.8591 N	05° 11.6508 W
	56° 26.8403 N	05° 11.7348 W
	56° 26.8513 N	05° 11.8119 W
	56° 26.8594 N	05° 11.8968 W
	56° 27.0279 N	05° 11.8847 W
	56° 27.0492 N	05° 11.8347 W
	56° 27.0707 N	05° 11.7847 W
	56° 27.0920 N	05° 11.7347 W
	56° 27.1133 N	05° 11.6844 W
	56° 27.1348 N	05° 11.6344 W
	56° 27.0980 N	05° 11.3383 W
	56° 27.0897 N	05° 11.2781 W
	56° 27.0771 N	05° 11.2604 W
	56° 27.0426 N	05° 11.2609 W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Taynuilt Post Office, Taynuilt, Argyll, PA35 1JE.

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to: Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: MCMS No. 05260V
 Applicant Dawnfresh Farming Ltd

SCOTTISH HYDRO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION PLC
ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
THE ELECTRICITY (APPLICATIONS FOR CONSENT) REGULATIONS 1990

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, (company registration number SC213461) and whose registered office is situated at Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ) has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 37 of The Electricity Act 1989 to install and keep installed for a temporary period (of 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 Braataich, 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.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc has also applied for planning permission to be deemed to be granted under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it is available for inspection, free of charge, during normal opening hours at:

Highland Council Service Point
 Memorial Hall
 Fort Augustus
 PH32 4DJ

Highland Council
 Planning & Development
 Glenurquhart Road
 Inverness
 IV3 5NX

(The application can also be viewed at The Scottish Government, Local Energy and Consents, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU)

Any representations to the application should be made by email to The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit mailbox at representations@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or

by post to The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation, no later than 01 September 2017.

Representations should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making representations.

Only representations sent by email to the address stipulated will receive acknowledgement.

As a result of a statutory objection from the relevant planning authority, or where Scottish Ministers decide to exercise their discretion to do so, Scottish Ministers can also cause a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) to be held. Following receipt of all views and representations, Scottish Ministers will determine the application for consent in one of two ways:

- Consent the proposal, with or without conditions attached; or
- Reject the proposal

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government Local Energy & Consents processes consent applications and consultation representations under The Electricity Act 1989. During the process, to support transparency in decision making, the Scottish Government publishes online at www.energyconsents.scot. When making an email or paper representation you will automatically be opted in to its publication unless you choose to mark it as confidential. We may share your personal data with DPEA and local Planning Authorities but will not publish your personal data (e.g. your name and address) as this is removed beforehand in compliance with the Data Protection Act. Should you choose not to provide your personal data in an electronic or paper representation then your representation will only be considered by Scottish Ministers and will not be shared for consideration with any other party. If you have any concerns about how your personal data is handled, please email us at: energyconsents@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or write to Local Energy & Consents, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

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 4AA, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
17/01977/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of biodesic and formation of vehicular access	Land South West Of Durran Cottage East Lochaweside Dalmlaly Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmlaly
17/01885/PP	Erection of 2 lighting columns (internally illuminated)	Scottish Marine Institute Dunstaffnage Dunbeg Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1QA	Sub Post Office Dunbeg
17/01710/PP	Installation of plant equipment	Aldi Lynn Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4PH	Oban Area Office
17/01918/PP	Relocation of storage container for housing an Autogyro	Connell Flying Club Hangar Oban Airport North Connell Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1SW	Sub Post Office Connell
17/01387/PP	Retrospective application for campsite, mobile home and mobile home hook ups. Installation of a septic tank to serve existing mobile home	Port Mar Centre Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7UE	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
17/01948/PP	Erection of general purpose shed	Land South West Of Sonas Ardentalen Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
17/01568/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land South West Of Canna View Calgany Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dervaig
17/01898/PP	Variation of condition 2 relative to planning permission reference 14/01752/PP also as amended by planning permission reference 16/03074/PP. Amendment to wording from "No development shall commence on site, or is hereby authorised, until..." to "Prior to occupation of the first dwelling within the development..."	Land North Of Cairnmore Barran Kilmore Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
17/01975/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse with detached garage and installation of septic tank.	Land North East Of Arlabeg Ardnacros Aros Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA72 6JS	Sub Post Office Aros Isle Of Mull
17/01790/PP	Siting of shipping container, generator and associated works	Land At Loch Ba Fish Farm Gruinne Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Aros Isle Of Mull

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/> planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
 Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

First Registration of a Croft

Alan Byrne has registered their croft 1 Garvan, Ardgour, 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 23 February 2018

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4076

Argyll and Bute Council

Dunbeg Corridor and Kirk Road Improvements Information - Dunbeg Community Council Meeting

The Council is planning improvement work to Kirk Road and the Dunbeg Corridor in Oban. A question and answer meeting, bringing together representatives of Argyll and Bute Council, Transport Scotland and the Link Group, and hosted by Dunbeg Community Council, takes place on Monday the 7th of August 2017, for anyone interested in finding out more.

It will take place in Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), Scottish Marine Institute, Oban (Dunbeg), Argyll, PA37 1QA Oban, PA37 1QA from 7pm until 9pm.

west highland housing

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
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10 10 NISSAN NAVARA DCI, TEKNA 4X4, RED, 55584 MILES AUTOMATIC	£9,495+VAT
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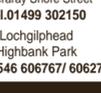


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Subaru Forester



Subaru Outback and Forester have picked up a quartet of awards from Driver Power, the UK's Number 1 car ownership survey. In the best family car category, Subaru Outback picked up a Silver Award with a score of 91.18 per cent. Subaru Forester won gold awards for ride and handling and safety features with Outback also picking up a silver award for practicality and boot space. Steve Fowler, editor-in-chief, Auto Express, commented: 'This is an outstanding result for Subaru, with the Outback making its owners very happy. Topping the ride and handling and safety categories is hugely impressive, while second place in practicality

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and in the family car class confirms how highly owners rate their cars.' Forester is a large SUV designed around the concept of 'do anything, go anywhere', whilst Outback is the world's first crossover, successfully combining the benefits of a passenger estate car with the all-road capabilities of an SUV. Both Subaru Forester and Outback have 5* Euro NCAP safety ratings, Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive and Outback comes equipped with EyeSight, Subaru's advanced collision avoidance technology. To keep up to date with Subaru news, please follow Helensburgh Subaru on Twitter and Facebook or give us a call on 01436 672779.



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THE NEW CITROËN C3 Aircross Compact SUV will be officially 'on sale' in the UK from November 1.

Prices start from just £13,995 OTR and offers class-leading space, modular design, connectivity and innovative technology solutions. The new generation SUV has been influenced by the Citroën Advanced Comfort® programme and is designed for ease of use. Citroën's new SUV has the latest in Grip Control® technology with Hill Descent Assist and delivers continuous connectivity with the range debut of Wireless Smartphone Charging.

New Citroën C3 Aircross is available to order in the UK now, with prices starting from just £13,995 OTR and officially goes 'on sale' on November 1. New C3 Aircross marks the beginning of Citroën's SUV offensive in Europe and enters the increasingly popular B-SUV segment.

NEW CITROËN C3 AIRCROSS COMPACT SUV PRICING ANNOUNCED AHEAD OF NOVEMBER 1 2017 'ON SALE' DATE



Set to shake-up the market with its highly customisable character – 85 personalisation combinations – and distinctive SUV design, New C3 Aircross introduces a number of new technologies to the Citroën range including Wireless Smartphone Charging and Grip Control® with Hill Descent Assist.

Technology continues as a core theme in New C3 Aircross with 12 different technologies to assist your journey including voice controlled 3D navigation, keyless entry and start, a reversing camera, lane departure

warning and blind-spot monitoring. New C3 Aircross also offers best-in-class space for maximum passenger comfort, with generous legroom in the front and rear, as well as an exceptional modular boot space with a volume of up to 520-litres.

Available in three highly specified trim levels Touch, Feel and Flair, New C3 Aircross is enhanced by efficient, high-performance PureTech petrol and BlueHDi diesel engines, as well as the latest generation EAT6 fully automatic gearbox.

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Multi-generational living – an opportunity for UK house builders

Britain's house builders have been urged to tap into the expanding market in multi-generational living by offering families new homes with greater flexibility.

Research compiled by the NHBC Foundation shows that more than 1.8 million households in Britain contain two or more adult generations, yet most homes on the market continue to be built to a traditional family home layout, without consideration for the shift towards multi-generational living.

The NHBC Foundation report, Multi-generational living – an opportunity for UK house builders?, outlines the factors behind the trend using statistical analysis as well as interviews with families and major building firms.

The report finds that the number of multi-generational households in the UK increased by 38 per cent between 2009 and 2014, a rise driven largely by the number of adults aged over 25 who live with their parents. In contrast, the number of multi-generational families with grandparents living with them remained static during this period.

Although some people chose this lifestyle out of financial necessity, the report found that there was a variety of reasons

why multi-generational households were popular, including pooling resources to buy a larger property, help with childcare and providing support for older family members. Others enjoyed the social benefit of living with more than one generation of their family.

One survey highlighted in the report suggested that two-thirds of people believed the solution to Britain's ageing population would be to move towards multi-generational living, and yet only 16 per cent said their current house would be suitable. The report suggests how builders could develop layouts suitable for multi-generational living, with self-contained areas for privacy alongside shared communal space.

Multi-generational living is much more established in other parts of the world, such as USA, Singapore and Japan. House builders here have developed specific designs aimed at this sector, such as the USA firm which markets a NextGen home with the slogan: 'For the family you're raising and the family that raised you.'

Sarah, who took part in the survey and lives with her husband, parents and two young sons, said: 'It just works so well for

us, the whole family living situation. You've got privacy when you want it, you've got support when you need it, you've got company when you want it. It's just so fantastic for my kids to be brought up in this environment. I don't think any of us will have a desire to change it.'

Commenting on the report, NHBC head of research and innovation Neil Smith said: 'Multi-generational living offers a range of opportunities to house builders, from the targeting of suitable existing home designs to this market, to designing new homes with flexible layouts to suit different household compositions throughout a lifetime.'

'Multi-generational living is recognised in other countries as a contributor to improved wellbeing and the more efficient use of housing stock. This report will help us to recognise these benefits as we strive to deliver a modern and relevant house-building programme within the UK.'

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SCOTTISH RENTAL YIELDS CONTINUE TO PERFORM BETTER THAN ENGLAND AND WALES



the £600 mark in June was the Highlands and Islands region, where, at an average price of £602 is 2.9% higher than last year.

On the heels of this good news for landlords, there is slightly more discouraging news about tenant finances, with some 18.3 per cent of tenancies in rent arrears for June, 12.3 per cent higher than in May.

Nevertheless, this news is very positive overall for landlords in Scotland, who continue to enjoy excellent returns on their investments as those in England and Wales look on in envy.

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ACCORDING to latest numbers, rental yields in Scotland are performing better than those in the rest of Great Britain, with the average rental property returning 4.9 per cent to investors. In fact, the Buy-to-Let Index for June of this year shows that rents continue to rise across many parts of Scotland, with an average rent at £569 per month, up slightly from the same time last year.

The only other area besides Edinburgh and the Lothians in Scotland to record rents above

PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET

ARGYLL SQUARE, OBAN

- Top Floor
- 2 Bedrooms/1 bathroom
- In Oban town centre location
- Excellent buy to let investment or first home
- Modern decoration throughout
- EPC Rating - Band C

£95,000
A well-proportioned two bedroom top floor flat, conveniently situated on Argyll Square in the heart of Oban. The property boasts an open plan kitchen and lounge area, a bright and airy room due to dual aspect windows, with McCaig's tower clearly visible from the kitchen window! The breakfast bar in the kitchen makes the ideal place to sit and enjoy the view. A central hallway leads onto a generous bathroom, tiled throughout in neutral colours and features a freestanding bath. A large Velux window bathes this room in natural light. At the end of the hall are two double bedrooms.

CARN DEARG ROAD, FORT WILLIAM

- 1st Floor Flat
- 2 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom
- Furnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating - C77
- LL Registration HG/005/4371/17

PCM £585
Bright fully furnished first floor flat located in Claggan Fort William with on street parking. Property comprises of Lounge, Fully Fitted Kitchen, 2 Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower over bath. With in walking distance of Fort William town center. Close to local amenities. Deposit and full references required.

WOOD COTTAGE, TOBERMORY

- Extended Traditional Cottage
- 2-3 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom
- Stunning Sea Views
- Unique & Private Position
- Close to Tobermory
- EPC Rating: E39

OIRO £250,000
Wood Cottage is a an extended traditional property set in 0.33 acre close to Tobermory, with uninterrupted sea views over the Sound of Mull and Ardanmurchan Peninsula. The cottage, which has been sympathetically extended and well maintained throughout, comprises a big but cosy lounge where there is potential to make use of the current chimney and install a wood-burning stove. A superb dining room enjoys the spectacular sea views to the front of the cottage. Leading off the dining room is the small but functional kitchen, which benefits from plentiful natural light.

37 ELLENABEICH

- 2 bed/1 bath
- Unfurnished
- Bungalow
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating - F27
- LL REG 29562/130/1521

PCM £500
2 Bedroom Unfurnished Cottage in desirable Ellenabeich, Seil. The accommodation comprises 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom, lounge & kitchen. The kitchen includes a cooker, fridge and washing machine. Outside there is a private parking space, flower beds, small paved area and nearby shared garden with views towards the sea. Single glazing and electric heating throughout. References and Deposit required. Rent excludes Council Tax (C) & Utilities. Landlord Reg. No.29562/130/1521.

COMRAICH, TOBERMORY

- Spacious Detached House
- 3 Bedrooms All En-Suite
- High Standard Fixtures & Fittings
- Private Well Maintained Garden
- Potential B&B/Holiday Rental
- EPC - C75

OIRO £300,000
A spacious 3 bedroom detached house located above the town of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. Built 8 years ago by the current owners the accommodation comprises a spacious hallway, large lounge, dining room, kitchen/diner, utility and master bedroom with en-suite bathroom. Upstairs there are 2 further generous bedrooms with en-suite shower rooms, large store cupboard and study. The property is tastefully decorated throughout with quality fixture and fittings.

RIVERSIDE COURT, ISLE OF MULL

- Ground Floor Flat
- 2 Bed/1 bath
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating - D58
- LL REG - 38043/130/21420

PCM £450
Unfurnished ground floor 2 bedroom flat. Located within walking distance of Tobermory in a small modern development. The flat consists of 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom, large hall store cupboard, lounge/dining room and kitchen. The gardens' front and back are shared with the rest of the four flat block. Parking is provided in a car park in the development. Electric heating & double glazing. Council Tax Band C. Deposit & full references required. Available end of September.

PENLARACH AND PLOT LERAGS, OBAN

- Spacious detached bungalow
- 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- With 0.4 Acre Plot with Planning Permission
- Stunning Loch Views
- Lifestyle & income opportunity
- 1.5 Acres in total
- EPC Rating - E51

OIRO £348,000
Penlarach House - A spacious three bedroom detached bungalow located in the beautiful Lerags Glen only a 10-minute drive south of Oban. Enjoying stunning loch views and an elevated secluded position, the bungalow would make an ideal family home or holiday let investment. The bright and spacious lounge - complete with wood burning stove - and adjacent sun room both enjoy fine views across fields and woodland towards Loch Feochan.

121 GEORGE STEET, OBAN

- One bed/One bath
- Top Floor Flat
- Furnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating - C72
- LL REG 482897/130/21421

PCM £475
Large and bright, top floor, one bedroom property located in Oban town centre. The property comprises one double bedroom, open plan kitchen and living room and modern bathroom with shower. The property is fully furnished and is a moments walk from the main street and esplanade. The property is fully furnished.

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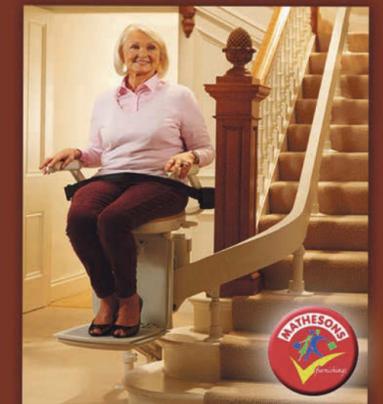
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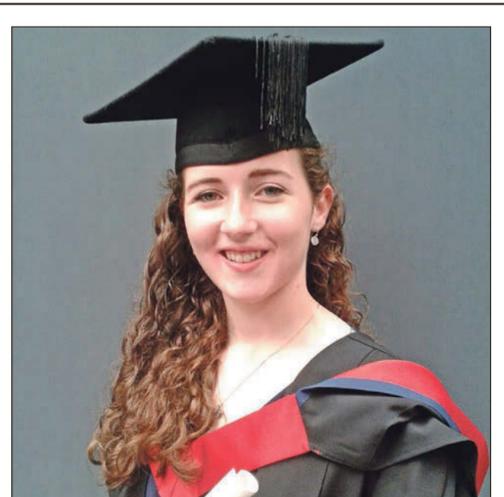
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GRADUATIONS



AMANDA MACLEAN
Graduated with a BA (Hons) 2:1 in Business Management, from Abertay University, Dundee. Amanda is the middle daughter of Willie and Christine MacLean, Barcaldine and granddaughter of Harry and Margaret Forbes, Connel and the late Charlie and Isa MacLean, Lochnell. Amanda is a former pupil of Barcaldine Primary School and Oban High School.



ERIN KELLY
Graduated from the University of Middlesex with a BSc(Hons) in Audio Production. Erin is the daughter of Ronnie and Ailsa Kelly and a former pupil of Rockfield and Oban High School. Erin is now employed at Glasgow Music Studios.

BIRTHS

CRUICKSHANK - Alasdair and Laura (née MacColl) are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Innes Iain, on July 21, 2017 at the RAH Paisley, a wee brother for Fiona, Dugie, Morven and Alexander. Eighth grandchild for Gordon and the late Anne Cruickshank and twelfth grandchild for Margaret and the late Dugald MacColl, Benderloch. A special thanks to Kirsteen McKellar and all at Oban Maternity Unit.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

GILL - At Free High Church, Oban on August 1, 1967. Iain and Isobel (Sinclair).

DEATHS

BROWN - Peacefully at home after a short illness on July 27, 2017, Archie Brown of Kilkenneth, Tیره. Beloved husband of Peggy, loving father of Fiona, a dear friend and neighbour to many. Sadly missed by his loved ones.

BURBIDGE - Peacefully at The Larkfield Unit in Inverclyde Hospital, Greenock, after a long illness, Montague Llewellyn Burbidge, the much loved husband of Chrissie MacCallum. Known as Monty to his many friends. He ran the Poly Shop in Stevenson Street for many years. The funeral service will take place in St. John's Church, Dunoon on Friday August 4 at 11.00 a.m. and thereafter to Cowal Cemetery. Family flowers only please but donations, if desired, to Dementia Friends Scotland or Alzheimer Scotland.

DAVIDSON - Peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on July 27, 2017, Dr William Davidson, retired GP serving Fort William (Tweeddale Medical Practice), formerly of Caol and Ardblair, much loved husband of the late Elizabeth McConnell, dear father of Fraser and Katherine and a loving grandad. Funeral Service on Tuesday August 8, at 1pm in Kilmorack and Erchless Parish Church, Beaulie, to be followed by a Committal Service in Inverness Crematorium. All welcome to attend. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Friends of Urray House may be given at the service or forwarded to D. Chisholm & Sons, Huntly Street, Inverness IV3 5HP.

KOBIELA - Leon. Peacefully, after a short illness, at Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Larbert, on July 30, 2017, Leon, dearly loved husband of Janna and a much loved father, grandpa and brother.

Sadly missed. For funeral details please contact Thomas Cuthell & Sons Funeral Directors, Falkirk on 01324 875107.

LEITCH - Suddenly at home on July 30, 2017, in his 70th year, Kenny, beloved husband of the late Kay, much loved dad to Kenneth, dear brother to James. Rest in peace.

MACGILLIVRAY (KINGSWELLS) - Peacefully at home, after a short illness, on Thursday July 27, 2017, Colin Alexander, aged 70 years, (formerly of Shell, Maersk and Petrofac). Dearly loved husband of Kathy, much loved dad of Mark, Stephen and Nicola, father-in-law of Ann-Marie, Gillian and Francois, proud and devoted grandpa to Jessica, Jordan, Matthew, Aiden, Stephanie, Dominic and Noah. Service of Thanksgiving in Skene Parish Church on Thursday August 10 at 1pm, followed by interment in Hazlehead Cemetery, to which all friends are warmly invited. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, at church door, for NHS nurses.

MACMASTER - Ewen, peacefully at Raigmore Hospital Inverness on July 25, 2017. Beloved brother of the late Alistair, Canon Iain, Margaret, Ronald and Elizabeth. Fortified by The Rites of The Catholic Church. RIP Requiem Mass in Our Lady of The Angels, Mingarry at 12 noon Friday August 4, 2017 and thereafter to St Finnan's Isle.

McAVOY - John McAvoy lost his brave fight against acute lymphoblastic lymphoma and leukaemia at home in Kilmelford, surrounded by loved ones, on July 30, 2017. Leaving his beloved wife, Alice (née McPhie), son Andrew and daughter Cristina and two grandchildren, Archie and Rosie. Brother to George, Margaret and Ann and friend to many. A special man too good for this world. Celebration of life at Craignish Village Hall at 2 p.m. on Friday August 4. Casual dress, no flowers, bring memories!

