

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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THE Lorn Show

Report and photos inside



Oban man's clan mission

AN Oban man named MacGillivray is ready to fight for his uncle's right to become clan chief, when he discovered the role was vacant. Gordon MacGillivray, who runs a fish stall on Oban pier, says his uncle, Robert Galbraith MacGillivray, 84, is 'the real deal' and should be put into the role 'immediately.' Although the MacGillivray clan is without a chief, it will gather at Inverness next week to learn how to find a new head. Clan MacGillivray, whose most famous chief was killed in battle at Culloden, has searched the world but has still to find a candidate who will satisfy Scotland's Lord Lyon King of Arms, who confers the title of clan chief. Mr MacGillivray said: 'People all over the place treat my uncle like a king, and he knows the clan members inside out.'

Millions for historic plan

EXCITING plans to highlight the importance of Britain's oldest Bronze Age and neolithic artefacts at Kilmartin Glen have been awarded lottery millions. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) award of £3.1 million will transform Kilmartin museum and safeguard many thousands of artefacts in the care of the museum's Redevelopment Project. The project was initially turned down by the HLF, but the determined charity revised its groundbreaking plans. While final stages of the application are still to be completed, a £400,000 development grant has been awarded to the project to progress the project's plans for the museum and the glen. Monuments within 10 miles of the museum include the world's largest prehistoric cup and ring marked rock and Dunadd Fort, citadel of the Kings of the Scotti tribe.



Robert's the driving force

LEFT-handed Oban teenager, Robert MacIntyre, made golfing history when he was crowned Scottish Amateur champion at Muirfield. The Glencruitten club player, who turned 19 on Monday, won the prestigious trophy on Saturday. He is the only Oban player to have won the tournament and is reckoned to be the first 'leftie' in living memory to get his hands on the trophy. Turn to back page for full story

TIMESLINE

Bad weather's a box office draw

OBAN's Phoenix cinema is enjoying the wet weather as families flock to the community-owned picture house. Showing a rise in seat sales for films such as 'In and Out' and 'Ant Man', the rain isn't dampening spirits. Cinema manager, Jennie Larney, said: 'In the last three years of operating we have seen some hot summers and hardly anyone comes into the cinema. So while everyone else is complaining about the rain, we are delighted.'

Vandals damage medieval shrine

VANDALISM to a medieval shrine on the island of Iona is being investigated by Police Scotland. The damage to a wooden hatch and spars in St Columba's Shrine, a small building to the left of the abbey's main entrance, happened between 11.45am and 2pm on Monday August 3.

Board's 'watching brief' increased

GOVERNANCE within NHS Highland will be changed after a scathing Public Audit Committee report on its lack of communication with its board members. The board has been given financial awareness training to 'raise the level of scrutiny' on the public body.

Islanders have a say on new Bill

ISLAY and Jura islanders were the first to be consulted about the Scottish Islands Bill. The legislation, due to go before parliament in 2017/18, would see more autonomy given to the isles.

CALMAC AND UNIONS SET FOR CRISIS TALKS AS 'BLACK HOLE' IS REVEALED IN OPERATOR'S PENSION FUND

£70M shortfall for scheme

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A LOOMING multi-million pound black hole in the CalMac pension scheme will see another round of crisis talks between the ferry operator and the unions. The *Oban Times* can reveal that serious discussions will get under way with unions after an independent audit forecast a