McINTOSH - Very peacefully towards the end of a short illness at the Belford Hospital with her family at her side on Friday 28 July 2017, Margaret Brownlee Duncan McIntosh, aged 76 years, dearly loved wife of John, mum to Susan and Jackie, granny, great granny, sister, auntie, great auntie and a friend to many. Family and friends welcome to join a service to celebrate the life of Margaret in the Duncansburgh McIntosh Church on Monday 7 August at 11 am and thereafter to Glen Nevis Cemetery where she will be laid to rest. Family flowers only please. Donations may be given in her memory in

aid of Belford Hospital Combined Assessment Unit and Ward 1. Please wear something bright.

ROWAN - Peacefully at home, 14 Seaside Park, Ardrishaig, on July 27, 2017, John (Jackie) Rowan, in his 80th year, beloved brother of Duncan, Colin, Kenny and the late Chrissie and a dearly loved uncle and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service was held in Ardrishaig Parish Church, on Monday, July 31, 2017, followed by a private cremation. Forever in our thoughts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMPBELL - Margaret and family would like to thank friends and neighbours for flowers, cards, phone calls, messages and for paying their last respects at the church and graveside, following their sad loss of Charlie. Special thanks to Donna and staff in Macmillan Day Bed Unit, Oban; to Anne Crossan and paramedics, Dr Villalba, Anne and Louise in A&E, Campbeltown, to air ambulance crew and staff in HDU, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow; to Rev Philip Wallace for a comforting service; to Kenneth, Alasdair and Rhys Blair for caring and professional services and to the Argyll Arms Hotel, Bellochantuy for a lovely tea.

McPHEE - Cathie, William, Michael, Catherine and Margaret would like to thank family and friends for the cards, flowers, phone calls and the support on the death of a dear husband and father Alistair, died July 10, 2017. Thanks to Dr Massie and staff at Tweeddale Medical Practice, Dr Rajan and Dr McGibbon and staff at Clava and Torvean, Morag Muirhead for her kind words and a lovely service, to Philip for his uplifting eulogy, Mark McCann for his many years of friendship, Sunny Rodger for his help, Kevin Laing, Masonic Lodge and the British Legion, McDonald Brothers for the beautiful flowers, Railway Club for the catering and Jamie and Mike McFall for their professionalism and support. £340 collected at the church will be donated to Clava and Torvean, New Craigs, Inverness.

MEMORIAMS

CLARK - Graham and Kirsty. Such precious memories always held of Graham who passed away August 7, 2006 and Kirsty who passed away December 22, 2012. Together forever. Quietly remembered and so greatly missed.
- Alison, Rhuairidh, Katie and Coll.

GILLIES - Treasured memories of Donnie a much loved husband, father and grandad, who passed away on July 19, 1992 and loved ones gone before and since. Death just comes to let us know We love more dearly than we show And love in death just makes us see What love in life should always be.
- Loving wife Jean and family, 47 Drumfada Terrace, Corpach, Fort William.

GILLIES - In loving memory of our dear mother, grandmother and great grand-mother May, who was so suddenly taken from us on August 1, 2013. Sorely missed and quietly remembered every day.
- Love Theresa, Anne, Angela and families.

KERMODE - John, born May 24, 1940 - died July 31, 2006. Lead kindly light Treasured memories
- Lilian and family.

MACCOLL - Annie (Nan), Kilmorivaig. Tha gaol màthair sonraichte Tha mi a toirt taing do Dhia gu robh sibh Leamsa.
- June Anne and David xx Miss and love you granny Forever in our hearts granny.
- Archie, Jessie, Kate and Freddie xxxx.

MACGREGOR - In loving memory of our dear dear dad, papa and great grandpa, Alexander (Cherry), who passed away on August 2, 2015. Loved and remembered every day.
- Linda, Kenneth, John, and families S'rioghal Mo Dhream

MACKENZIE - In loving memory of Helen Mary who passed away on August 7, 2016. One year has passed since that sad day But in our hearts you will always stay.
- Husband Donnie and daughter Eilidh.

McCLOUNNAN - In memory of Margaret McClounnan, died August 4, 2016 aged 65yrs. Much loved mum of Stewart and David.
- Sadly missed by family and friends

STEWART - In loving memory of Alistair a loving husband, devoted father and grandfather, who passed away August 1, 2008. Deep in our heart your memory is kept
- To love and cherish and never forget.
- Christine and family.

STOTT - Treasured memories of a dear dad and grandpa, Bill, died August 5, 1999. Forever in our hearts.
- Rosemary, Ewen and family, Spean Bridge.

Oban Times
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Obituary – Sarah Holman 1951-2017

SARAH HOLMAN, who has died aged 65, stood out among a dwindling number of Highland landowners who hold the view that owning an estate comes with a duty and responsibility to the land and the local community.

She took an active part in the life of the villages of Ilmington in Warwickshire and Acharacle, Argyll, where the family trust made land available for a new primary school, a commemorative woodland-walk and an extension to the graveyard.

Her great love was stalking on the family's Shielbridge estate, near Acharacle. There was nothing she liked better after a morning swim in the icy Atlantic waters than setting out for the high tops, often not returning until late evening.

Where deer were concerned, she was a traditionalist and upheld all that was best and grand about stalking. Not for her a short walk, an easy beast in the early morning mist or loosening off a few rounds from an all-terrain vehicle. She was an accomplished stalker and got involved in all aspects of the day, including the gallowing, which she once performed wearing a pair of Marigolds. She treated the deer with dignity and respect.

Nothing annoyed her more than being told by Scottish Natural Heritage that a larger cull was needed to make way for yet more trees, even although their numbers had already been reduced to an all-time low. She hated the commercial aspect of stalking and of deer being treated as pound notes in fur coats. These were views she made widely known as chairperson of the Ardnarmurchan Deer Management Group and on the executive committee of the Association of Deer Management Groups.

The eldest of four daughters of Christopher Boot Holman and his wife Winifred, nee Ponsonby, Sarah Charlotte Holman was born in London on July 9, 1951.

Her great-grandfather was Jesse Boot, the first Lord Trent and founder of Boots the Chemists. In 1930, he had purchased the 50,000-acre Ardnarmurchan Estate from the father of the art historian Kenneth Clark. The estate comprised a 70-stag deer forest and the south bank of the River Shiel, famous for its early run of sea trout and heavy salmon.

She was adored by her sisters, nephews, nieces and godchildren and welcomed them to the Old Manse at Acharacle each year. They, in turn, loved her, relishing her eccentricity and her attitude that when things went wrong it didn't really matter as it was boring to have a day without a drama - even when she almost lost some of them at sea.

Family gatherings were always, 'Have you heard about auntie? She's been arrested, left Sporrnan (her old Norwich terrier) at the ferry and got 10 points on her driving licence in one journey.'
She developed diabetes when she was five, but never made a fuss, always telling her



family that she was as fit as a fiddle, had her diabetes under control and that her doctor had recommended a bottle of red wine a day. A prescription she adhered to until this year when she announced that she was giving wine up for Lent, though when asked how she would manage she replied: 'I'm drinking whisky, instead.'

Despairing of her ever getting married, her father asked her to take over the running of the Shielbridge estate when she was 35. Moving to the Old Manse at Acharacle, she provided generous entertainment where dubious starters of salmon mousse and mushroom and mackerel pate were washed down with lashings of fine red wine.

She was a Deputy Lieutenant of Warwickshire and High Sheriff, as her father and several ancestors had been before her. She was always organising shows and events to raise money for her many charities.

When her bank manager asked her what her job was she replied: 'Compulsive fundraiser.'

For the past 20 years she ran the Cheltenham Countryside Race Day, raising funds for the Countryside Alliance and other rural charities. She raised more than £2 million and brought the attendance numbers up from 6,000 when it started to 20,000.

When the committee tried to retire her, giving her a huge farewell lunch, she took absolutely no notice and carried on the next year raising a record amount.

Sarah Holman had no airs and graces.
At a very smart charity lunch in Gloucestershire last year,

where everyone was vying to impress everyone else with their guest list, she invited Steve her chippy, her gardener, her plumber, Barry her local taxi man, and her friend the rat catcher and had the most fun of all the tables there.

A woman of forthright views, described by a friend as '95 per cent wonderful and five per cent maddening', Sarah Holman lost her keys, wallet and telephone on a monthly basis and was oblivious to any rules that didn't suit her.

On one occasion, rushing back to her home in Warwickshire at high speed late at night, she was pulled over by the police. She explained that she had been playing the part of a tart in the village play and when she saw the lights of a car behind apparently giving chase, she was terrified that she was being pursued by two men in the audience who had been eyeing her up. The policemen were so impressed by her defence that they sent her on her way.

On another occasion, arriving at the airport check-in desk and finding herself barred from her holiday flight since she had an out-of-date passport, she demanded to speak to the pilot.

Sarah Holman was unmarried, explaining that she had two lovely proposals but that she was younger, but had turned them down, as 'things were great as they were'.

She is survived by Corrie her beloved Norwich terrier.

Iain Thornber

Oban Times
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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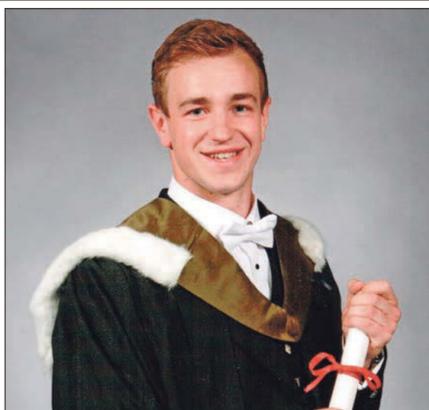
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GRADUATIONS



DAVID ALLAN BLACK

Graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a BSc (Hons) First Class degree in Sports and Recreation Management. David is the son of Ian and Michelle Black, Salen, Mull and grandson of Allan and Margaret Black, Salen and Rod and Gill Little, Derivaig, Mull. He is now returning to work in the yachting industry.



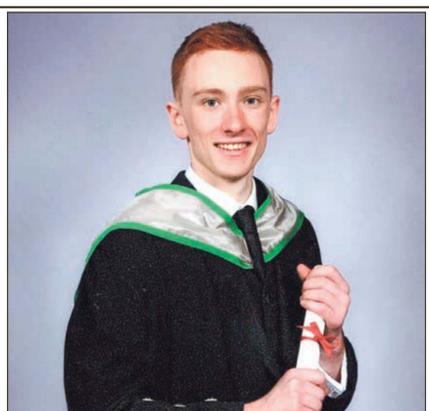
LAUREN CAMERON

Graduated from University of Stirling with a First Class Honours degree in Accountancy and Mathematics. Daughter of Andrew and Alex Cameron, Bunessan, Isle of Mull. Former pupil of Bunessan Primary and Oban High School.



ASHLEY FERGUSON

Graduated from Edinburgh University with a BSc with Honours in Medical Sciences. Ashley is the younger daughter of Lena and Archie Ferguson of Castleton and is a past pupil of Lochgilphead High School.



SCOTT JAMIESON

Graduated from University of Stirling with BSc (Hons) Biology with Professional Education, first class. Scott is a former pupil of Fort William Primary and Lochaber High School. He is the son of Steven and Gillian Jamieson, grandson of Robin and Ann Brown and the late Andy Jamieson and Brenda MacLean.

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Competitors in the Harris Ross Texas scramble. Photo: Iain Ferguson The Write Image.

More than £3,700 raised for charity

ON TUESDAY July 25 the Campbell Homes Medal was played at Fort William golf club with the following result: 1 Alistair Matheson net 71 (86 - 15); 2 Nicholas Hough net 75 (84 - 9); 3 Andrew Brown net 75 (85 - 10).
Ladies: On Tuesday July 25 a 12-hole Hidden Holes competition was played with the following result: 1 Hazel Cameron net 54 (65 - 11); 2

Iona Cameron net 55 (68 - 13). Results of Harris Ross three-person Texas scramble played at Fort William Golf Club on Sunday July 30. More than £3,700 was raised for charity STAR for Harris in memory of young Harris who tragically died of childhood cancer.
Men: 1 Stephen Howden, Andrew Brown and Willie Hendrie net 55 (61 - 6); 2 James Duncan, Martin Duncan and

Iain Johnston net 55.8 (63 - 7.2); 3 Donald Lamont, Ian Lamont and John Stewart net 56 (64 - 8).
Ladies: 1 Hazel Cameron, Rosie Macintyre and Iona Cameron net 64 (72 - 8); 2 Kathleen Leitch, Frances MacTavish and Paula Halas net 68 (79 - 11)
Hidden Holes - winners Cal Brown, David MacPherson and Marc MacDonald

Golf

Nearest pin at third hole - Cal Brown; Nearest pin at sixth hole - Michael Rodger; Nearest pin at 12th hole - David MacPherson; Nearest pin at 16th hole - Brian Gillespie
Men's longest drive at 4th hole - Michael Rodger; Chipping into paddling pool - Neil Worsdall



Alan Ross and his mum Libby are presented with the cheque.

Own goal spoils solid season opening game for Fort William

Keith	2
Fort William	1
Highland League	

A CRAZY five-minute period early in the second half which saw Fort concede two goals in rapid succession does not tell the whole story of this season opener played in good conditions at Kynoch Park on Saturday.

After a nervy first 10 minutes, Fort settled down to the task in hand and had by far the better of the half.

Fort keeper Martin MacKinnon, on loan for the season from Caley Thistle, had little to do in the first half but unfortunately the visitors could not convert all their possession into goals and the teams went into the interval with a 0-0 scoreline.

It was a different tale after the re-start, however, when on the 50-minute mark, a quality strike from Keith's Donald Fraser put the home side ahead.

And just a minute later, Fraser's free-kick effort saw the ball deflected off Fort's Andrew MacLean into the visitors' net.

It was another 70 minutes before the stunned Fort side pulled one back, when a great team effort involving six players eventually saw the ball come to Iain MacLellan, who squared the ball for John Treasurer to tap in from six yards.

That made it 2-1 with 20 minutes to go. Pressure from Fort saw home keeper David Dey forced to make two fantastic saves to deny the visitors what would have been a well-deserved draw.

Fort co-manager Ali Smith was naturally disappointed with the defeat, but said there were still plenty of positives to take from the game.
'A defeat is always hard to take but, that aside, we were delighted with the commitment and effort shown



Fort William FC joint manager Ali Smith.

Football

by all the players, who gave 100 per cent. There were plenty of positives and we'll be looking to build on those.

'We had some good travelling support for the Keith game and hopefully we'll see really good crowds at Claggan Park for our home games.'

Bad weather did not dampen the spirits at the annual Plockton regatta

PLOCKTON Small Boat Sailing Club held its annual open day on Saturday July 22 in lovely sunshine.

After the event a race was held in aid of the RNLI with the winner getting an RNLI Pennant. Seven boats raced and the winner was 15-year-old Calum Reid, in White Waters - a Laser Radial. Second was Neil MacRae in Rona.

The annual regatta fortnight began on Monday July 24 in glorious sunshine with 16 boats taking part, 10 local and six centreboards.

The first race for the Plockton Trophy saw first place go to Neil MacRae (Rona) 2nd Alexander Mackenzie (Seaforth) 3rd Ian Hay (Seolta).

The first race for the Ulluva Cup (centreboards) saw first place go to James Smith (Inominate) from Hexham, 2nd Calum Reid (White Waters) 3rd Ian Taylor (Bata Gorm).

The fortnight continued on Tuesday with the Douglas Mackenzie Challenge Cuaich for local boats.

First place Alexander Mackenzie (Seaforth) The Cuach was presented to the club in memory of his father. Second

was Ian Hay (Seolta) and third Joy MacKenna (Sea Ranger)

Also held was the 1st race for the Pelly Cup (centreboards): 1st James Smith 2nd Calum Reid 3rd Peter Smith (Tokloshe)

In the evening there were three starters for the ladies Melora Cup for local boats: 1st Imogen Smith (Coruisk) from Sheffield winning by four seconds from 2nd Morag Amos (Eala Bhan).

On Wednesday afternoon, in very windy conditions only five local boats started for the Consett Championship Cup (no handicaps) and the Alistair Mackenzie Memorial cup (handicaps). Four retired due to the conditions but Ian Hay (Seolta) stopped and put in a reef, sailing on on his own to win the two cups.

Ian started winning cups in 1975 and these two cups were his 100th and 101st trophies to date, 39 ahead of the next sailor.

In the centreboard race in the second Sir Kenneth Pelly Cup, seven started but only three finished. First was Calum Reid (White Waters), 2nd Peter Smith (Tokoloshie) from

Tain and 3rd Michael Hay (Die Forelle).

The boys and girls races in the evening were postponed owing to adverse weather.

On Thursday morning two raced in the first Fossil Trophy race for under-16s. Calum Reid won with Robbie Baird coming in second.

On Thursday evening in very strong winds only five local boats raced in the second Plockton Trophy race. Four boats reefed but Neil MacRae (Rona) decided not to and won the race. Second was Ian Hay (Seolta), and 3rd Douglas Hamilton (Ajax).

It was also the second Ulluva Cup for centreboards of which there were six races: 1st Calum Reid 2nd James Smith 3rd Michael Hay

On Friday morning three sailed in the second Fossil Trophy race: 1st Calum Reid 2nd Robbie Baird 3rd Calum Reeves.

On Friday afternoon eight centreboards sailed in the third and final race for the Pelly Cup: 1st Donald Gillies (Too Do Loo) 2nd Peter Smith (Tokoloshie) 3rd James Smith (Inominate)

Sailing

As a result of the third races the winner of the Pelly Cup was Peter with seven points - Peter first won this cup 50 years ago. Second was Calum Reid with 13 points and 3rd Michael Hay. All races in the evening were cancelled due to the very strong winds.

On Saturday the yacht race had only four starters due to the conditions and all small boat races were cancelled.

First was Cameron Still (Roxanne) from Portree, 2nd Ian and David Hay (Bragar) in Plockton 3rd Dave Meghie (Isabel) in Plockton.

Charlie MacRae said: 'So a week that started with two lovely days deteriorated after Tuesday with cool, wet and windy conditions.'

'Commodore Robin Smith held his Commodore's party in the club boathouse on Saturday evening. An interesting item at the party was when Rod MacLeod, who has two local boats, decided to give one (The Coruisk) to David Hay in return for a bottle of Talisker whisky.'

Big Argyll match scores for Grenfell charity

Argyll and Bute Council	12
ACHA	0
Grenfell Tower Charity Match	

LOCHGILPHEAD hosted one of the biggest football matches in recent years as an Argyll and Bute Council select took on the cream of footballing talent available to the region's biggest social housing provider.

The local authority and Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) came together on Friday July 28 in a special charity match to help those who lost their homes in the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

Captained by the respective chief executives in Cleland Sneddon for the council and Alastair MacGregor of ACHA, the match featured players of all vintages.

Among the more impressive performers were the ladies in both teams, who were unafraid of mixing it with the boys while showing plenty of skill.

The match started evenly, but as the first half wore on it became clear that it might be a long afternoon for ACHA.

Despite having had the lion's share of possession, though, Argyll and Bute Council had just a single goal to show for

their efforts at half-time. The second half began with much the same pattern, and it took just a few minutes for the council select to add to their tally. With ACHA's smaller pool of players visibly tiring, the opposition showed no mercy to the beleaguered ACHA chief executive in goal.

For his part, Cleland Sneddon had a roving commission, starting in defence, then coming back to seek glory up front.

Speaking after the big game, Alastair MacGregor said: 'Our guys put everything into the match.'

'I think too many of our play-

ers had been shearing sheep and ran out of steam in the second half, but it was played in a fantastic spirit. Hopefully we will beat our £3,000 target by next week.'

He added: 'It was great to see so many people turning out today for a worthy cause. It's been a long time since I played an 11-a-side game, but it was good fun,' said Cleland Sneddon.

'I went off for a spell, during which time my team romped ahead. I came back on later in the match just to put the brakes on.'

'The real winner today was the cause of raising money for

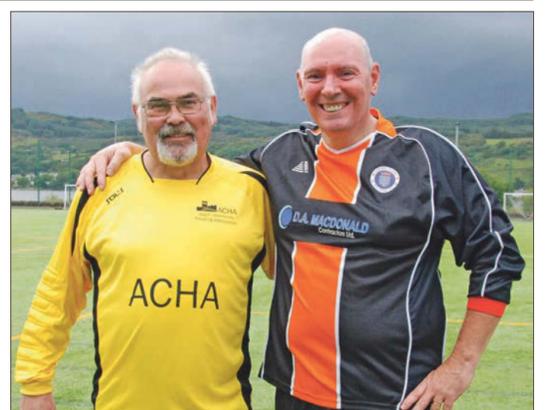
Football

the Grenfell survivors and their families.'

The 24-storey Grenfell Tower block of public housing flats in North Kensington, London, was hit by a serious fire on June 14, killing scores of people.

All proceeds will go to the London Fire Relief Fund, run by The British Red Cross Society to help people in need after the fire at Grenfell Tower.

There is still time to donate, and this can be done by visiting justgiving.com/fundraising/argyll-bute.



Alastair MacGregor of ACHA and the council's Cleland Sneddon - together for a good cause.



The Scotland U-17 squad pictured at Dublin's famous Croke Park.

Young Scots star on Irish tour

Communication and concentration were key words in the pre-match team talks



The south players who were involved in the Scotland squad. Back row: Daniel MacCuish, Cameron Sutherland (both Oban Camanachd), Scott MacDonald (Kyles Athletic). Front row: Ross Montgomery (Inveraray), Ross MacMillan (Oban Celtic) and Calum Maclay (Glasgow Mid Argyll).

SCOTLAND U-17s completed another successful Irish tour, recording wins against both Waterford U-17 and Dublin U-17 on their annual four-day visit to the Emerald Isle.

The 17-player squad were accompanied by Ronald Ross, Paul MacArthur and Alasdair Bruce. Unfortunately there were enforced late changes to the pool as Saturday afternoon injuries to Oban Camanachd's Daniel MacVicar and Lovat's Scott MacKenzie led to late call-ups for Fort William's Lewis Clark and Calum Maclay from Glasgow Mid Argyll. Both replacements made significant contributions over the two games.

There was some Sunday morning excitement for the players departing from Inverness Airport as they were joined by Olly Murs who played a concert in the Highland capital the previous night. The subsequent photo opportunity proved popular on social media.

The squad were based at the impressive Dublin City University where they were able to take advantage of the excellent training facilities.

After an inspiring trip to Croke Park, the Scotland squad travelled south to play Waterford U-17 at Walsh Park; a county ground. Scotland

dominated the game from the start, eventually running out convincing (12-7) 43-13 (1-10) winners.

Captain Iain Robinson from Newtonmore was the Scots' top scorer with 13 points (four goals and a point over the bar). Kingussie's Ruaridh Anderson grabbed a hat-trick and he was arguably the Scots top performer over the two games. Skye's James Pringle scored eight points (2-2). There were also goals for Kingussie's Roddy Young, Kilmallie's Calum MacDougall and Glasgow Mid Argyll's Calum Maclay who netted within a minute of coming off the substitutes' bench. A 65-year two-pointer from Skye's Connor Gilpin completed the scoring.

The annual meeting with Dublin U-17 was switched from Parnell Park to the magnificent facilities at the GAA National Games Development Centre. Both sets of players were in for a treat with the match played on the main pitch with the immaculate surface specially designed to replicate Croke Park. Such is the care taken over the pitch, both squads were asked to warm up on the adjacent all-weather surface.

A number of parents also made the journey to Ireland to cheer the Scots on from the stands and although they eventually ran out (9-3) 30-11

(1-8) winners, the game was closer than the final score suggests. Just as he had done the previous game, Kingussie's Ruaridh Anderson grabbed a hat-trick and he was arguably the Scots top performer over the two games. Skye's James Pringle scored twice as did Kingussie's Roddy Young and his effort over the bar took his tally for the evening to seven points. Newtonmore's Iain Robinson collected four points (1-1), GMA's Calum Mclay scored another goal whilst Fort William's Lewis Clark drove the ball over the bar to add his name to the scoresheet.

As usual, the goalscorers grabbed the headlines but there were other fine performances with Skye's John Gillies and Oban Celtic's Ross MacMillan combining to forge a formidable full-back partnership. Oban Camanachd keeper Cameron Sutherland only lost one goal in each game and he was tidy whenever called into action. Kingussie's Alexander Michie played a key role as defensive pivot whilst Oban Camanachd's Daniel MacCuish was dogged in midfield.

Ronald Ross was keen that his troops were left inspired by the Irish experience and, to a man, the young Scots rose to the occasion. Communication and concentration were key words

Shinty / hurling

in the pre-match team-talk and the players showed that they could follow instruction as they played the ball on the ground and they used the width of the pitch to good effect. They all return to their clubs the better for the experience and the new friendships forged will last long into the future.

The travelling Scots, as always, are indebted to Marine Harvest, Gilmour Sports, Seamus Curtis, Waterford GAA and the Dublin County Board for their assistance before and throughout the tour.

Scotland U17 squad: Cameron Sutherland (Oban Camanachd); John Gillies (Skye Camanachd), Ross MacMillan (Oban Celtic); Robbie Brindle (Beauly), Alexander Michie (Kingussie), Ross Montgomery (Inveraray); Daniel MacCuish (Oban Camanachd), Scott MacDonald (Kyles Athletic), Connor Gilpin (Skye Camanachd); Ruaridh Anderson (Kingussie), Calum MacDougall (Kilmallie), James Pringle (Skye Camanachd), Iain Robinson (Newtonmore) (captain); Roddy Young (Kingussie); subs Liam Arnott (Lochcarron), Lewis Clark (Fort William), Calum Mclay (Glasgow Mid Argyll).



Glencruitten

ALLAN McKie won the Championship at Glencruitten last weekend with scores of 65, 70, to add to his first two rounds, making a total of 270. Phillip Murphy was runner up with a total of 272.

Graham MacColl won the George Smith Trophy with net scores of 61, 65 = 126. Runner-up was Donald McGill with net scores of 59, 68 = 127. On Saturday the Wilson Cup and Britannia Cup Final takes place followed by the Glencruitten Open the following Saturday.



Allan McKie, right, club champion at Glencruitten pictured with runner-up Phillip Murphy.

Dalmally

CONGRATULATIONS to 'The Putting Kings' from Lochilthead who won the 3-Man stableford at a sun-soaked Dalmally on July 23 in a closely-contested Open.

A terrific net birdie 3 on the final hole by Grant MacDougall saw the mid-Argyll team of Grant, Kenny MacAulay and David Sinclair pip the 'Killin Exiles' by a single point, 84 to 83, to claim the silverware.

The Exiles comprised golfing nomads, Brian Stock (Crieff), George Ferguson (Cardross) and John MacIlroy (Kenmore).

In third place were home team 'Two Drams and a Driver' aka Graeme and Arik MacKechnie and James MacMillan, who just squeezed 'Tony and Two Golfers', Tony Graham (Dalmally), Jack and Stan Marshall (Cardross and Dunblane) into fourth space by a single point on 82 to 81.

Tobermory

CENTENARY Cup third round: 1 Paul Brown 69-07-62; 2 Fraser MacKinnon 70-03-67; 3 Alasdair MacLeod 85-17-68 Ladies 9-hole Stableford: 1 Doris Hargreaves 15 points; 2 Olive Brown 15 points; 3 Rosalind Reid 9 points.



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Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Sutherland Cup Final falls victim to the weather

THE MARINE Harvest Premiership title race took another twist and the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final between Lochside Rovers and Kingussie's second team was postponed because of a waterlogged pitch on Saturday July 29.

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final

Lochside Rovers P Kingussie P

There was disappointment for Lochside Rovers and the Kingussie second team as the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup was postponed at 11am on the morning of the game as An Aird was waterlogged.

Despite a major effort from Fort William ground staff, heavy rain over the previous 24 hours left too much water on the surface.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kyles Athletic 2 Kinlochshiel 2

Title hopefuls Kinlochshiel and Kyles Athletic were scheduled to meet at Kirkton and a Friday evening pitch inspection ruled the game on. However, heavy overnight rain left the field unplayable on Saturday morning so the match was reversed to Tighnabraich with a 4pm start.

Injury continued to rule out Kyles' Innes MacDonald, whilst Dunkie Kerr was on holiday. Cammy Keith returned to the bench after injury and came on in the second half.

Kinlochshiel's Colin MacDiarmid sat out the final match of his five-game suspension.

Gordy MacDonald's knee injury means he will struggle to play again this season, but Oliver MacRae returned.

Kinlochshiel took the lead after five minutes. John MacRae collected the ball in a lot of space and drilled a shot into the bottom corner of the net.

Having scored early in the

first half, Kinlochshiel started the second period in a similar fashion. John MacRae played in a good through-ball and Jordan Fraser slipped it past keeper Kyles Whyte to make it 2-0 with 48 minutes played.

Kinlochshiel claimed for a penalty soon after when John MacRae went down inside the 'D' but referee Lachie Wood turned away their pleas.

Kyles Athletic talisman Roddy MacDonald started the match in defence but moved up front as the hosts attempted to mount a comeback.

Grant Irvine halved the deficit on 82 minutes. Kinlochshiel keeper Scott Kennedy made a good, low save and the ball bounced through a few players to Grant Irvine around the penalty spot. He struck it low and hard, through a ruck of players, into the bottom right corner of the net.

Kyles continued to press, forcing a series of corners, and Scott Kennedy had to come off his line twice to foil Roddy MacDonald and Scott MacDonald in one-on-one situations.

Kennedy came to the rescue again as the match moved into injury time when he saved from Robbie MacLeod, but the ball found its way to an unmarked Sandy MacKenzie at the edge of the 'D' and he smashed a shot into the bottom right corner of the net to make it 2-2.

The share of the spoils means Kinlochshiel stay two points clear of Kyles at the top of the table, but the Tighnabraich men have a game in hand. Newtonmore, now just three points behind Kyles, are also very much in the mix.

Kinlochshiel and Kyles Athletic look forward to home games this weekend with Kinlochshiel hosting Kilmallie at Kirkton and Kyles welcoming Lochaber to Tighnabraich.

Newtonmore 6 Kilmallie 0

Newtonmore extended their winning run to seven matches by beating bottom side Kilmallie 6-0 at The Eilan.

The venue was switched on Saturday morning after heavy rain left Canal Parks unplayable.

Injury deprived Newtonmore of Drew MacDonald and Chris Sellar and Evan Menzies served the second game of his two-match ban. Paul MacArthur and David MacLean were on the substitutes' bench.

Kilmallie defender Peter Carmichael returned after suspension and Steven Stewart was back after injury. Stephen McAlister was still out injured.

Although the outcome of this match was never in doubt, Kilmallie started well, man-marking Newtonmore's dangermen to good effect.

Newtonmore took the lead on 13 minutes. Innes Blackhall gave away a needless free-hit on the half way line when he was penalised for a reckless swing after slipping to the ground. Michael Russell played the free-hit into the Kilmallie goal area where Glen MacKintosh turned his man and unleashed a powerful shot, beating Kilmallie keeper Shane Gillies at his right-hand post.

Newtonmore started to dominate the centre line and referee John Angus Gillies played advantage following a dangerous swing and, with the ball played up to the home forward line, Jamie Robinson scored his third goal in two games to make it 2-0 with 24 minutes on the clock.

Newtonmore started the second half as they finished the first period and the game was won on 47 minutes when Glen MacKintosh got past a defender and drilled a shot inside the keeper's left-hand post.

Scotland U17 captain Iain Robinson scored the goal of the match on 58 minutes. Newtonmore played the ball out from defence to substitute David MacLean on the right wing. MacLean sent the ball down the line to Fraser MacKintosh who found Glen MacKintosh. He chipped the ball to the back post where the on-rushing Iain Robinson took the ball down, then took it round the keeper and slotted it home to make it 4-0.

Fraser MacKintosh notched a well-deserved goal on 71 minutes. He put in a tremendous amount of work in the forward line and his efforts were rewarded when he rifled a 20-yard screamer past the helpless Shane Gillies to make it 5-0.

Kilmallie's day went from bad to worse with four minutes remaining when defender Peter Carmichael stretched out at a Newtonmore ball into the goal area and inadvertently deflected it past keeper Shane Gillies into the net.

There were a number of good Newtonmore performances. Steven MacDonald and Rory Kennedy were solid at the back, whilst Michael Russell and Iain Richardson were excellent in the centre line. International recognition will surely follow for Russell if he maintains his levels of performance since his switch to full centre. Fraser MacKintosh and Iain Robinson caused the Kilmallie defence problems throughout the match.

Steven Stewart and Martin Stewart were Kilmallie's top players on the day.

The match was played in good spirits with referee John Angus Gillies keeping his cards in his pockets.

Next up for Newtonmore is this Friday night's Badenoch derby against Kingussie at The Dell. The 6pm throw-up will be broadcast live on BBC Alba.

Glasgow Mid Argyll 2 Lochaber 4

Lochaber came out on top against Glasgow Mid Argyll, winning 4-2 in their relegation four-pointer at Peterson Park, Yoker.



Lovat's Daniel Grieve and Martin Mainland close in on Glenurquhart's James Macpherson during last Saturday's Marine Harvest Premiership match at Kiltarlity which the home side won by the odd goal in seven. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

GMA's Mark Bain was free to play but will miss this coming weekend's home match with Oban Camanachd through suspension.

Lochaber's Stuart Callison collected a one-game ban for a disciplinary points accumulation.

It was a wet afternoon in Glasgow with a fairly strong wind but the pitch was in good condition.

Lochaber started against the wind but took the lead after two minutes with Connor Sweeney taking on the wing back before coolly slotting the ball past the keeper to make it 1-0.

That was the only goal of the first half. Neil MacDonald made it 2-0 10 minutes after the re-start when he held off the GMA full back before sending a reverse angled drive past Robert Dunning in the GMA goal.

Brian Slattery pulled a goal back with a shot from deep on the hour mark and an even spell of play followed.

It was a tough, fair and competitive match with strong tackling from both sides and it was only in the final 15 minutes that Lochaber put the game away.

Iain Fyfe made it 3-1 10 minutes from time when he collected a reverse pass from Neil MacDonald before smashing the ball home.

A second from Connor Sweeney made it 4-1 when he latched onto a long Ryan Johnstone shy before cracking the ball home past a helpless keeper.

GMA's Ewan Murray netted a minute later when his high ball forward looked to be going wide but, with shouts from visiting defenders to leave it, the wind caught the ball and curled it into the net.

Lochaber deserved the win but at no point during the 90 minutes did GMA let their heads drop with visiting keeper Callum MacDonald tested more than once.

At the end of the match, a happy Lochaber manager Ally Ferguson said: 'We played well with good team work and effort from all the boys against tough opponents who played some great shinty at times. We've gained another two points in what is a very tight league. I'm very pleased with how we played and the final result.'

Lochaber now go above Glenurquhart to seventh in the table, level on points with sixth-placed Oban Camanachd, although they have played five

games more. Glasgow Mid Argyll welcome Oban Camanachd to Yoker this Saturday whilst Lochaber head south again, this time to Tighnabraich to play title challengers Kyles Athletic.

Lovat 4 Glenurquhart 3

Lovat twice came from behind to beat local rivals Glenurquhart 4-3 in their 1pm throw-up at Balgate.

This was the fifth meeting between the sides this season and Lovat's only victory was a 3-0 success in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup.

Lovat boss Fraser Gallacher was back from holiday so took up his customary position in the dug-out. He resisted the temptation to include new signings Marc MacLachlan and Duncan Davidson from Beaulieu and Bute respectively. Lovat youngster Scott MacKenzie faces a period on the sidelines after suffering a broken wrist and a broken bone in his arm against Newtonmore seven days earlier. Calum MacAulay was also unavailable so Bailey MacKay started with Craig Mainland at full centre.

Glenurquhart's Ally MacKintosh was back after suspension but manager Iain MacLeod was without Fraser Heath, Connor Golabeck, Michael Fraser and James Hurwood.

Glenurquhart made a bright start with Oliver Black and James MacPherson both forcing good saves from Lovat goalie Stuart MacDonald.

It was Lovat who went in front on nine minutes though when an unmarked Greg Matheson crashed a powerful shot through the keeper's legs and into the net.

With wind blowing across the park, neither team was able to grab the upper-hand so it was no surprise when Glenurquhart levelled on 28 minutes. The ball was deflected into the air following a Glenurquhart corner and Oliver Black volleyed the dropping ball into the net to make it 1-1.

There were a number of stoppages during the first half which didn't allow the game to get into a rhythm. Referee Innes Wood kept a tight grip of proceedings with Andrew Corrigan and John Barr collecting early bookings.

The end-to-end nature of the contest continued and James MacPherson gave Glenurquhart the lead on 33 minutes. A free-hit close to the penalty spot was played wide to James MacPherson

who sent a first-time shot low past Stuart MacDonald to make it 2-1.

Lovat pushed for a leveller and when Greg Matheson found just enough space to get a shot away on 41 minutes, his effort was expertly saved with his right foot by Glenurquhart goalie Stuart MacKintosh.

Lovat had a great chance to draw level a minute before the break when referee Innes Wood awarded them a penalty after consulting with goal judge Billy MacLeod. Stuart MacKintosh got his hand to Greg Matheson's spot-hit but couldn't keep the ball out. However, referee Wood, who had signalled for the penalty to be taken, blew again before the ball was hit and booked Lovat's Lorne MacKay for something he said. Matheson lined up the retake, but keeper MacKintosh saved above his head, just to his left, with his stick.

Lovat found an equaliser on 51 minutes. Greg Matheson's shot was cleared as far as Danny Kelly, who started at buckshee forward, and he tucked the ball low into the net from around the penalty spot.

Glenurquhart regained the lead on 58 minutes with James MacPherson getting his second goal of the game.

The ball deflected high into the air and, as it fell, MacPherson caught it on the volley from a central position 25 yards from goal. The former Lovat player's cracking finish beat keeper MacDonald to make it 3-2.

Glenurquhart were reduced to 11 players on 63 minutes when John Barr was penalised for a challenge, although the second yellow card may have been for persistent fouling.

Lovat struggled to take advantage of the extra player; at times bunching around the Glenurquhart goal.

They were almost caught out with 15 minutes remaining when Glenurquhart broke forward and James MacPherson's shot produced an excellent Stuart MacDonald save.

Just as it looked as if there would be no way through, Lovat found a leveller with just a minute remaining. Glenurquhart had pressed forward, holding the ball up front, but a long Thomas Fraser clearance out of defence put the home side on the attack.

They took advantage of the space as Lewis Tawse fed Greg

Matheson and he beat his marker before running in to touch the ball past keeper MacKintosh to make it 3-3.

The goal set up an explosive finish. With the match a couple of minutes into stoppage time, a long, high ball from the Lovat midfield dropped into the Glenurquhart defence. A visiting defender went to shy the ball away in the air but was challenged by Greg Matheson. Glenurquhart claimed the Scotland forward had played the defender's stick, forcing him to miss the ball. Matheson didn't stop to debate the matter and, as he turned, found himself in a 50-50 challenge with Stuart MacKintosh to win the ball. Matheson got there first and he knocked the ball home to make it 4-3.

Both camps were spoken to following some feisty exchanges as the referee tried to calm things down and it probably helped there were just seconds remaining.

Had it not been for some dropped points earlier in the season, Lovat could have been part of the title race. Drew Howie did a thorough job at full back, Craig Mainland won a lot of ball in midfield and Greg Matheson's goals would make a difference to any side.

Five successive league defeats have sucked Glenurquhart into the relegation battle. They drop to eighth place, just three points above the relegation zone, and they have played more games than both Glasgow Mid Argyll and Kilmallie. Their youngsters Finlay Robertson and Oliver Black give them hope for the future.

Marine Harvest National Division

Oban Celtic 1 Caberfeidh 6

Caberfeidh on top of the Marine Harvest National Division, but they had to come from a goal before beating Oban Celtic 6-1 at Mossfield.

This was always going to be an uphill battle for Oban Celtic against a team sitting unbeaten at the top of the table. To make matters worse for home boss Kenny Wotherspoon, he had 11 players, including keeper Stephen Davidson, defenders Fulton Ronald, David MacInnes, David Hill and John Hill, midfielder Andy Hunt and forwards Neil Carmichael, Lee Askew and Connor Howe, unavailable.

Caberfeidh's Ryan MacKay was free of his three-game ban, whilst manager Jodi Gorski gave a place to former Lovat player Jamie Matheson after free-scoring performances for the Caberfeidh seconds.

Celtic quickly settled into the game and were unlucky not to take the lead in the first minute when Iain MacKechnie's 30-yard drive was heading for the top corner only to be brilliantly saved by Caberfeidh keeper Ewan Pilcher.

Celtic didn't have to wait too long to take the lead and the goal came when a Daniel Madej through ball found Daniel MacMillan who shot past the keeper to make it 1-0 with 18 minutes played.

Caberfeidh didn't offer much in attack until 32 minutes when a mistake in the home defence allowed Craig Morrison to rifle home from a narrow angle.

Caberfeidh took the lead three minutes later when Jamie Matheson justified his inclusion by making it 2-1 at the break.

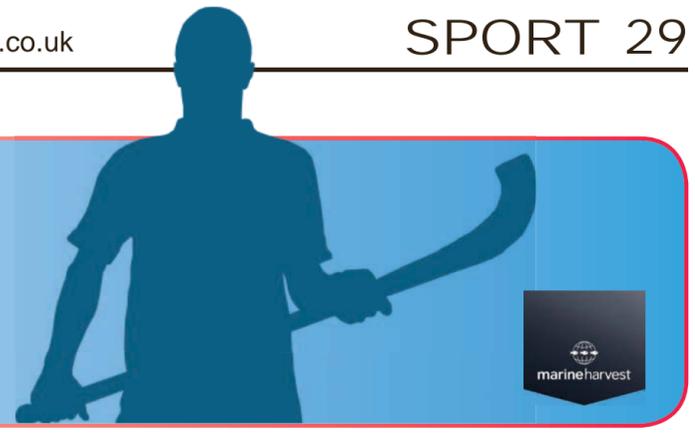
Any plans of a Celtic comeback went out the window within 90 seconds of the re-start as Martin MacDonald made it 3-1.

A glimmer of hope followed for the home side when Caberfeidh's Martin MacDonald was sent off by referee Calum Girvan, reducing the visitors to 11 men.



Skye's James Pringle takes the high road as he attempts to block Beaulieu's Andrew Morrison during last Saturday's National Division match at Braeview Park which the islanders won 4-2.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

Despite the extra man advantage, it was the league leaders who galloped away, scoring a further three goals.

Kevin Bartlett added a fourth on 72 minutes and Jamie Matheson got his second four minutes later.

A second from Kevin Bartlett on 82 minutes rounded off the 6-1 triumph.

This was Oban Celtic's heaviest defeat of the season and they'll look to bounce back this Saturday when they head for Pairc nan Laoch, Portree, to play second-placed Skye Camanachd.

Beaulieu 2 Skye Camanachd 4

Skye Camanachd kept their title push on track but had to come from two goals down to beat Beaulieu 4-2 at Braeview Park.

Beaulieu were without Marc MacLachlan who has signed for neighbours Lovat.

Skye welcomed back Ally MacDonald, Gillesbuig MacDonald and John Gillies who replaced Connor Gilpin and Daniel Morrison who both travelled to Aberdeen with the second team.

Beaulieu had the wind in their favour in the first half and took the lead after four minutes. Iain MacLeod in the Skye goal made a save, but Jack MacDonald struck the rebound home.

Iain MacLeod made a couple of good stops from close range to deny Daniel Lamont before Lamont eventually found the back of the net on 24 minutes to make it 2-0.

Skye had their keeper to thank again when he thwarted Colin MacDonald who shot from 15 yards.

Jordan Murchison was just an inch away from making it 2-1 with the ball going just the wrong side of the post following an Iain Nicolson free-hit into the goal area.

Danny Morrison pulled a goal back five minutes into the second half. The ball broke to Morrison 20 yards out and he hit a half-volley through a ruck of players, low into the bottom left corner of the net.

Skye introduced John Gillies for Kenny Campbell who had suffered a head knock.

Will Cowie squared the match on 55 minutes when he netted a rebound after Josh Grant had made a good save with his hand to parry a Jordan Murchison effort.

Skye took the lead for the first time on 58 minutes when a James Pringle half-volley from the edge of the 'D' went into the bottom corner of the net - off the post - after being played in by Danny Morrison.

Robbie Brindle cleared a Jordan Murchison effort off the line and Josh Grant made a save as he was getting back up, keeping out a rebound attempt from Will Cowie.

Jordan Murchison sealed the win a minute from time with a back-hand shot from the left, 18 yards from goal, with the ball going in off the post.

There were similarities to Skye's Camanachd Cup visit to Braeview Park earlier in the season when they also fought back from 2-0 down to win 4-2.

Skye stay a point behind Caberfeidh but with a game in hand.

Inverness 0 Strathglass 5

Strathglass join Oban Celtic and Inveraray on seven points after they beat Inverness 5-0 at Bught Park.

Suspension ruled out Inverness defender David Campbell, whilst Somhairle MacDonald, Daniel Palombo, Davie Glass, Padraig McNeil and Ian Munro were amongst their other absentees.

Strathglass defender George Phimister served the second match of a two-game suspension.

Darren Reid got the visitors off to the perfect start with a goal after two minutes.

Inverness player Adam MacMaster scored an own goal on 35 minutes and Strathglass extended their lead five minutes before the break when Scott Douglas made it 3-0.

A second from Darren Reid on 75 minutes and a Josh Fraser strike 10 minutes from time gave Strathglass a comfortable 5-0 win.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Aberdeen University 1 Skye Camanachd 0

A Gregor Cushnie goal was all that separated Aberdeen University and the Skye Camanachd colts at Balgownie.

There was a delay ahead of throw-up as referee David Mitchell insisted the hosts cut grass on areas of the pitch.

David Fraser was missing for the home side as he served a one-game ban for passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

Connor Gilpin, Calum Gibb, Daniel Morrison and Ally 'Spod' MacLeod came in for Skye in place of David MacInnes, Shockie MacLennan and Calum Robertson. Iain Murray was a late injury call-off.

The only goal of the game came on 18 minutes. As the Aberdeen side worked the ball down the wing, the Skye defence stopped, claiming the ball was out of play.

David Duncan played the ball on and it landed at Gregor Cushnie's feet and he hit it low into the net from the edge of the 'D'. Skye were furious but referee Mitchell waved away their appeals. Aberdeen stay second in the division, three points behind Newtonmore but with a game in hand.

Newtonmore P Beaulieu P

The meeting between the Newtonmore reserves and the Beaulieu reserves was called off as The Eilan was unable to take two games.

Kinlochshiel P Glenurquhart P

The meeting between the Kinlochshiel and Glenurquhart second teams was postponed on Friday when it became clear Kirkton could not host two matches.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

**Taynuilt 1
Bute 5**

Bute continued to progress up the table, beating Taynuilt



Oban Celtic's Daniel Madej takes evasive action as Caberfeidh's Blair Morrison clears his lines at Mossfield last Saturday in a National Division game which the visitors won 6-1. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

5-1 at Taynuilt sports field. Iain MacDonald gave the visitors the lead on 24 minutes with the only goal of the first half.

Two goals in three minutes left the islanders in control. Iain MacDonald got his second on 52 minutes to make it 2-0 and Graham Fisher added a third on 54 minutes.

Euan MacCorquodale, who started the season with Oban Lorn, pulled a goal back with 20 minutes remaining.

The islanders benefited when the ball ended up in the Taynuilt net off Taynuilt's Chris Parr a couple of minutes later and Willie Boag made it 5-0 on 80 minutes.

Bute's climb up the table now sees them move up to fourth position, three points behind third placed Tayforth, with a game in hand.

Col Glen 4 Ballachulish 1

Col Glen beat Ballachulish 4-1 at Glendaruel.

Donald MacDermid gave Col Glen the lead on five minutes and Willie MacVicar made it 2-0 on 14 minutes.

Alan Clark pulled a goal back from Ballachulish on 20 minutes, but a Neily McNaughton effort on 28 minutes made it 3-1 at the interval.

Conor Kennedy added a fourth on 58 minutes with the only goal of the second half.

Col Glen go seventh in the league following the win, whilst Ballachulish slip to second bottom on goal difference.

Kilmory 3 Glenorchy 0

Kilmory go fifth in the division after beating Glenorchy 3-0 at MacRae Park.

Andy Cunningham got the hosts off to the best start with a great strike from outside the box after two minutes.

The pitch started to cut up which made it difficult for both

teams and there was no further first-half scoring.

It started to get a bit heated in the second half with some heavy challenges going in.

Kilmory got a second goal on 72 minutes to tie up the game. Alistair MacArthur got on the end of a pass just outside the 'D' and he took the ball past his marker and tapped it over the goalie and into the net.

Hal Jones showed nice skills to make sure of the win a couple of minutes later. Jones picked the ball up just outside the 'D', dribbled past a defender and tapped it in at the left hand corner to make it 3-0.

Kyles Athletic P Aberdour P

The 1pm throw-up between the Kyles Athletic seconds and Aberdour was a casualty of the decision to transfer the senior clash between Kyles Athletic and Kinlochshiel to Tighnabruaich.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Boleskine 1 Glengarry 9

It was top versus bottom at Smith Park where league leaders Glengarry visited Boleskine.

The contest went to form with Glengarry running out convincing 9-1 winners.

Boleskine's Keith Nicolson was free of his two-game ban.

Raymond Robertson got Glengarry off to a flier with goals against his former club on two and four minutes.

Nick Dalgety made it 3-0 on 13 minutes and Raymond Robertson completed his hat-trick on 13 minutes to make it 4-0 at the interval.

Raymond Robertson took his tally to five goals with strikes on 49 and 56 minutes and Daniel MacLennan made it 7-0 on 64 minutes. Nick Dalgety got his

second on 76 minutes to make it 8-0.

There was some consolation for Boleskine when James Anderson pulled a goal back with five minutes remaining.

Glengarry had the final say when Daniel MacLennan got his second to make it 9-1 a minute from time.

Glengarry lead both the Lochaber and Caberfeidh seconds by six points, although the former has two games in hand whilst the latter has three games in hand. If goal difference is to count, Glengarry did their chances no harm and their goals differential is now a remarkable 80 goals.

Caberfeidh 5 Strathglass 1

The Caberfeidh reserves stay third after they beat Strathglass reserves 5-1 at Castle Leod. Caberfeidh were missing Jamie Matheson, who was on first team duty, Paul Ross, Paddy Wilson and Brian Mackain and, like Strathglass, they included several talented youngsters.

Caberfeidh started well and Stuart Krzyzanowski, who had travelled north from Leeds the previous evening to play in the game, gave them the lead after seven minutes.

Gavin McLaughlan got on in the act with a 14 minute hat-trick, scoring on 20, 26 and 34 minutes to make it 4-0 at half time.

Caberfeidh, who gave a debut to 13-year-old Kyles Grant, extended their lead on 70 minutes when a Gavin McLaughlan turn and shot from distance secured his fourth goal of the match.

Thomas MacLean pulled a goal back for the young Strathglass side on the stroke of full time.

Inverness v Lochaber W/O

The Lochaber seconds were given a walk-over and the points when a mixture of injuries, work

commitments and holidays meant the Inverness seconds were unable to raise a team for their game at Bught Park.

Lewis Camanachd P Lochcarron P

The contest between Lewis Camanachd and Lochcarron at Shawbost has been rescheduled for Saturday September 2.

Kilmallie P Lovat P

The game between the Kilmallie reserves and the Lovat reserves was postponed as Canal Parks was unplayable.

Strachur to host Bullough final

Strachur will host the 2017 Bullough Cup Final against the Inveraray second team.

The venue was decided by the toss of a coin at the Camanachd Association offices, which Strachur won, so the final will take place at Strachurmore on Saturday August 5 with a 3pm throw-up.

The sides currently occupy the top two places in Marine Harvest South Division 2. Inveraray hold a two-point advantage with each team having only three games remaining.

Strachur were given a Bullough Cup opening round bye when the Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds were unable to raise a team.

Inveraray also received free passage through to the quarter-finals where Marine Harvest South Division 1 side Kilmory were their opponents. Inveraray proved too strong, winning 6-1 at The Winterton.

Strachur met Oban Lorn at Strachurmore in the last eight of the competition, scoring five times without reply.

The win set up a semi-final meeting against Kyles Athletic at Tighnabruaich and, after two hours of shinty, the tie produced the most dramatic finish before Strachur won a final spot.

Inveraray's semi-final task could hardly have been more difficult as they faced Marine Harvest South Division 1 title hopefuls Lochside Rovers at Ganavan. Lochside Rovers were on an 11-game winning run during which they'd only conceded two goals.

Inveraray's Neil Campbell scored the only goal of the game after 31 minutes. Campbell took his goal well following a move in which all four Inveraray forwards combined to good effect. Campbell finished with a nice half-swing from a tight angle, under pressure from Steven Sloss, with both players having a great battle throughout.

Lochside spurned a number of chances to make their mark on this tie and Graham MacPherson in the Inveraray goal made some fine saves.

Strachur and Inveraray have met once already this season when four-goal Euan McMurdo helped Inveraray to a 6-0 victory at The Winterton. David Robertson and young Ruairaidh Graham got the others.

The return league fixture is scheduled to take place at Strachurmore the following Saturday when the sides return to the scene of the final with two crucial league points at stake.



Fixtures

Friday August 4

Marine Harvest Premiership
Kingussie v Newtonmore
Innes Wood - 6pm

Saturday August 5

Bullough Cup Final
Strachur v Inveraray
Des McNulty - 3pm
at Strachurmore

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kinlochshiel v Kilmallie
Calum Girvan
Glasgow MA v Oban Caman
Lachie Wood
Kyles Athletic v Lochaber
David Mitchell

Marine Harvest National Division

Skye v Oban Celtic
Archie Ritchie
Inveraray v Fort William
Graham Cameron - noon

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Aberdeen Uni v Fort William
Andy MacLean

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Aberdour v Kilmory
Ross Brown
Ballachulish v Lochside Rovers
Scott McNeil
Glenorchy v Taynuilt
Deek Cameron
Bute v Kyles Athletic
Robert Baxter

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Glengarry v Lochcarron
John Wood
Kilmallie v Strathspey
Iain Kennedy

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Dunoon v Oban Lorn
Ewan MacDonald

All throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated.

Results

Saturday July 29

**Aberdeen Considine
Sutherland Cup Final**
Lochside Rov P v P Kingussie
Unplayable field

Marine Harvest Premiership

Glasgow MA 2 v 4 Lochaber
Kyles Ath 2 v 2 Kinlochshiel
Reversed to Tighnabruaich
Newtonmore 6 v 0 Kilmallie
Reversed to Newtonmore
Lovat 4 v 3 Glenurquhart

Marine Harvest National Division

Beaulieu 2 v 4 Skye
Inverness 0 v 5 Strathglass
Oban Celtic 1 v 6 Caberfeidh

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Aberdeen University 1 v 0 Skye
Kinlochshiel P v P Glen'quhart
Unplayable field
Newtonmore P v P Beaulieu
Unplayable field

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Col Glen 4 v 1 Ballachulish
Kilmory 3 v 0 Glenorchy
Kyles Athletic P v P Aberdour
Unplayable field
Taynuilt 1 v 5 Bute

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Boleskine 1 v 9 Glengarry
Caberfeidh 5 v 1 Strathglass
Lewis P v P Lochcarron
To be re-arranged
Inverness v Lochaber
Inverness unable to field a team
points to Lochaber
Kilmallie P v P Lovat
Unplayable field



Lochaber won the Ken Ross Under-14 Trophy at the Inverness Sixes last weekend. Max Campbell was named player of the tournament. Photographs: Donald Cameron.



Skye Camanachd Ladies won the Alistair Gow Shield with captain Lorna MacRae named player of the tournament.



Caberfeidh won the Jubilee Shield with Blair Morrison winning the player of the tournament award.

West Highland Yachting Week in full swing



Yachts pictured during the feeder race from Oban to Craobh Haven at the start of West Highland Yachting Week. For full coverage and results see next week's *Oban Times*. Photo: Bob McCulloch



Saints manager Alex Craik.

Pre-season friendly called off

Football

LAST Saturday's pre-season friendly match between Oban Saints and South Lochaber Thistle was called off on the Friday evening when the Lochaber side phoned to say they could not raise a team which was unfortunate as it was too late for Saints to organise another fixture.

The Oban side played Lochgilphead Red Star last night (Wednesday) in a pre-season match at Glencruitten.

This weekend Saints take part in the annual Argyll and Bute Cup tournament held in Lochgilphead.

The competition has two sections of four teams with the top two qualifying for the semi-finals.

Group A - Lochgilphead Red Star, Tarbert, Glasgow Islay and South Lochaber Thistle. Group B - Dunoon, Oban Saints, Neilston and Tannahill.

The competition gets under way at 10am at Lochgilphead Joint Campus 3G pitch and the Ropework Park.

The following Saturday (August 12) Saints start their SAFL Premier Division programme with a tough away game against Hillington followed by a home match against Motherwell Thistle.

Manager Alex Craik said: 'We've lost several players from last season due to retirement and leaving the area. We are also carrying a few injuries, but hopefully they will clear up quickly and we can get a strong squad together for another assault on the Scottish Cup and the SAFL premier league title.'

Oban rugby player helps Scotland win Europe Trophy

SIGI KOERNER
editor@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN rugby player Abi Evans, 21, played for Scotland this summer, and won the Europe women's sevens rugby cup.

The competition ended in Hungary on July 23, where Abi's team won a resounding victory in the final match against Germany.

Abi showed promise as an all-round athlete early on. When she was 14, she won junior champion for athletics in the Argyll and Bute school's Highland Games.

The same year, she became junior sport's woman of the year at Oban and Lorne Sports Festival. This was mainly due to her achievements in swimming - Abi swam for six years at a National Level. But the award also recognised her talents in hockey, netball, athletics and rugby.

Abi took up rugby at Oban High, aged 12. She then went to Strathallan School in Perthshire, where she was already predicted by Richard Fitzsimmons, a head of department, to become an international rugby star. Abi's focus at school was on swimming, but she continued to play for Oban Lorne Ladies.

At age 17, Abi competed in the UK school games as part of the under-19 rugby sevens. She played her first international rugby match in the 2015 six nations opener against France.

This June, Abi travelled with the Scotland women's sevens to the Czech Republic. By the first day, Scotland had scored 128 points without conceding any. It was not until

Rugby

the semi-finals that any team could score against them, when Scotland beat the Ukraine 22-7.

The team's comfortable victory got them through to the final leg of the competition and the next month they were bound for Hungary. On July 22 Scotland beat Malta, Finland and the Czech Republic, without conceding a single point.

In the knock-out stages the following day, Scotland won against Latvia 50-0 and Romania 32-0. Because this substantial victory placed the team in the top two, it automatically qualified them for the Sevens Grand Prix Series next season.

Abi scored two tries in Hungary. In the final match against Germany, Scotland won 33-5.



Oban's Abi Evans helped Scotland win the Women's Rugby Europe Trophy in Hungary. Photo: Scottish Rugby Union



Sunday afternoon stayed fairly dry for the annual Iona Trophy competition on Oban Bowling Green. After a hard-fought five rounds of games the winners, who won by just one point, were Donna MacLean (skip) Janet Campbell and Gilbert Mullen.

Oban Lorne hold Tower 10s tournament this Saturday

OBAN Lorne kick off the 2017/18 season with a pre-season 10s tournament.

The Green Machine are starting their season on Saturday by hosting their own 10-a-side tournament for the first time. The event will see six visiting teams come to Glencruitten on Saturday and the club hopes it will become a regular event in their calendar.

The format for the event is to provide a good physical test for teams and allow coaches to try out players on different positions before the season starts.

Games will be 20 minutes long with five man scrums and line outs, regular 15-a-side rules still apply. This should make for fast flowing and entertaining rugby.

A number of local Argyll teams are participating in the inaugural 'Tower 10s' including, Isle of Mull, Cowal and Helensburgh. There are also teams from further afield including Lochaber, Queensferry and Inverness Craig Dunain.

Oban Lorne welcome everyone to attend on the day. The club have organised a ladies' come-and-try session in the

Rugby

morning followed by the main tournament kicking off at 11.30am. There will be burgers and food available throughout the day and then a disco after the tournament which is open to everyone.

Oban Lorne's pre-season preparations continue the following weekend with a tough home match against National Division 3 side Hillhead Jordanhill. Kick off TBC at Glencruitten.

Saints youths hold tournament

Football

OBAN Saints youths are holding their annual tournament sponsored by Oban Joinery Services at Glencruitten Parks on Sunday starting at 10.45am.

Like their senior counterparts the youths have been hit by late call-offs from Dumbarton and Queens Park.

The committee are working hard to try and replace these teams. On going to press teams taking part are Hamilton Accies, Morton, Fort William and hosts Oban Saints.

Thanks go to Oban Electrical Services for supplying the footballs for the tournament.

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WEATHER

Thursday	Light rain showers Winds light south south westerly Temperatures 13°C to 17°C.
Friday	Light rain showers Winds moderate west north westerly Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.
Weekend Outlook	Heavy rain showers on Saturday Light rain showers on Sunday Winds moderate westerly Temperatures 10°C to 15°C.

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday August 3, 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	02.30	2.9	09.15	1.7	15.11	3.1	20.55	1.8
Fri	03.29	3.1	10.06	1.5	15.56	3.3	22.02	1.6
Sat	04.13	3.3	10.45	1.4	16.37	3.5	22.49	1.4
Sun	04.54	3.5	11.20	1.2	17.16	3.7	23.28	1.2
Mon	05.33	3.6	11.52	1.0	17.54	3.9	***	**
Tues	00.06	1.1	06.09	3.7	12.25	0.9	18.28	3.9
Wed	00.43	1.0	06.40	3.8	12.56	0.8	19.01	4.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-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

LOCHABER TIMES

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And the show CONTINUES...



Smiles in the rain at Arisaig Games and clan gathering



Business group slams call for new Skye tourist tax

MARK ENTWISTE

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ANY NEW tax to fund more public services such as extra toilets risks driving away visitors as the Highlands is already an expensive destination for tourists.

That was the warning this week from a professional body representing many small businesses which hit out at calls for the imposition of a new tax.

David Richardson, the Federation of Small Businesses' development manager for the Highlands and Islands, was speaking after Skye businessman Roger Booth, who owns a food van at the Quiraing, was featured in BBC news reports calling for the Skye Bridge to help pay for more public toilets and better car parking.

Mr Booth, who claimed he regularly cleans up mess left behind by visitors to Skye, as well as human waste on occasions, said a £1 per person tourist tax would help pay for more services.

Other local business owners were said to be in agreement with a tourist tax, or similar charge, while Highland Council leader Margaret Davidson said the local authority would need to speak to more businesses before it could make a judgement on the viability of any such move.

But Mr Richardson said taxing tourists is a bad idea. 'The recent increase in visitor numbers to Skye and the northern Highlands has helped secure the futures of many marginal tourism businesses, extending their



Skye MSP Kate Forbes.

seasons and enabling some to expand and take on more staff. It has also encouraged new businesses to start up.

'Fragile Highland communities are more secure as a result, though everyone acknowledges our infrastructure is struggling to cope. National and local governments already benefit from the tax revenues flowing directly and indirectly from tourism businesses and their customers, and they have a responsibility to support this vital industry by investing some of this income in the provision of essential infrastructure.'

'Tourists are fickle and numbers can go down as well as up for a variety of reasons. If we want a secure and stable Highland tourism industry, we must improve our product without making what is already a very expensive holiday destination more expensive.'

Meanwhile, Kate Forbes, SNP MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said she intends continuing her discussions on tourism infrastructure as part of

the Skye leg of her summer constituency tour. Ms Forbes held a meeting in Portree in June, the beginning of a process to identify and find solutions to the pressures on the island caused by increases in tourism.

She is following that up with meetings and surgeries on the island this week, ahead of a visit from Scottish Government tourism secretary Fiona Hyslop later this year.

And Ms Forbes warned that Skye's booming popularity as a tourist destination is placing ageing infrastructure under huge strain.

'There has been disgusting behaviour in Skye this summer as people leave unpleasant presents because of lack of toilets,' she said.

'There is a different way of doing things. Look at Kyle, for example, where there are fully functioning toilets which are well-maintained and only require a small contribution by users.'

'This is something which I'd like to see across Skye. We desperately need to reverse the years of closing toilets.'

The Skye MSP said there has been no preparation for the success of tourism on Skye.

'While we have been very successful in attracting visitors, there has been very little forward-thinking in terms of upgrading infrastructure.'

'If the problem is due to poor preparation over the years, then the solution will not happen overnight. It's really not that difficult to recognise that roads, parking and toilets are three immediate priorities.'



Residents loved spending time with Edwardo the pony.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson The Write Image. F31 therapy ponies 01 IF

Ponies bring smiles to residents

A LOCHABER family raised money to take two therapy ponies to a Ballachulish care home.

Siobhan Cooper and her dad Andy raised more than £500 for Abbeyfield Care Home to bring in the animals, Wilson and Edwardo.

The family has close ties with the care home as Siobhan's grandmother is a resident there. Her grandfather also lived at the care home but he died earlier this year.

Dominic Duffy, manager at the care home, told the *Lochaber Times* it is lovely to see the family still so involved with the care home staff and residents, even after their loved one has

died. 'Donations like this are what enable us to do extra activities, such as getting the ponies for the residents. We would not be able to fund things like this otherwise,' he said.

'This was not a case of us going out and twisting people's arms to get money for the ponies. Siobhan and her family wanted to do this for us which makes it extra special.'

'It was great for everyone to see the residents' faces light up when they were with the ponies. Residents who maybe would not normally participate in activities got involved with it, which was great to see.'

Shinty reaches new heights

THE HIGHEST shinty match to played in the UK will take place in Lochaber today (Thursday August 3).

To celebrate the launch of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce's new Outdoor Capital of the UK website, the group along with VisitScotland, Nevis Range and No Fuss Events will be hosting the spectacular event at Aonach Mor.

The match will throw-up on the summit at 4pm.

In a first for VisitScotland, the new Outdoor Capital of the UK website will be linked with the VisitScotland web platform. It allows Outdoor Capital of the UK website users to search for any of Lochaber's VisitScotland registered accommodation or activity providers directly from the OCUK platform.

An OCUK spokesman said: 'The setting of Britain's highest shinty match is the perfect way to illustrate the unique nature of the online partnership with VisitScotland while firmly reinforcing the Outdoor Capital of the UK as one of the strongest tourism brands in Europe. The results of the digital campaign have been extremely positive to date. Since April 2017 it has reached 7.9 million people with 3.1 million people watching the online video content and 241,000 likes and shares of the videos.'



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Appeal to stand for community councils

NOMINATIONS are being sought for four Lochaber community councils after resignations left membership numbers below half of what is required.

Community council elections will be held for 13 areas across the Highlands, including Fort William, Morvern, Caol and Acharacle.

Fort William Community Council was disbanded last January following a mass resignation by members who claimed they were 'tired of being ignored'.

Since then, in accordance with statutory guidelines, the Highland Council has held three elections when individuals were invited to put themselves up for nomination in a bid to get the council reinstated. This will be the fourth time the council has attempted to reform it. Caol Community Council is currently

in abeyance after two councillors, including the chairwoman, resigned in June. The two resignations left four elected committee members, plus two co-opted councillors, who are not currently 'officially' counted.

The council states there must be a core membership of five.

As previously reported in the *Lochaber Times*, it is hoped elections will be held in October.

At the time John Gillespie, vice-chairman, said: 'Hopefully there will be an early opportunity to reconstitute the council and I would encourage people to put themselves forward.'

Morvern and Acharacle community councils are also in abeyance.

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'The deadline for receiving nominations

for all the community councils is 4pm on Tuesday August 15 and elections will take place on Thursday September 14.'

'The need to hold elections has come about due to the resignation of some members, which has brought the community councils down to below half of their memberships.'

To stand for election, you must be on the current electoral register for the community council area or, if aged 16 or 17 years, have completed a voter registration application. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Highland Council website, by email to elections@highland.gov.uk or by phoning 01349 886606.

Nominations for the four Lochaber community councils must be returned to ward manager Dot Ferguson.

SUNDAY 6th AUGUST 2017
12pm at the Lovat Memorial Field, Morar
Games Chieftain - David Shaw - Stewart

The main event for Mallaig and Morar with all the usual events plus stalls and good food.

Starts 12 noon at the Lovat Memorial Field in Morar.
Lochaber Schools Pipe Band parade 11.45am from Morar Station to the Games Field.

The Games will be followed by a Dance in the evening.

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Fort William's Leisure and Recreation Facility

The Nevis Centre

What's on at The Nevis Centre

August

Thursday 10th
Aly and Phil in concert
8pm start

Saturday 12th
Cinema Despicable Me 3
at 12pm, Cars 3 at 3pm

Wednesday 16th
Blood donors

Saturday 26th
Goldilocks and the three bears
2pm start

September

Friday 1st
Blas Festival/
Fergie Macdonald's
80th birthday stramash
7.30pm start

An Aird Fort William
Tel: 01397 700707

Skye man arrested on drugs charges

A 44-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested after £3,000 of cannabis resin was found during the search of a Broadford house.

Officers in Skye recovered the drugs after the search on Thursday July 27.

The Broadford man was detained and further inquiries are to be conducted with a view to a report being submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Constable Cameron MacDonald, who led the operation, said: 'This search was made possible as a direct result of information obtained from the local community and the recovery should serve as a warning to those in the area intent on supplying drugs that we will continue to make Skye and Lochalsh a hostile environment for drug dealers.'

Anyone with information on drug dealers should contact the police on 101 or report it anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Respiratory care update for health professionals

AN EDUCATION event to update healthcare professionals on the diagnosis and management of respiratory care will be held in Fort William next month.

The day has been organised by NHS Highland in partnership with the Scottish Allergy and Respiratory Academy and will feature presentations from respiratory experts from across the UK including Professor Hilary Pinnock, chairman of the Primary Care Respiratory Society.

The event will be held on Monday August 28 in the Nevis Centre between 9.30am and 3.30pm. Online registration is available at: www.scottishallergyrespiratoryacademy.org/courses.



Iain Ruairidh Macdougall.

Barra mourns as two divers die

TWO MEN who died diving off the Isle of Barra on Saturday have been named as Iain Ruairidh Macdougall of Castlebay and Ryan McGuckin, who was from Falkirk but living in London.

The two shellfish divers, both 39 years old, were diving in waters near Castlebay where they got into difficulty.

Police say they are not treating their deaths as suspicious and

next of kin have been informed. At 11.20am Stornoway Coastguard was contacted by a local ferry boat skipper who had noticed two divers go into the water and not resurface, leaving their small boat unmanned.

RNLI Barra lifeboats were asked to search the area, along with the Coastguard rescue helicopter based in Stornoway and Barra Coastguard Rescue Team. At 1pm, Barra lifeboat

reported to the Coastguard that two casualties had been recovered from the water and taken to Barra hospital.

Police Scotland later announced the two men had died in the incident.

Inspector Jane Nicolson said: 'Our thoughts are with the families and friends of Mr Macdougall and Mr McGuckin at this very difficult time, as well as with the tight-knit community

on Barra which has been deeply affected by this tragedy.

'I would once again like to take the opportunity to thank members of the public who assisted the emergency services on Saturday.

'Our inquiries are continuing but there does not appear to be any suspicious circumstances. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal as is standard in these cases.'



Ryan McGuckin from Falkirk.

Delays dash hopes of island community fibre broadband

HOPES of a full fibre community network on Skye look to be dashed after North Skye Broadband (NSB) backed out of a state aid application following a 'frustrating' 18 months.

The not-for-profit community organisation has announced it will no longer be progressing with its application for funding from Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) and Community Broadband Scotland (CBS).

The decision was taken following delays in the lengthy application process because of complex public procurement requirements.

NSB has already undertaken two separate state aid public consultations – a mandatory

requirement of the procurement process – and the decision not to proceed comes as it was due to undertake a third consultation, which has been delayed for nearly six months.

Reported difficulties with the open market review have also hindered the process, with NSB saying time was wasted waiting for more accurate information, as apparently existing data has been found in many cases to have a 30 to 40 per cent error rate.

Geoff Semler, chairman of NSB, said from the start the company had planned to be a community-owned network, minimising costs and using local resources where possible.

Geoff explained its aim was to 'narrow the digital divide caused by operators only offering high-speed broadband in denser urban areas and ignoring the needs of fragile rural communities, where many residents and businesses only have the choice of inferior broadband via obsolete technologies or, often, no internet connection'.

Speaking after NSB took the decision, he said: 'It has been clear to NSB throughout that a wireless-based trunk network is wholly inappropriate for our needs. Not only does the harsh environment on Skye present challenges to the erection of masts and aerials, but HIE's own figures demonstrate that

even if such a scheme can be profitable, the business case simply does not generate sufficient surplus revenue to finance the technology refresh that will inevitably be needed to meet the ever-increasing demand for bandwidth.

'The existing state aid schemes are not fit for purpose because they are designed to support the provision of as many wireless networks as possible, as cheaply as possible and as quickly as possible.'

The chairman said the state aid rules require such networks to be future proof, but in his opinion they are 'anything but'.

'Ironically, until the chancellor's 2016 autumn statement and

the establishment of the digital infrastructure fund, BDUK would not approve any state aid application that specified optical fibre as the network medium.

'Now they are crying out for commercial providers to build fibre networks but continue to refuse to fund community-owned networks.'

He added: 'The state aid process actually precludes NSB from adding any value to the implementation or operation of the network. Instead it uses NSB as a funding conduit to provide a commercial operator and its beneficiaries with a state subsidy.'

It was decided none of these schemes meet NSB's requirements.

Whale and dolphin watch appeal

THE SEA Watch Foundation is calling on people to get involved with the National Whale and Dolphin Watch.

For more than 40 years, Sea Watch Foundation scientists and volunteer observers have been reporting on whales, dolphins and porpoises (cetaceans) to inform Sea Watch's huge database of records.

Minke whales have been showing a strong presence in the Hebrides, whilst harbour porpoise have been seen all around the Scottish coastline.

Kathy James, sightings officer for the research charity, said: 'Without reports from the public on these magnificent animals we cannot compile data to be used for their protection. We're looking for people to arrange a watch and to report the animals they see.'

See also page 19.

Congregation to sell manse to fund new church centre

A SKYE church congregation is to raise funds towards a new centre for worship by selling a house it owns.

It was confirmed to the *Lochaber Times* this week that the former manse which belonged to the Bracadale section of the congregation of what is now Portree and Bracadale Free Church of Scotland is to go on the market. Bracadale was linked to Portree about two years ago. The sale of the property will partly fund an assistant minister and partly fund the building of the planned



An architect's drawing of how the new centre outside Portree would look.

new centre at Shepherd's Way on the outskirts of Portree.

For over a decade the congregation has met in the local primary school gym hall.

But with up to 150 regularly attending Sunday morning services, coupled with a large Sunday School meeting in the school classrooms, there is little room for further expansion.

A planning application has been lodged with Highland Council for the new worship centre, costing more than £1 million, on Shepherd's Way just

outside Portree. The building is intended to serve the congregation and the local community.

It is estimated the first phase will cost about £1m and the second phase perhaps another £300,000 to £400,000.

The church will have funds in place for the first phase made up from a loan from the General Trustees of the Free Church, the eventual sale of the manse and in excess of £200,000 that has been raised by the congregation with the support of the local community.

Over the past few years congregation members have organised curry evenings, strawberry and cream teas, silent auctions, sales of work and car washes.

Church minister Donnie G MacDonald, who confirmed the plan to sell the manse, says it is exciting times for the church. 'Outgrowing our current venue for worship is a great problem to have,' he said. 'It is fantastic to be at the stage of submitting the planning application. We look forward to having a modern centre to serve our community.'

ADVERTORIAL

ARGYLL CONVENTION 2017

A Christian Conference for 21st century Scotland

8th to 10th August

Theme: *Finding Meaning in a Meaningless World*

Main speakers: Simon Austen and Dominic Smart



Open to all – no charge

Times: main sessions – 11am and 7.30pm

Venue: Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Breadalbane Street, Oban

www.argyllconvention.org @argyllconvention

Scottish Charity No. SC044282

In 2013 a group of Argyll ministers and elders from different Christian denominations organised a two-day Bible teaching Christian conference in Oban. This first *Argyll Convention* was modelled on the world famous Keswick Convention located in the Lake District and attended annually by tens of thousands.

Argyll Convention is in its fifth year and is now a three-day event. It aims to bring the country's best Bible teachers to Argyll to promote the relevance of Biblical teaching to 21st century living.

The 2017 Convention takes place in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in Oban on the 8th, 9th and 10th August. The Convention theme this year, *'Finding Meaning in a Meaningless World'*, will see keynote speakers Simon Austen and Dominic Smart bring teaching from the Bible which is 'up to date' and which

will speak directly into contemporary life and culture.

Simon Austen of St Leonards Church of England in Exeter will speak at the morning sessions. A former chaplain at Stowe School his writings include the book *'Why Should God Bother With Me?'* The evening meetings will hear Dominic make sense of life using the ancient wisdom Book of Ecclesiastes. A leadership consultant, conference speaker and author, Dominic pastored churches in Dundee and Aberdeen for 27 years.

The Convention is open to all and the organisers hope that not only Christians, but those who are curious about matters of faith or have no faith at all will come and join in what promises to be a challenging and fulfilling experience.

Cuddle cot donated to the Uists

A THIRD cuddle cot has been donated to the Uists community midwifery service to enable bereaved parents to take their time when saying goodbye to their baby.

The special cot was donated by parents Sarah and Jonathan in memory of their baby boy Harris Michael Smith.

The donation means a cot will be available in the islands of Lewis and Harris, Uists and Barra ensuring appropriate support to parents.

Sarah said: 'After suffering a late miscarriage and giving birth to Harris in June last year, Jonathan and I were given the option of spending precious time with our son. This is where we learned of the benefits of a cuddle cot and the charity Simpson's Memory Box Appeal (SiMBA). SiMBA does so many meaningful things to help families overcome miscarriage and stillbirth. Most importantly, they give parents the confidence to create memories without fear of judgement so when I set out to do something in memory of Harris, I wanted to support the charity and other families.'

The couple, from Edinburgh, donated their cuddle cot to the Uists because of Sarah's island connections. Her father was born and raised in Stornoway and she has family living on the islands.



Lewis Pipe Band after they became Grade 3A European Champions in Forres last year. F31 Lewis pipe band 1no

Wind farm charity donation sends pipe band on its travels

LEWIS Pipe Band was gifted £1,000 from a community wind farm charity allowing them to attend the Scottish Championships last weekend.

The band headed for Dumbarton last Saturday and were relieved to have the equivalent cost of their coach hire covered by Point and Sandwick Trust (PTS).

Five pipe band championships are held in the UK every year but Lewis Pipe Band usually only attend two because of the exorbitant costs of travel and accommodation for the band and their gear.

As well as the European and Scottish

Championships, the UK also hosts the British, UK and World Championships. Many bands attend all the competitions but, with each trip to the mainland costing Lewis Pipe Band around £5,000, they have to be selective.

There are 12 pipers and 11 drummers in the band, ranging in age from their teens to 70s.

It costs between £10,000 and £12,000 a year to keep the band running, between the costs of attending competitions and keeping the pipes and drums in good order.

Pipe band chairman Sandy Gomez said: 'We fundraise hard over the win-

ter to get to these competitions. Each competition costs £3,000 or £4,000 to get to and we're only playing for four or five minutes. It's more expensive for us, getting on and off the island. Most of the other bands are travelling on a day trip, leaving in the morning and back at night, but we've got overnight costs. That's what adds to the cost of our trips. It's a lot of money. We'd love to do all five major competitions but the cost is not something we can raise on our own. We're entirely reliant on public donations – the collecting cans and donations from people like Point and Sandwick.'

CalMac seeks members for new community board

FERRY operator CalMac is looking to form a community board to be the voice of the people across its Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services (CHFS).

CalMac is now inviting applications from residents of the rural communities covered by the CHFS contract to form a community board.

The creation of the board was part of CalMac's successful bid to operate

west coast ferry services for the next eight years, along with the appointment of a director of community and stakeholder engagement, which has been filled by Brian Fulton.

The board will comprise 12 members plus an independent, paid chairman and be separate from the CalMac board. The ferry operator will not have a seat at the table.

Brian said: 'We are keen the board focuses on the high level strategic issues facing their communities. We also see it as a great opportunity to bring together a group of people who are knowledgeable and well-informed about the network and not just their own area or route.' He added: 'We want to be sure the community board remains fresh and relevant and

therefore propose membership will be for 12 months in the first instance while the board is set up. After that membership will be for 24 months, with the option of an extension.'

The board will meet twice a year with travel and reasonable out-of-pocket expenses reimbursed. It is proposed the first meeting will take place in early October 2017.

Staffing problems hit opening hours at Kilchoan Post Office

MARK ENTWISTLE
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STAFFING problems have forced changes to the opening hours of Kilchoan Post Office, while a bout of illness has stalled plans to sell the village's Ferry Stores shop and petrol pumps. The post office is shutting for a week from midday today (Thursday) and following this will no longer open on Mondays. The Ferry Stores shop and petrol station are unaffected and will be open as usual and, although the post office will re-open on Wednesday next week – August 9 – an executor for the estate which owns the business has confirmed the Monday post office closures from then. In a new post on the Kilchoan Diary blog site, Chris Ball says the week-long shutdown of the post office is to allow family to travel to Kent for a

memorial service for his late brother Jonathan. Jonathan Ball owned the Ferry Stores for the 10 years prior to his death at the age of 58 in the autumn following a brave fight against cancer. Chris Ball is an executor of his late brother's estate, which includes the Ferry Stores, post office and petrol filling station business. 'Unfortunately, there is no-one else who is trained and available to run the post office,' explained Mr Ball, who apologised for any inconvenience. Mr Ball says other recent staffing issues, which had been affecting the shop's opening hours, have now been overcome and, as a result, the shop will be open as usual. However, that has not helped resolve staff shortages with the post office. Mr Ball continued: 'In the



The filling station at Kilchoan has what are thought to be the oldest working fuel pumps in Scotland. F31 Kilchoan petrol station 1JP

fullness of time we hope to be able to train up someone else to run the post office counter but we are still suffering from staff shortages at this busy height of the season and the training takes a little while. Please respect these closures and plan accordingly. If you have any concerns, please raise them with me, rather than with the staff who are doing an excellent job maintaining this vital service to the community through difficult times. My continued thanks to all the staff and volunteers

for their invaluable help in continuing to ensure the shop remains open for the benefit of the community.' One local resident, who did not want to be named, admitted there was concern in the area over what was going to happen to the shop and fuel pumps since there are no similar services for more than 20 miles. 'The church now needs a lot of improvement works done and added to that is this lingering uncertainty about the future of the shop and petrol pumps. If we lost any of these things it would be a major blow to the local community here,' she said. Community council chairman Geoff Campbell said the sale of the business is the preferred outcome of many residents. 'We had a consultation recently and the overwhelming decision was it would be best if the Balls sold the businesses to someone else.

There was no interest in any kind of community buy-out,' said Mr Campbell. 'The business is a very important asset to the community, so it's all a bit frustrating but hopefully the situation will be resolved soon.' Earlier this year a programme of improvements, including a new roof, was carried out at the shop. Chris Ball also revealed in his latest blog post that, due to a recent bout of illness, he had been unable to progress plans for the sale of the shop, which first opened in 1912. 'Rest assured, I want to resolve this as fast as I can but not at further expense to my health. Thank you again for your patience and understanding,' he added. Mr Ball was unable to be contacted prior to publication of this week's *Lochaber Times*.

Woman injured in Inverloch

AN 88-YEAR-OLD woman was admitted to hospital after an incident at an Inverloch address last Thursday. Police and fire services attended the incident on Lochy Road, Inverloch, on Thursday July 27 just before 11pm. The woman was taken to the Belford Hospital where she received treatment. A police spokesperson told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Police Scotland was made aware of an incident within a house on Lochy Road, Inverloch, at 10.59pm on Thursday July 27. An 88-year-old woman subsequently received treatment at the Belford Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.' Police are now assisting the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in an investigation. An HSE spokesperson said: 'HSE is aware and is making inquiries alongside Scottish Fire and Rescue service.'

Lochaber's Denis wins marathon

LOCHABER'S Denis Prikulis secured top spot in the third Fort William marathon in a time of two hours 49 minutes and 25 seconds. Organiser Chris Millard said: 'We had just under 400 runners this year and, apart from the weather, 2017 has been the most successful yet. We are an international event with runners from Australia, United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong, Canada, USA, Estonia and European countries.' The first woman home was Anne Hartmann, from Fife-based running group PH Racing Club, in 3:19:26. Chris added: 'The runners are fantastic, such a friendly group of people, and the same goes for our volunteers.'



Tommy Chisholm and Emily Connolly. F31 marine harvest 1no

Delight as former Lochaber high pupils land Marine Harvest jobs

TWO LOCHABER youngsters have fought off stiff competition to become Marine Harvest Scotland's latest apprentices. Emily Connolly, 18, and Tommy Chisholm, 16, both from Lochaber High School, went through a rigorous selection process to win apprenticeships with the salmon farming company. Both former Lochaber High School pupils, Emily is to become an electrical apprentice and Tommy will be a mechanical apprentice. Emily said: 'I'm really pleased to have been given the chance to learn new skills with Marine Harvest and look forward to what

I'm sure will be a rewarding experience and a great start to my career.' Tommy said: 'Marine Harvest is a local company I've always been aware of so I'm over the moon I was successful and very excited about the challenge.' Marine Harvest Scotland is the largest salmon farming company in Scotland with four hatcheries, five freshwater loch sites and 46 sea farms across the West Highlands and Islands. Tommy and Emily started work on Tuesday July 25 and will have a few weeks' work experience before beginning college

part-time at the end of August. Vicky Ferguson, human resources manager at Marine Harvest Scotland, said: 'We're thrilled to offer Emily and Tommy the opportunity to develop their careers at Marine Harvest. 'Fish farming jobs used to be seen as unskilled work, primarily for men, but it's different today. 'This is a thriving industry which supports a variety of different roles for men and women.' The company is currently building a new hatchery at Invermoriston and a new fish feed plant at Kyleakin on Skye.



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Highland dancers show off their skills to the crowds at Arisaig Highland Games. f31 Arisaig Games Highland dancers 6JP



Determination on the faces of runners as the junior boys' race gets under way. f31 Arisaig Games Junior boys race 8JP



Callum MacDonald looks happy with his performance in the heavy events. f31 Callum MacDonald 3JP

Smiles in the rain at Arisaig Games and clan gathering

MARK ENTWISTLE
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YOUNGER competitors were determined to grab some of the glory this year at the annual Arisaig Highland Games, with the average age of competitors in many events lower than usual.

This year's games on Wednesday last week proved popular yet again with locals and visitors making their way to the picturesque Traigh Farm and its stunning views across the sea towards Skye, Eigg and Rum.

Games chairman Allan MacDonald said the overall turnout through the gate was not as good as last year, which was not surprising given the rain-lashed conditions for much of the afternoon.

'It was still a good turnout when you consider the awful weather and it's been a very cheery and happy crowd,' he said. 'There's been a lot of young people competing - more so than previous years - and that's nice to see.'

Asked if he thought the traditional mid-week date for the games had anything to do with a lower turnout, Mr MacDonald, who has been involved with the games for more than 50 years, said he didn't believe so.

'We did try a Saturday about 30 years ago and people just didn't come - there's just too many other things happening on Saturdays in the summer,' he said.

'These are our 82nd games and of those 33 have been staged at this same field and we've never had to cancel them. And despite the rain, there's lots of visitors here and it's still a good day out.' Mr MacDonald says linking

the annual Clanranald Gathering with the games for the past 13 years is about balancing culture and heritage.

'These two events together help us promote the culture of the Highlands. We're also grateful to Ardnamurchan Distillery for keeping faith with us and providing regular sponsorship.'

'This year's events have gone very smoothly, apart from the weather, but you can't do anything about that.'

As usual the heavy events drew a big crowd of spectators and one of the highlights of the day was Blair Atholl's Lorne Colthart breaking the games record for the 16lb hammer contest.

Campbell, a native of Oban originally, posted a distance of 140ft 6ins to break the previous record of 137ft.

'Yeah, I'm happy with that given the conditions and it being such a cold and wet day,' he told the *Lochaber Times* during a break in competition.

'It's a nice games to come to, nice atmosphere. As for the level of competition at games generally, it is getting harder as a lot of foreign competitors are taking part and staying longer through the season for more events as they are all open meets.'

Asked about the number of Clanranald members making the trip from the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Canada this year, Elizabeth MacDonald, wife of the games chairman, said there was a considerable number of Americans this year.

'The gathering is always popular and those taking part really like being able to also spend time at a traditional Highland games as part of it all,' Mrs MacDonald said.



Sisters Freya and Cora Farelly, aged five and three, brave the weather and enjoy their ice creams. f31 Arisaig games sisters13JP



Brooke Bettinson, four, during the junior races. f31 Arisaig games Brooke Bettinson9JP



Arisaig Highland Games chairman Allan MacDonald enjoys a welcome spot of sunshine. f31 allanmacdonald1JP



Dominic Hobson, 12, at the archery stall with father Simon. f31 Arisaig Games Dominic Hobson 5JP



Local men's race begins. f31 Arisaig Games local men's race 10JP



Crowds enjoy the games despite the rain. f31 arisaig games 4JP



Lochaber Pipe Band entertains the crowds. f31 Arisaig Games Lochaber Pipe Band 12JP

WHAT'S ON

THE NEXT Anoch Mhor race will be held on Wednesday August 9.

The 5km run with a 500m ascent will start at Nevis Range at 7pm and entry costs £5. This is a great event for those new to hill running. Register on the night from 6pm at Nevis Range Pinemarten Café. The bar will be open and there's a free gondola ride back to the car park. If you need more information call into Off Beat Bikes on High Street, Fort William, email nix@offbeatbikes.co.uk or visit www.offbeatbikes.co.uk.

NETHER Lochaber Community Association is looking for volunteers to help tidy up Onich village hall on Sunday August 6.

Anyone wishing to help should meet at the village hall at 10am.

The association wants to tidy up inside and out and install the loft ladder and picture rails in preparation for the community art show in September. If they get the weather and pairs of hands they also hope to clear the vegetation at the back of the hall.

Everyone welcome. People can join the group for the day or just an hour or two. Contact netherlochaberca@btinternet.com

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 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 is 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, today (Thursday August 3) from 10am to 3pm.

At this free drop-in event, people will be able to speak to Housing Options Scotland staff about housing issues and get advice.

There will also be information stalls from local and national organisations which work with disabled people, older people and disabled veterans.

LOCHABER Transport Forum will hold a meeting on Tuesday August 8 at Fort William council chambers from 11am.

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View from the Chamber

TO CELEBRATE the launch of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce's new Outdoor Capital of the UK website, the chamber will be hosting a spectacular event in association with VisitScotland, Nevis Range and No Fuss Events by staging a shinty match on the summit of Anoch Mor at 4pm on Thursday August 3.

The singular setting of Britain's highest shinty match is the perfect way to illustrate the unique nature of this online partnership with VisitScotland.

The website features an integration with VisitScotland that allows users on the

with VisitScotland, the chamber truly has a new product that we can all be proud of, and one that will firmly reinforce Outdoor Capital of the UK - Lochaber - as one of the strongest tourism brands in Europe.

As we all know, there is far more to Outdoor Capital of the UK than adrenaline. The new website is designed to reflect exactly that.

Our new look is tailored to make the most of our stunning scenery, incredible businesses, bustling high streets, crafts, incredible food, high quality accommodation and, most of all, our unique and world renowned people.

Outdoor Capital site to search for any accommodation or activity provider that is registered with VisitScotland directly from the OCUK platform.

Through consultation with our tourism marketing group and a strong partnership

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce
WORKING FOR BUSINESS IN THE OUTDOOR CAPITAL OF THE UK

Community land buy-out still an option for smelter estate

ELLIE FORBES
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

'ALL DOORS remain open' was the message from Lochaber smelter's new owners this week as they moved forward with plans for the estate, despite fears a community buy-out was off the table.

GFG Alliance unveiled plans to wake the 114,000-acre 'sleeping giant' estate neighbouring the Fort William smelter last week, as it announced a new property arm for the company.

The launch of a new company,

JAHAMA, was described as a 'pivotal project' in GFG Alliance's economic redevelopment around Fort William, which includes building a large scale alloy wheels manufacturing plant. The company said JAHAMA would be heavily involved with plans for the estate which could be used for renewable energy, outdoor sports, tourist facilities, forestry and new agricultural activity. But the news left people questioning what it would mean for East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust which has been trying to buy the land for

the community. Speaking to the *Lochaber Times*, East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust chairman John Hutchison said that he could understand why people felt confused and said: 'We look forward to meeting with GFG Alliance as soon as possible and note that doors remain open for any options.'

'Our 1,200 members are aware of the undertaking GFG Alliance has given to the Scottish Government to enter into significant community land transactions and we look forward to learning how that undertaking

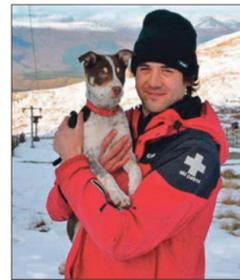
fits with the development of JAHAMA Highland Estates.'

The new company will be led by former chief operating officer of the Duke of Buccleuch's estate Duncan Mackison.

Mr Mackison, who will also act as general ambassador for the GFG Alliance in Scotland, will lead discussions with the Scottish Government, local authorities, public sector agencies and local communities that has not been seen before on this scale.'

When asked by the *Lochaber Times* if the new company would mean a community buy-out was no longer an option, Jay Hambro chief investment officer for the GFG Alliance, said: 'We

have appointed an experienced chief executive to lead the development of JAHAMA Highland Estates and to strengthen our engagement with local communities and other stakeholders in evolving plans and ideas for the future use of the estate lands at Lochaber. Our position hasn't changed. We are committed to working with all stakeholders, including local communities, to achieve the best and most productive use of the estate lands for the benefit of everyone involved. We have not closed the door on any option.'



Will Davis and Jura.

TV focus on puppy's search training

BORDER collie puppy Jura is training to become the first ski patrol search and rescue dog at Nevis Range.

TV viewers saw Jura and her owner Will Davis on BBC2 last Thursday in the first episode of a new documentary series called 10 Puppies and Us. In the series Jura hits the mid point of her specialist training with the Search and Rescue Dog Association Scotland, Highland.

Owner Will said: 'Jura is a cracking pup with an awesome character. The training is going extremely well.'

Jeff Starkey, head of ski patrol at Nevis Range, said: 'Having a dog as part of the ski patrol team at Nevis Range is an immense asset.'

'Rescue dogs are another valuable tool in the box of an avalanche rescue, alongside transceivers and Recco, an electronic detection system.'

'Having Jura in the team will give casualties in the Nevis Range ski area a much better chance of being found quickly.'

Dogs are trained to use their acute sense of smell to detect human scent in the air. Together, the dog and its handler form a highly efficient team.

Safe stolen from visitor centre

POLICE are appealing for information following the theft of a safe from the Glen Nevis Visitor Centre, Fort William.

The theft is believed to have happened overnight between 5pm on Thursday July 27 and 8am on Friday July 28.

Enquiries are ongoing to establish what has been stolen and police are appealing for anyone who witnessed any suspicious activity around the centre between 5pm on Thursday and 8am on Friday to contact them.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Prestigious Rotary award for transport chief



Left to right: president elect Iain Johnston, president Donald McCorkindale, Alasdair Ferguson, Jill Ferguson and club secretary Geoff Heathcote.

A FORT William businessman has been presented with a rare and prestigious award from the Rotary Club of Lochaber.

The club awarded an honorary life membership to Alasdair Ferguson, managing director of Ferguson Transport and Shipping.

The club has only handed out this prestigious recognition on a handful of occasions since being formed 67 years ago.

Alasdair and his colleagues at Fergusons have supported the club's annual Christmas festival, in both sponsorship and manpower, over the last five years and have been instrumental in bringing the Cairngorm reindeer to the event.

At its lunchtime business meeting on Wednesday July 26, club president Donald McCorkindale welcomed

Alasdair and his wife Jill to lunch and presented Alasdair with a Certificate of Honorary Membership and a Rotary lapel pin.

Donald said: 'On behalf of the club, I am delighted to bestow upon you this mark of recognition awarded to those who distinguish themselves in meritorious community service and support for the aims of Rotary.'

He added: 'Thank you for your friendship and your dedicated and inspirational service to our community.'

Alasdair said he was humbled and privileged to receive the honour.

'I know how hard the Rotary Club works both for our community and all over the world. I appreciate this award.'

'Fergusons will continue to contribute and work with and support the club now and in the future.'

Newsdesk
01397
703003

Nevis Radio teams up with smelter on challenging mast site move

NEVIS Radio has completed the monumental challenge of moving one of its four transmission sites.

In a bid to become more sustainable, the Lochaber radio station entered into a joint project with GFG Alliance, the new owners of the aluminium smelter in Fort William and associated hydro power stations, to relocate the transmission site.

The main transmission site responsible for the signal in Fort William and the surrounding area was located at Treslaig, across Loch Linnhe from the town.

But with expensive rent and difficult access to the site for maintenance, there was limited opportunities to expand the signal. So Nevis Radio approached what is now GFG Alliance about relocating from the Treslaig site to the surge chamber above the waterpipes on their property.

The move has been several years in planning, as it required a huge amount of planning and co-operation from engineers, volunteers and staff at both sites to make sure disruptions in the signal were kept to a minimum whilst one mast was turned off and the new one started transmitting.

Simon Abberley, sustainability and development manager at Nevis Radio said: 'We hope this is a start of a



Left to right: Simon Abberley, Brian King, Rosie Flannigan and John Weller. Photograph: Iain Ferguson The Write Image. © f31 nevis radio move 01 1F

great relationship between Nevis Radio and Liberty. The move has made the signal in Kinlochleven and Glencoe stronger and, for the first time, we are reaching some areas in Locheilside area which is

great news. A big thanks for everyone's patience.'

John Weller, chairman at Nevis Radio, said a question mark was hanging over the station's future sustainability without the move.

'Our biggest expenditure after staff wages are mast site rental fees.'

'It is a complicated and expensive task to move sites as it has to be approved by broadcasting regulator Ofcom which has to agree to every step of the transition including who we use as an engineer, what riggers we use and what equipment is installed. Ofcom eventually visit and carry out site tests before giving the green light for us to broadcast from that location.'

Brian King, managing director of Lochaber operations for Liberty British Aluminium and its sister GFG company SIMEC Lochaber Power, said: 'We recognise the value of Nevis Radio to the local community and are pleased to help sustain the service and extend it to new listeners. This is a long-term partnership with the station which mirrors our long-term commitment to the local community.'

Since the transmitter move, there are on-going engineering works to address the temporary poor service being experienced in some parts of the broadcasting area due to geographical landscape.

These works are costly for an organisation such as Nevis Radio so if you would like to provide any support for this project, contact Simon Abberley on 01397 70000.

Cash boost for new affordable homes

AT LEAST 200 new affordable homes will be built in Fort William following a £1.2 million grant from the Scottish Government to Lochaber Housing Association (LHA).

The announcement was made as housing minister Kevin Stewart was in Fort William last week. Mr Stewart visited the site at Upper Achintore where a variety of mixed tenure homes for rent and private use will be developed.

'We recognise the challenges of developing affordable housing in rural areas, so I'm delighted our investment will help to make affordable housing a reality at this site,' said Mr Stewart.

'This grant will support the delivery of at least 200 new homes in Fort William and is a great example of how partnership

working can deliver a range of homes to suit the needs of the local community.'

'Increasing the supply of affordable homes across Scotland is a key commitment and vital to our ambition of tackling poverty and inequality in our society.'

LHA director Blair Allan said around 50 much-needed affordable homes have already been built in Upper Achintore in the past few years. He said: 'This Scottish Government grant takes our potential investment in affordable housing here to a new level. Everyone knows the housing need in Fort William is intense.'

'The opportunity here is that we can, in partnership with the Scottish Government, the Highland Council and others, go a significant way towards satisfying this need in the short to medium term. We are

grateful to the Scottish Government for this support and for the confidence it has shown in our ability to deliver.'

Councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of the Highland Council's places committee, welcomed the announcement.

'This is good news for Lochaber where there has been a shortage of affordable housing,' he said.

'The development is especially welcome given the regeneration of the Fort William smelter and the new job opportunities coming to the area.'

'It comes on top of the recent welcome Scottish Government investment which has enabled the council and its partners to deliver new affordable homes in Tweeddale Apartments, Raasay Court and Belhaven Drive.'

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Fort William

PAUL Murton, presenter of BBC TV's Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands, fell in love with the Hebrides as a child and has spent half a lifetime exploring the islands he considers the most beautiful in the world.

In a new book, *The Hebrides*, published in August by Birlinn, he explores the breathtaking scenery and the colourful history, culture, myths and legends of the islands.

He also meets the people who make the Hebrides tick, from crofters, fishermen, tweed waulkers and clan chiefs to peat cutters, gin distillers, black-pudding makers and even a rescuer of parrots.

Paul Murton will be promoting his new book in bookshops throughout Scotland this summer and autumn, starting in the Highland Bookshop in Fort William on Thursday August 24, Tackle and Books in Tobermory on Friday August 25 and Waterstones, Oban, on Saturday August 26.

Lochaline

SCOTTISH Water has completed installation of its £4.5 million water treatment works in Lochaline which uses the latest technology to deliver high-quality water.

The project involved the design, build and installation of a new transportable water treatment unit (TTU), which is now fully operational.

The work was carried out by Scottish Water's alliance partner ESD and contractor Ross-shire Engineering.

The TTU was designed and assembled at Ross-shire Engineering's base in Muir of Ord before undergoing comprehensive testing. It was then divided into modules for the 118-mile journey by road to its permanent home via the A9, the A82 and the Corran ferry crossing.

Jeff Forrester, project manager from ESD, said: 'Part of the challenge with a project like this is the potential disruption to the local community and the team was committed to keeping this to a minimum.'

'We started work onsite early this year and construction was completed before the summer, so a very quick turnaround was achieved.'

A new pipeline was also installed through the nearby forest.

Preparatory work has also been carried out for a further phase of work planned for next year, to increase storage and accommodate potential future development.



Water works in Lochaline have been completed.

Baking stall and quiz proceeds boost group

MEMBERS of Lochaber Sensory Care's social group are grateful to everyone who supported its two July fundraisers.

A group spokesperson said: 'Last Thursday's baking stall in Fort William High Street was well supplied with mouth-watering treats and, including cash donations, raised £235. Thanks go to the bakers, helpers and buyers.' Group members also sold quiz sheets which raised £65 and congratulations go to winner Alan Lamb. All the money raised will be used for group outings.

For more information, contact the Lochaber Sensory Care office in Caol Shopping Centre on 01397 704889.



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Glynis Padgett and Alfie Edwards present the £1,850 cheque in memory of Glynis' husband Tony Padgett, who was a member of the Applecross boat pull team, as Portree lifeboat crew look on.

Portree RNLI funds boosted by £5,850

A GENEROUS donation from Applecross boat pull team has boosted the funds of Portree lifeboat by £4,000.

Every year the Applecross team pulls a replica lifeboat to the RNLI station, collecting money for charities

along the way. And this year Alfie Edwards and the team gave £4,000 to Portree lifeboat fundraisers.

The Portree team received another donation of £1,850 from Glynis Padgett in memory of her husband Tony, a long-time member of the

Applecross boat pull team, who died earlier this year.

Cathy Freeman, from Portree Lifeboat Fundraisers, said receiving the donation from Glynis was a 'huge surprise'. 'All of these donations are vital for us,' she said.

Walkers trek 62 miles for heart charity funds

TWO LOCAL women were among 250 walkers who stepped out on the 62 miles from Glasgow to Edinburgh in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

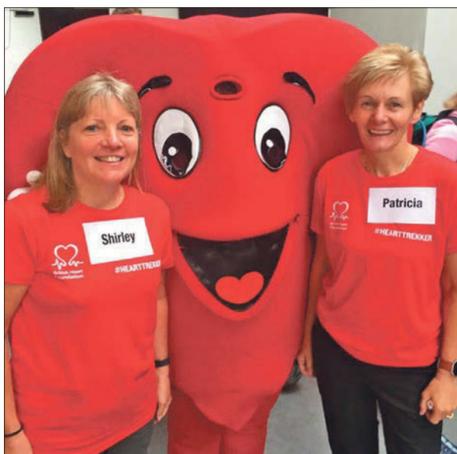
Patricia MacKay and Shirley Duncan braved dreadful weather to raise more than £1,200 on the charity walk, the route of which ran alongside the canals between the two cities.

Patricia, from Caol, and Shirley, of Fort William, took 18 hours to complete the walk, 16 hours of which were spent actually walking.

'This was an amazing achievement and they did really well considering the terrible weather,' said Patricia's daughter Emma MacSween.

The husbands of the two women, David MacKay and Stewart Duncan, were on hand to support their wives.

Emma added: 'Both my mum and Shirley are very keen walkers and have completed five Moonwalks in aid of breast cancer research.'



Shirley Duncan and Patricia MacKay.

Princess officially opens Harris Tweed extension

THE PRINCESS Royal praised the 'unique quality and community values' of Harris Tweed when she officially opened an extension to the company's mill at Shawbost, Isle of Lewis.

After touring the mill, in her role as President of the UK Fashion and Textiles Association, the Princess Royal praised the new £2.4 million dyehouse as an 'investment for the next generation'.

Company chairman Brian Wilson said the industry depended on 'unique protection and a unique structure'.

In return, its custodians owed an

obligation to the islands to pass it on in robust health, which the latest investment would help to ensure.

He said it was sometimes assumed investment in peripheral places was dependent on public funds but that 90 per cent of the latest investment had come from the company's resources. 'It is possible to be both peripheral and successful, which is an important lesson,' he said.

Ian Angus MacKenzie, chief executive of Harris Tweed Hebrides, said: 'This is a major investment in the future of the industry and a statement of confidence on the part of our

company. A decade ago, Shawbost Mill was closed and derelict. We are very proud of what has been achieved since then and are confident Harris Tweed can continue to be a major force within the Hebridean economy for many years.'

The Princess Royal spoke to mill staff, weavers and customers during a mill tour and reception.

She was presented with a length of tweed in the special design of the Scottish Rugby Union of which she is patron and with whom Harris Tweed Hebrides has an ongoing collaboration.

Skye race volunteers thanked

FOLLOWING a record-breaking year for the Isle of Skye Half Marathon, lead sponsors The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) joined event organisers on Wednesday July 12 to present cheques to community groups who volunteered their time and support for the race.

A total of 741 runners completed the 13.1 mile race on Saturday June 10, making it the biggest turnout in the event's 33-year history. Community groups were rewarded for their efforts in ensuring the smooth running of this year's half marathon at the Portree Hotel.

Cheques totalling £2,400 were distributed and Ewen Maclean, Senior Marine Sites Manager at SSC, was on hand to congratulate representatives from each organisation and help Alistair Danter, chairman of Skye Events, present the

donations. Organisations who received donations for their volunteering efforts included Isle of Skye Pipe Band, the local Brownies, Guides, Beavers and Cubs, Skye Rotary Club, DAES dance group, Skye Dance, Skye Gymnastic Group, Skye Camanachd (shinty), Skye and Lochalsh Football Association and Skye Strings Band.

Craig Anderson, chief executive of The Scottish Salmon Company, said: 'A big thank you to everyone who gave their time and played such an important part in this year's event. We are very proud to sponsor the Isle of Skye Half Marathon.'

Mark Crowe, Isle of Skye Half Marathon race director, said: 'The dedication shown by local helpers is very much appreciated and these donations are a fitting reward for their hard work.'

Highland coaching awards

NOMINATIONS for the 2017 Highland coaching, officiating and volunteering awards are open.

Last year was the most successful since the inception of the awards in 2010 with 65 nominations. This was the most Highland had ever received and the most across Scotland.

In 2016 High Life Highland (HLH) celebrated women, young coaches and volunteers as well as Scotland's Young Ambassadors and the Young Peoples Sports Panel, who made important decisions as part of the judging panel.

Coaches, officials or volunteers who have shown dedication and commitment to the sport, gone that extra mile and brought fun and excitement to clubs or sessions can be nominated in the following categories: Young Person's Coach of the Year; Community Coach of the Year; Performance Development Coach of the Year; High Performance Coach of the Year; Young Coach of the Year; Disability Coach of the Year; Lifetime Coaching Achievement Award; Coach Developer of the Year; Coaching Chain

Award; Technical Official of the Year; Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award (non-coaching); Volunteer of the Year and Young Volunteer of the Year. Winners will receive a grant for their club, a trophy, a certificate and an invitation to the Highland Awards evening. If they go on to win the national awards, they will receive £300, a trophy, a certificate and will be invited to another ceremony in November.

The closing date for nominations is Friday September 15 at midnight.

RETRO Roamer

More musings from 1987

First the Scottish Tourist Board transferred Castle Tioram into Morvern. Now, in the Highlands and Islands Development Board's annual report, Ardtoe has been moved there as well. Is this a conscious, concerted effort to have 'Morvern revisited' or is it all happening to keep the editorial team of 'De tha dol?' on their mettle?

During the Glasgow Fair holidays, a fella came into the Book Nook and asked if we had a copy of 'No Mean City'. Said he: 'It's out of print in 'Glesca', but I thought it might still be in print up here.' Fortunately he went on his way rejoicing with the one and only second-hand copy we possessed. Aye, all the fun of the Glasgow Fair.

Oh, but they do have such fun 'Up the Hill', where a young local executive left his 20s behind last week. A placard had duly appeared in the front window of his house. 'Ian is 30 today', it proclaimed. Within minutes a notice went up in the living room window of the house across the road. 'So what? My dad's 55', it read.

I appreciated the alacrity with which Fort William Community Council rushed to defend its honour which had been sullied by a Lochaber ratepayer from across the loch. The 'sullyng' occurred on Radio Scotland after said ratepayer had been misquoted after he said on air his community council had not met for months. Radio Scotland construed this to mean Fort William Community Council. Into action sprang the publicity machine at Fort William Community Council and a letter of clarification and justification was subsequently read over the airwaves. It culminated in Jimmy Mack's 'feed' apologising to the 'good people of Loch-Aiber'!

I got my blessings after going on about how wonderful was the local weather forecaster who chose Thursday as our market day. It rained like it had never done before on the next two Thursdays. But the buid-seachd was lifted last Thursday, thank goodness, and the marketeers are speaking to me again. However, on the previous two market days Seonaid did do a roaring trade in wet suits and Angus sold plenty of wet fish.

It was like a combination of the League of Nations and the Tower of Babel at a local camping site and bunkhouse complex at the weekend. Italians, French, Germans, Americans, the lot. And all of them shouting at the tops of their voices in their own tongue. During this turmoil, a couple of tups broke free from where they had been shepherded and were pursued by the elderly sheepman. One of the tups shot into the bunkhouse and when the shepherd, along with the League of Nations, got there, all they could see inside was the tup making sheep's eyes at them. They then discovered it was curled up on one of the bunks.

During the delay caused by last week's shunt at Fort William Station, a bloke got off the train and hurried along the underpass. Coming towards him was Jimmy. 'Quick, pal, where's the nearest boozer?', cried the held-up passenger. Jimmy was quicker than quick. 'You're in luck, a'balach. You're talking to him.'

The amiable organiser of the mounted fancy dress competition at the Lochaber Show has been putting in regular appearances in his social circle once again. So Bob was the recipient of a great big 'thank you' from some of his show colleagues in the middle of the Happy Valley arena. Aye, they locked him inside a cattle float. At one stage it looked as if Bob was going to hit the drove road to Forfar, but they let him out and he's now happily back in the fold.

Heard at last week's environmental health services committee meeting in Lochaber House. Landward councillor: 'Does Highland region have no input into these toilets?' Urban councillor: 'No, it is purely a district council function.' And all said without even a flicker of a smile. Deadpan, in fact. The debate got a bit bogged down after that and you got the feeling some councillors were only going through the motions...

I met Margaret Mac on the Rocky Brae on Monday. At least I think it was Margaret as I couldn't see all of her for the weeds growing like triflids all the way up. As she said to me, looking down at the dozen cars parked in the 'pedestrian priority' Cameron Square: 'It's okay if you're a visitor, but to blazes with you if you're local.'

This is my last word on the visit of the Prince of Wales. And it comes from a long way away. From Queensland, Australia, in fact. Jean (Horner) Parkin was over there on holiday from Hong Kong. She picked up a copy of the 'Cairns Post' and read the following: 'Prince Charles, known to have a penchant for remote spots, went mountaineering in Fort William, Scotland, yesterday, in his kilt, in return for an inscribed ice axe and a bottle of Scotch.' Trust an Oz daily to get its royal priorities right. Said Jean in a letter home to the family in Lochaber: 'It just let's you see how famous the Fort is all over the world.'

Home quote of the week came from Colin Neilson Junior to Colin Neilson Senior. As he and Grace were away on holiday, Colin senior phoned Colin junior to find out the Fort result against Inverness Thistle. 'Nine nil for Thistle, and our goalie got booked,' was the vital information. Ignoring the score, Colin senior asked why the keeper was yellow carded. Came the reply: 'For loitering.'



Fort William painters freshening up Kinloch Castle on Rum in 1939.

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Dianne and Rodney Allen at this year's Arisaig Games and Clanranald Gathering.

US couple have their hearts in the Highlands

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

AS HE adjusts his bonnet and then squeezes the last of the weather's worst efforts out of his kilt, Rodney Allen still can't keep a smile far from his face at this year's Arisaig Games.

A resident of Fayetteville in North Carolina, the US Army physician and his wife, Dianne, are well used to what passes for summer in Scotland after having come to the games every year for the past 14 years.

But this year, held as is custom on the last Wednesday in July, saw an extra special dimension for the couple when Rodney was asked to deputise for the Chief of Clanranald.

The past 13 years have seen Arisaig Games partnered with the Clanranald annual gathering and it is the custom for the chief, or one of his two sons in his stead, to formally declare open the games, held this year as they have been for the past 33, at Traigh Farm.

However, this year's rain-lashed event saw Ranald



The Arisaig Games and Clanranald Gathering last Wednesday.

Macdonald, 24th Captain and Chief of Clanranald, unable to attend and although the chief's son, Andrew, was able to make an appearance, the honour of opening the games and leading the clan parade, fell to Rodney.

North Carolina has strong links to Scotland, with it being the most popular destination for the Highland Scots who emigrated to the colonies in the 18th century.

They included Flora Mac-

Donald, the Highland heroine who helped the fleeing Bonnie Prince Charlie after the defeat at Culloden, and who lived in North Carolina for around five years with her husband.

Rodney, who holds the position of lieutenant in Clanranald, meaning he can represent the chief if need be, has traced his family history and is descended from Highland Scots on both his parents' sides – from Knoydard and South Uist.

Asked why the couple keep returning to Scotland, Dianne replies: 'Two words – the people. There is always a real sense of connection with the land and the people.'

'And there has been such a warmth and welcome from the folks here over the years that it has always felt like coming home.'

Members of the Scottish American Society for 20 years, the couple proudly represent their clan at Highland gatherings across the United States from April to October.

But it is those in Arisaig that have captured the couple's hearts and they even arrived early enough this year to help set up the games field and take part in all the associated social events.

'I think as you get older you began to realise who and what you really are, what you're made of and your connections, and such become important because they tell you about yourself,' he explained.

'People think about things like hair colour, eye colour when it

comes to genetic make-up but I think there's something about the land that calls you back as well and I think that's why people, not just in the States, but places like Australia and New Zealand, are so passionate about their heritage as well,' Rodney told the *Lochaber Times*.

'My grandmother was pretty strongly into history, and still had a little of the Gaelic, so we grew up with it all, although we didn't have a real understanding until much older.'

'And she often used Gaelic words mixed into her conversation so we had a bit of familiarity with that also.'

Rodney's maternal family line first makes an appearance in America after the 1715 Jacobite rising, while his paternal line surfaces not long after the 1745 rising.

Rodney added: 'I was very proud to be asked to officially open the games, but there was more pride in representing the family itself than any personal pride – I was just glad to be able to help out.'

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

A bridge too far

THE disruption to the ferry service across the Corran Narrows for five days recently brought the inevitable knee-jerk reaction that it should be replaced by a bridge.

True, many motorists, cyclists and foot passengers were inconvenienced, but accidents happen and all things mechanical break down at some time, especially well-used marine components. The problem came about because the standby ferry wasn't standing by but was sitting in some distant yard where it had been for months.

Complacency had clearly reigned supreme and, for leaving the peninsula vulnerable, the council official in charge should consider resigning.

For the Highland Council's representatives, salaried or elected, to talk of a bridge without having a long-term strategic plan for upgrading the single lane carriageways to Lochaline, Salen, Acharacle and Kilchoan, is ridiculous. Long sections of these roads are in an appalling state and deteriorating by the day. They can hardly cope now with the traffic for Mull which CalMac is diverting from Oban to Lochaline and Kilchoan because their ferries to Craignure are fully booked. Clearly, the situation is going to worsen, particularly in the summer months, and that a slow-moving convoy system will ultimately be necessary.

One of the grumbles about the ferry being off is having to negotiate heavy vehicles on the twisted single-track road on the south side of Loch Eil. Yet this is exactly what all drivers would face on the A884, A861 and the B80047 if a bridge was built across the Corran Narrows.

Lest it be forgotten, the Corran Narrows form part of the Great Glen fault which is prone to seismic movement. While perhaps not impossible to construct, expensive compensatory arrangements would need to be included in a fixed link that would also need to be



A wreck at the Corran Narrows. Picture: Iain Thornber

high enough to allow shipping to pass under. Who would fund a bridge? The Highland Council and its Holyrood paymasters are not exactly flush. Tolls perhaps?

The ferry regulates the flow of vehicles which is the key to good traffic management in rural areas and the 15-strong local crew who operate it, are the eyes and ears of the peninsula. If a bridge was built, what of their full-time jobs?

If there is one place a relatively inexpensive fixed-link could and should be built for light private and commercial vehicles, it is across the Loch Eil Narrows from Corpach to Achaphuib. The span is short and there are no large merchant vessels passing through. It would be a boon to the folk on the south side of the loch for accessing Fort

William and useful for those of us who live further down the peninsula when the ferry is storm-bound.

There has probably been some type of ferry arrangement over the Corran Narrows since dugout canoes were around. Records exist of a ferry in the 15th century and of it being put out of use when the Hanoverian troops ransacked Maclean of Ardgour's property after Culloden.

The stone piers on either side which underlie the existing ones were built in 1817 by Thomas Telford. The stone came from Strontian by way of Loch Sunart, the Sound of Mull and Loch Linnhe.

The ferry was on the cattle droving route from Mull, Morvern, Sunart, Ardnamurchan and Ardgour to the great Falkirk Trysts. Large flat-bottomed

boats, called wherries, occasionally took animals over but more often they were forced to swim at slack water.

The narrows form a bottleneck through which the currents flow at speeds of up to eight knots, making it a dangerous place in the days of sail or when oars were the only form of propulsion. In a note in the 1842 admiralty chart for Loch Linnhe, it was recommended that two steam tugs of about 90hp should be stationed in the vicinity to assist vessels struggling to make any headway or in danger of being pushed onto the rocks by the powerful back eddies.

Judging by logs kept by the Ardgour lighthouse keepers, there were many casualties: 1870, the Fortune at Corran point and the Gagella at Black point; 1872, the Moir, east Corran pier; 1874, the Margaret, Sallachan point; 1881, the Petrel, flat rock Corran and the Lord Clyde, half tide rock Bunree point; 1892, the Merganser, Cuilcheanna spit; 1909, the Ness Queen, Corran; 1911, the Glenrose, Cuilcheanna point and the Feishaic, Corran Narrows; 1912, the Loch Nell, Keil Bay and the Treasure 504 INV, Sallachan Point; 1918, the Margaret, Corran Narrows and the Backwash GY 1299, Ardgour slip; 1924, Drodgena schooner, south of lighthouse.

There is little doubt that if a bridge was built at Corran it would alter an entire way of life forever. The crime level would rise and housing and ugly industrial development would run rampant, taking away the charm and uniqueness of the area which every B&B and holiday cottage owner raves about.

The country needs places like West Lochaber. Would it be too direct to say to those who grumble about its isolation and find being cut off now and again difficult to cope with: 'Perhaps you should try somewhere else – we like it just as it is.'

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#MeetTheCairns

Wild About Argyll campaign success speaks for itself

THE BUSINESS co-operative set up five years ago to promote the growth of tourism in Argyll and the Isles has expressed disappointment following publication of claims that it has wasted public funding, saying its campaign statistics speak for themselves and government figures demonstrate that Argyll and the Isles has comprehensively outperformed Scotland as a whole in tourism growth.

An individual claimed the group was not performing in a social media world. However, Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC) is confident statistics and levels of engagement tell a different story.

In January, AITC launched its multi-level, year-long £100,000 marketing campaign, Wild About Argyll, funded by VisitScotland Growth Fund, Argyll and Bute Council and AITC.

Primarily a digital campaign, it is aimed at raising awareness of Argyll and the Isles, targeting a much younger, more active market and positioning the region as Scotland's Adventure Coast.

Seven main videos and 24 sports and local videos have been produced and are being shared online. So far the short campaign video alone has had 326,657 completed views since the campaign launched in January.

The main Wild About Argyll videos, featuring Scottish adventurer and endurance athlete Mark Beaumont, and following a 12-day adventure and filming project, led by AITC, were produced in 2016. The promotional Wild About Argyll advert was screened in central belt cinemas and viewed by almost 200,000 people over three weeks,

including Easter. Throughout March, digital panels with short Wild About Argyll films were on display on all Glasgow's subway escalators with passenger figures over 1.1 million. The digital campaign has reached more than one million people in the target audience and has generated more than two million impressions on Facebook and Instagram.

On top of this, from March to July, the Wild About Argyll films have been viewed more than 276,000 times via Mark Beaumont's channels and the *Live Forever* music video over 146,000 times via Skerryvore's channels.

AITC says there is also significant and growing collaboration with key local businesses and marketing groups. More than 40 businesses have provided over £4,000 worth of prizes for the online Wild About Argyll prize giveaway. Three of AITC's local marketing groups have worked together to put Wild About Argyll branding on 10 Glasgow taxis throughout the summer.

Carron Tobin, AITC development manager, said: 'AITC is a registered co-operative and its board of directors are all volunteers.'

'It currently operates with a freelance development team consisting of a development manager, PR and media manager, web editor and up to nine development agents.'

'As part of our engagement strategy, we identified Mark as a key influencer for adventure seekers and our Glasgow launch in January saw the release of the award-winning Skerryvore's music video *Live Forever* with our Wild About Argyll footage. Both have actively shared this content

Oban High School Pipe Band are best in country



The hard work and determination of Oban High School Pipe Band paid off when they won twice at the Scottish Championships at the weekend. Led by Pipe Major Angus MacColl, who helped form the band in 2005, they won the Novice Juvenile A and B grades. The youngsters didn't let the accolades go to their heads as they were back out performing for tourists in Station Square this week.

on their own channels to their audiences – our target audiences – with significant engagement.

'AITC has employed a digital agency with extensive experience to provide strategic advice and to deliver the Wild About Argyll digital campaign.'

'The digital activity they are delivering is largely not visible in the region. We are seeking to engage adventure seekers, both wild and mild, who have yet to experience what we have to offer – and people are actively engaging.'

'As this is a year-long campaign and we have generated a lot of content, over and above the

digital campaign, new content is being released in a phased way with the films being a significant part of this. We want Wild About Argyll to be fresh and engaging throughout the year.'

Ms Tobin continued: 'We report to our funders every quarter using statistics and activity updates. Our digital campaign and other online activity with the agency we have employed forms part of this – and we are achieving results.'

'A full evaluation of the £100,000 campaign will be undertaken and made available later this year. The recommendations from the review and assessment

of our adventure tourism offer last year will be available soon as we announce our next steps.'

'An independent assessment of AITC and tourism growth over the previous five years was undertaken in December 2016 and concluded that tourism in Argyll and the Isles has outperformed the rest of Scotland in recent years and the latest government figures demonstrate growth in spend from £270m to £310m per annum for the latest year.'

'Fifteen per cent of all employment in Argyll is in tourism and the destination has earned the reputation of being an exemplar

of collaboration, with growing business confidence and significant indigenous and inward investment in the tourism offer. This, combined with AITC's clearly articulated strategy agreed by its membership, which focuses on developing the sector through its assets and our capabilities, has been the basis for on-going financial support for the activities of the AITC.'

The AITC is a dynamic membership organisation – open and accessible through its development agents and directors. For more information visit explorear-gyll.co.uk.

Climbers back call for new strategy

MOUNTAINEERS have welcomed a report which could lead to the development of a strategic vision for Scotland's uplands.

The Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) report, 'Scoping a strategic vision for the uplands', explores the potential for developing an overarching upland strategy, which would involve a wide range of interest groups and organisations.

Following an extensive consultation, it includes a number of broad recommendations that could inform the development of a strategic vision if Scottish ministers decide to go ahead with it.

Mountaineering Scotland, which has previously called for such a strategy, has endorsed the SNH report, urging ministers to embrace its recommendations.

David Gibson, chief executive officer of Mountaineering Scotland, said: 'Scotland's uplands are of international significance and a source of public good, providing employment, income, inspiration and pleasure, with resultant economic, social, health, wellbeing and other benefits.'

'This report demonstrates the extent of support from a wide range of sectors for the development of a coherent upland strategy.'

'Our main interest is in the mountains and wild land. These open landscapes are under ever-increasing pressure and we believe these must be managed through the development of an agreed and overarching policy.'

'Clearly, that will require leadership. We urge Scottish ministers to seize the initiative and respond to the report and its recommendations by appointing an organisation, or perhaps an individual, that would be seen by all sectors as independent and neutral to lead the process.'



The tea ladies show off new T-shirts and the goodies stall.



Committee member Nicola Wilson resorts to witchcraft.



The committed volunteers who got out and about and onto the viewpoint site in Soroba.

Volunteers clear up Soroba

ON ONE of the wettest Saturdays in July, the volunteers clearing the site at Soroba Community Centre were not deterred for a moment in getting out and

about and continuing to improve the area. Spurred on by some homemade soup and sandwiches, volunteers from around the area including a posse from the

Scottish Association from Marine Science based at Dunstaffnage.

The site is soon to be Oban's only community centre for use by the whole community.



Sam from SAMS helps remove one of the heavy tree trunks.

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FW

Viewpoint

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

There is an apparently unfathomable conundrum on the issue of providing services for tourists and how they should be paid for.

As we report this week, one businessman on Skye has suggested the introduction of a small charge to be levied at the Skye Bridge to help pay for more public toilets and better car parking.

Countering that position is David Richardson, the Federation of Small Businesses' development manager for the Highlands and Islands, who says that any further taxes on tourists would be deleterious to tourism-dependent business in the Highlands, where there is

already a perception among some visitors that the area is very expensive.

Other local business owners were said to be in agreement with a tourist tax, or similar charge, while Highland Council leader Margaret Davidson said the local authority would need to speak to more businesses before it could make a judgement on the viability of any such move.

The reality is that people will be more reluctant to visit Lochaber and the Highlands and Islands if there are deficits in the provision of services. But how they are funded remains a problem that requires further debate.



Days gone by – the 1960s

Reader Nigel MacKenzie Campbell, from Dumbarton, dropped by The Oban Times office to hand in this period picture of Lochgilphead's Main Street during the 1960s.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



WITH specific regards to playing a musical instrument, people often comment: 'It must be wonderful to be born with such talent.'

As I always reply, playing a musical instrument for me and for most has very little to do with talent. The primary factor leading to the ability is being given the chance to learn in the first place, closely followed by encouragement at home, the desire to learn and being able to enjoy and focus on the process.

Take any one of these ingredients out of my timeline and I would either not have started playing the accordion, or would have given up when the inevitable obstacles and difficulties visited the journey.

As with music, so with Highland games and one of the rising stars of that discipline is beginning to show the fruits of these same factors.

What Gordon Connell did for me and countless other accordion players from Tirez, Shaun Bate, from Oban, is doing for 18-year-old Highland games athlete Murdo Masterson of Dunbeg.

Similarly, he has strong support from his parents, has the hunger to learn and is putting the time and

focus into training and practice. Murdo is naturally a big, strong lad, but remove any of the ingredients above and he would not be able to throw a hammer the length of himself, far less distances that put him among the top of his age group in the country.

Like Gordon, Shaun has never charged a penny for his time and expertise but, along with his good friend Jock Ross, coaches purely because of his passion for the sport and for the pleasure of passing that on to others.

I referred to Murdo and his success at the Lorne Highland Games a few weeks ago, and his achievements deserve further highlighting.

Last weekend at the Stonehaven Highland Games, Murdo threw the light hammer (16lb) 135 feet and one inch.

This broke a ground record in the under-25 age group that had stood since 2004.

Such was the fierce level of competition on the day that 10 minutes later, fellow young star, 24-year-old, James Dawkins broke it again with a huge throw of 137 feet and two inches.

To put Murdo's throw in perspective, the winning throw in the 2016 Scottish Championships at Crieff

– which in the Highland games world is 'the one to win' – was 139 feet and one inch' from championship winner, Scott Rider.

Murdo's throw of 135 feet and one inch for an teenager who has only been throwing for four years is remarkable and good enough on the right day to win any competition against the best in the world.

His overall performance so far this season has meant that he is almost neck and neck in points with James Dawkins for the Glenfiddich Qualifying Heavy Events Championship for under-25s.

There are many events still to be competed for this year so the end is still a long way off.

Murdo may not win this year, and whether he does or not is of less importance than the great achievements he is destined to attain in his long-term future in the sport if he continues consistently and carefully training towards his goals.

However, already he has broken new ground for someone of his age and this should be recognised along with the generosity and skill of his coaches. There is no greater gift than the gift of time.



Social media

Oban's problems with traffic congestion, especially at this time with thousands of visitors to the area, caused considerable comment.

Angela Marshall complained: 'If there maybe was less traffic lights to be stuck at traffic may flow better, other towns I've visited use pedestrian crossings rather than umpteen traffic light and many of them so close together why!!!! The high school junction is a joke 45mins it took me yesterday at 3pm to get from hospital to lidl then traffic flowed fine it's so frustrating.'

Jimmy McCallum suggested: 'An Oban by-pass would be good, but in reality most folk are either in Oban trying to get out, or outside Oban, trying to get in. The amount of traffic heading 'through,' north, or south, is probably much less, I'd have thought?

I entered Oban from the north, on Tuesday about 4pm and it was a nightmare. Traffic management is definitely going to hurt the town badly, if it isn't already.'

Gary Farlow proposed: 'Build a main road on the out skirts of Oban so not everyone has to pass through the town to get to work at the other side, that is the only thing u can do, problem solved.'

Gordon Cooper recalled: 'It was ever thus. Years ago, there were two traffic wardens who kept the traffic flowing and directed it to parking areas near what is now Tesco. However they were so abused and one physically assaulted that they left.'

Davie Walker posted: 'High School junction is a joke and the biggest cause of all the chaos. A large roundabout is

needed, meaning the compulsory purchase of the halls and the b&b allowing 2 lane access from all directions onto the roundabout. Simple as!'

Mark Stuart said: 'Using Public Transport helps, but could do with Lots more input into Public transport in terms of finances, a by-pass would help, with rail, trams, ferries or even air!'

Barclayish Adamski wrote simply: 'Walk.'

Andy Kerr advised: 'Enjoy the view, ride a bike or open a business selling something in car windows (or all 3).'

Colin Cooper prompted: 'Peak time congestion charge. Free bus transport. Hire pedal bikes.'

Karen MacPherson advised: 'Bypass and a park and ride facility.'

Marie Archer agreed: 'Bypass road is long overdue the only solution to this!'

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.

Litter problems is far more widespread

Sir,

I read the front-page news last week about the state of the Pulpit Hill viewpoint ('Viewpoint is littered with rubbish', *The Oban Times*, July 27) and feel I should add a little more to this sorry tale.

Not only is Pulpit Hill a rubbish dump, but it is Oban's premier tourist attraction. McCaig's Tower is likewise. It helps, of course, that most of the drinking and eating fraternity lob their detritus over the edge of the viewing platform, where it is not so readily seen, though the holiday-makers can gaze down upon it while they take pictures of the view. Dumping, unfortunately, is not limited to rubbish, as the kind person who used the word in a slightly different sense on my garden path recently will know.

Many of our visitors make their way up to the tower via the steps of Jacob's Ladder, where they will be able to take note of more offerings from the generous drinkers of the town. The two seats at the top end provide excellent comfort for the carry-out brigade, who frequently drop their bottles, cans and polystyrene boxes directly beneath their feet.

The more thoughtful among them toss the rubbish over the fence, of course, where it lies hooked up in the undergrowth until wind and weather washes it down to join the many years' supply behind the wall of the distillery. This is only seen during the winter when tourists are few, so I suppose it might seem not to matter.

The broken railings and stonework pulled out of the wall remain behind one of the seats where they were left many months ago. A call to the council, advising of this mess and the dangers of rusty, broken metal remains unanswered. Let's hope that some innocent child doesn't tear his or her cheek on the rusty spikes.

I'll not bring up the subject of the Black Lynn, the Hydro, the back of the Corran Halls or anywhere else in the town where rubbish is regularly recycled. Maybe the police should patrol some of these places too. I must end by thanking those loyal citizens who take the trouble to clear up some of the litter dropped by so many thoughtless people.

Do we really welcome visitors to Oban or would we prefer that they went elsewhere?

Maurice Wilkins,
Laurel Road, Oban.

Health service in Oban and Argyll is excellent

Sir,

I am writing in response to the incredibly confused letter from your correspondent Mike Foster (*The Oban Times*, July 27), which mixes up BBC salaries, NHS Highland, and our Oban GP service.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



NUAIR A BHIOS NA MÌLTEAN a' cruinneachadh aig Fèill Àiteachais an Eilein Duibh an-diugh 's neònach mur a bi co-dhùid a' ceasnachadh dè an seòrsa uidheamachd air am bu chòir dhaibh a bhith ag amas airson obair-tuatha neo cruite anns na bliadhnaichean air toiseach. Agus am bi gin dhiubh sin a' ruith air dealain?

Tuigear carson a tha luchd-iomairt dìon na h-àrainneachd a' strì gus cleachdaidhean an t-saoghail atharrachadh agus lùghdachadh a thoirt air truaillidhean cheimigeach de gach seòrsa, agus chan eil teagamh nach eil einnseanan dìosail agus peatrail a' cur ris an trioblaid. Ach am bheil an dùthaich seo gu bhith deiseil ann an trì bliadhna fichead gus làn-chasg a chur air càraichean agus bhanaichean ùra a bhios a' ruith air na connaidhean sin?

Chan e ùine fhada a th' ann an trì bliadhna fichead idir, agus gu dearbha chithear iomadach carbad air na rathaidean againn gach latha a tha nas sine na sin, is anns an t-seadh sin tha co-dhùnadh an Riaghaltas dol a thoirt buaidh air luchd-ceannach càraichean agus bhanaichean gu math luath. Tha cuid a' cumail a-mach gum bheil teicneòlas charbadaid dealain air a bhith comasach bho chionn fhada ach gun robh companaidhean ola ga chumail air ais fhad 's a bha fortan ri chosnadh à ola, agus aon uair 's gun tigeadh gainnead ola neo riaghailth na h-aghaidh gun leigeadh iad cumhachd dealain air adhart.

'S dòcha nach robh bunait sam bith aig na beachdan sin agus gum bheil slighe mhòr fhathast a dh'ionnsaigh innealachd dealain a ghabhas àite einnseanan dìosail is peatrail. Chan eil teagamh nach eil an t-uamhas obair-deisealachaidh ri dhèanamh ged nach biodh ann ach na dh'fheumar de ghnoiseasan far an gabh dealain a chur dha na carbadan ùra sin. Ged a tha eisimpleirean againn mar-thà de chàraichean a' ruith air dealain agus peatrail chan eil iad air cus buaidh a thoirt saoilidh mi, agus ged a dh'fhaodadh carbad le comas ceud gu leth mìle a shiubhal air aon lìonadh cumhachd a bhith

Like your correspondent, I would be happy to see BBC staff well paid, but I doubt that any BBC employee can justify a salary that is three or four times that of our Prime Minister.

My wife and I have received excellent service from our local hospitals but, sadly, the services that they can provide now are limited by the inability of NHS Highland to attract the necessary staff. No doubt this is due partly to the lack of proper forward planning by the NHS administrators and failings on the part of our Scottish Government, which has been responsible for the NHS in Scotland for the past decade.

Turning now to the focus of Mr Foster's ire, in my view the staff of our Lorn Medical Centre are quite outstanding, from both administrative and medical points of view. If he wishes to communicate by email, he can do so, but perhaps he has not asked. And when it comes to repeat prescriptions, the adjacent pharmacy staff frequently ask me if I wish this service; again perhaps he should ask.

Personally, I am happy with the telephone service provided. Maybe his rose-tinted spectacles are focused on a previous era in England. He should count himself lucky that we have such an excellent service in Oban.

Colin Davidson,
by email.

Fish farm proposal is to be resisted

Sir,

In a letter published in the *Argyllshire Advertiser* (July 21), Alexander Hamilton dismisses, in a very patronising manner, my concerns about the proposal for a fish farm in the Sound of Jura Marine Protected Area.

I find the proposals unacceptable and have raised several issues with the relevant government minister. I have met objectors and I am more than willing to continue to argue the case against the development in question.

I would have thought that Mr Hamilton, if his objective is to ensure a united front against this particular plan, would have welcomed that.

I am not, however, going to be part of a wholesale rejection of every aquaculture proposal, which is the position of some, like Mr Hamilton, who – as his letter illustrates – often take an abusive and very partisan approach to anyone who rejects their fundamentalist views.

To describe aquaculture as 'seabed rape', as Mr Hamilton does in his letter, is extreme, foolish and fundamentally untrue.

Aquaculture, in the right place and managed in the right way in accordance with the strict regulatory framework, provides high quality produce, much-needed local employment and – in places such as Argyll – helps the perpetual fight against depopulation and economic decline.

Furthermore, neither I nor the SNP will be the final arbiter of any plan-

ning or licensing application. That will be decided by the laws currently in force, as it should and must be.

Michael W Russell,
MSP for Argyll and Bute.

Proud of Argyll and Bute stem cell donors

Sir,

A cross-party parliamentary event on stem cell transplantation, supported by blood cancer charity and stem cell register Anthony Nolan, was held on July 18 to celebrate the number of people who are registered as stem cell donors.

In Argyll and Bute, the number of potential stem cell donors registered with Anthony Nolan is 2,139. Some 42 per cent of these donors are male, and the average age is 34.

I am very proud that Argyll and Bute has 2,139 people who have selflessly volunteered to give someone a second chance at life. Donating stem cells is straightforward but it could make an enormous difference to someone with no other chance of a cure.

Across the UK, and out of 650 constituencies, Argyll and Bute ranks 15th, which, for an area which is largely rural, is exceptional.

I would like to encourage more people from Argyll and Bute, particularly men aged 16-30 and people from black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds, to register as stem cell donors.

For more information about the all-party parliamentary group for stem cell transplantation, visit www.appg-stemcell.org.uk. For more information about Anthony Nolan, visit www.anthonynolan.org.

Brendan O'Hara,
MP for Argyll and Bute.

Reckless behaviour led to family's murder

Sir,

Anyone who travels by air anywhere will know the drill. Laptops out, toiletries under 100ml in plastic bag, belts off, watches off and shoes off.

It's the price democracies pay for standing up to terror. That's why the latest violence in Israel caught my eye.

On July 14 two Israeli police officers were murdered in Jerusalem by three Israeli Arabs who had smuggled automatic weapons into the Al Aqsa mosque. Israel then introduced metal detectors to prevent weapons being taken into the site and that led to Palestinian leaders calling for violence against Israel.

As a direct consequence of that call for violence, a family of three, sitting down to dinner, were slaughtered by a Palestinian terrorist on July 21.

I was appalled that a group of people who want to be seen by the world as viable leaders of a new Palestinian state behaved so recklessly that it led to the murder of an innocent family.

Susan Wallace,
Fort William.

Ailean Caimbeul

freagarrach gu leòr ann am baile-mòr, cha bhiodh sin gu mòran feum airson siubhal astaran fada na Gàidhealtachd.

'S e deagh amas a th' aig an Riaghaltas agus chuireamaid uile failte air àrainneachd nas glainne agus nas sàmhache a thigeadh an lùib seo, ach tha iomadh dùbhal ri fhreagairt agus gu cinnteach feumaidh smachd air cumhachd chompanaidhean reice dealain a bhith àrd air an liosta sin.

SOME CONSERVATIONISTS would prefer quicker action but the government decision to ban the sale of new diesel- and petrol-engined cars and vans by 2040 is a bold step. It is also a proposal that will influence purchasing decisions relatively soon, and there are major challenges to be resolved, not least for charging facilities and mileage capability in these new vehicles, particularly outwith urban areas. We must also pre-empt any new form of fuel-poverty as personal transport control moves to energy suppliers who have hitherto proved grasping.

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
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Le taic bho



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

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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.



Helen Nelson with the rest of the Scotland squad who lifted the Women's Rugby Europe Trophy in Hungary recently.



Former Lochaber player Helen Nelson on the charge in the first round of the recent Rugby Europe Trophy.

Finlay Wild makes a record finish in Aonach Mòr race

Athletics

THERE was a good turn out of 42 runners for the Aonach Mòr Uphill Running Race. Finlay Wild, just back from Switzerland, was in great form and finished first in a record time of 27 minutes and 54 seconds. Next in was local runner John Yell closely followed by Highland Hill Runner's Gavin Whiteside.

Diana MacDonald from Highland Hill Runners was a clear winner of the ladies race in 35 minutes and 54 seconds. Lyndsey Shaw had a great run finishing second place in 40 minutes and three seconds and just ahead of team-mate Sarah MacDonald.

Other notable performances included Hughie Mackintosh (Male Vet 50) finishing in fourth place overall in 33 minutes and four seconds. Lochaber Athletic Club's Julie Corner and newcomer Charlotte Cant had a good battle right to the finish line. Visitor Ray Ronan, on holiday from Ireland had a good run and so too did visitor Neil Walker completing his first hill race.

A spokesperson from Off Beat Bikes said: 'It was good to see some new faces to the Lochaber hill running competitions. Well done to Jamie Maxwell, Donnie Lamont, Liam Jordan, James Ball and Mark McMirren. 'A big thanks to helpers Bruce Davies, Dave Parfait, Maisie Gorman and Nevis Range for their help.'

The next Aonach Mòr Uphill Running Race is on Wednesday August 9. Registration in the Pinemartin Cafe from 6pm for a 7pm start.

Club lotto draws Lottery numbers

THIS week's winning Ballachulish shinty lotto numbers were 1, 5 and 16. There were no winners, so the draw goes to £400.

Winning numbers for the Caol Regeneration lotto were 2, 4 and 14. There were no winners so the draw is up to £600 for today.

There is £1,200 available for the Fort William Golf Club draw today. Winning numbers for the latest draw were 4, 5 and 20.

Victory for Nelson and Scotland Women's Sevens squad in Europe

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

IT IS a long way from playing rugby as a six-year-old with Lochaber minis to a starring role in the Scotland Women Sevens European trophy-winning squad, but it is a journey international centre Helen Nelson believes any girl can make with dedication and commitment.

A product of Glencoe Primary and Kinlochleven High School, 23-year-old Nelson played a major role in the Scotland Women's Sevens victory at this month's Rugby Europe Trophy in Hungary which saw the team gain promotion to the Grand Prix circuit for 2018.

The Scottish women saw off Malta, Finland and the Czech Republic in the tournament's first round in the Czech Republic last month, with Murrayfield Wanderer Nelson bagging two tries, while Oban's Abi Evans

also crossed the whitewash for a touchdown.

Then it was off to Hungary for round two and the squad, coached since April by Melrose's former international Scott Wight, kept up its winning ways, trouncing Latvia 50-0, then Romania 32-0 in the last four and then comfortably putting Germany to the sword in the final by 33-5.

Returning to the Rugby Europe Grand Prix for next year puts Scotland Women sevens closer to the long-term goal of qualifying for the HSBC Women's Sevens Series and the Commonwealth Games in 2022. Nelson is one of three players to emerge from the junior ranks in Lochaber to be capped for Scotland, the others being Rachael Whyte (nee Nicolson) and Edinburgh University's Katie Dougan.

Nelson first took up the game aged just six at Lochaber Rugby

Club alongside brother Robbie, who now plays for BT Premiership side Currie; sister Bryony also plays rugby and turns out for Edinburgh side Watsonians.

Nelson told us it had been an amazing feeling winning the Rugby Europe Trophy. 'It was a great group of players along with Scott as the coach - we always knew we were capable of performing well, it was just about making sure we worked hard in training and stuck to our processes during the tournaments. Winning in a Scotland shirt is one of the best feelings.

'We came together as a sevens squad in April and had a week-end camp every month, along with weekly skills sessions and a week-long camp in May. All based at Oriam.

'The sessions were tough, but it definitely paid off training at a high intensity, it means you're ready for the tournaments.

'As a group we pushed each other to be as fit and as prepared as we could be. Scott had a very clear way which he wanted us to play, have fun with ball in hand and work very hard in defence. It seemed to work well for us.'

And Nelson paid tribute to the support she has had from her former Lochaber club. 'I haven't played rugby in the Highlands for a few years now, but try to visit Lochaber Rugby Club when I can. They have been really supportive of both myself and Katie Dougan playing for Scotland Women.

'I think rugby is a sport more girls should try, and it should be as accessible as possible, so school being the obvious place. From what I have heard, girls' club rugby is going from strength to strength in the Highlands.'

Lochaber RFC president Alastair MacKinnon says everyone at the Banavie ground is delighted with Nelson's success.



Oban's Abi Evans was also in the squad.

'It is fantastic to see and we're all very proud of Helen and what she has achieved, as we are of Rachael and Katie also,' he told the *Lochaber Times* this week.

Nelson made her Scotland Women's Sevens debut in the first leg of the 2016 Rugby Eu-

Women's rugby

rope Women's Sevens Trophy in Prague. This followed her first appearance for Scotland Women off the bench against France at Broadwood Stadium in the 2016 Six Nations.



Kevin Douglas, right, was crowned the winner of the John Rogan Lochaber singles at Fort William Railway Bowling Club. He receives the trophy from John Rogan with runner-up Peter Black.

Photo: Anthony MacMillan Photography



David Ballantyne, left, and Colin MacDonald were the winners of the Craig Nevis Guest House balloted pairs bowls competition held at the Railway bowling club Inverlochly last Thursday evening, when the bowlers had also to battle with the midgets. The runners-up, in a final that took many turns, were Kevin Fraser and Eddie Downs. Photo: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

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WEATHER

Thursday Light rain showers
 Winds light south south westerly
 Temperatures 13°C to 17°C.

Friday Light rain showers
 Winds moderate west north westerly
 Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.

Weekend Heavy rain showers on Saturday
 Outlook Light rain showers on Sunday
 Winds moderate westerly
 Temperatures 10°C to 15°C.

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
 Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday August 3, 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	02.30	2.9	09.15	1.7	15.11	3.1	20.55	1.8	Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	03.29	3.1	10.06	1.5	15.56	3.3	22.02	1.6	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	04.13	3.3	10.45	1.4	16.37	3.5	22.49	1.4	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	04.54	3.5	11.20	1.2	17.16	3.7	23.28	1.2	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	05.33	3.6	11.52	1.0	17.54	3.9	***	**	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	00.06	1.1	06.09	3.7	12.25	0.9	18.28	3.9	Ferry Crossings/Sea States			
Wed	00.43	1.0	06.40	3.8	12.56	0.8	19.01	4.0	Oban to Barra/South Uist		Moderate	
									Oban to Coll/Tiree		Moderate	
									Kennacraig to Islay		Moderate	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)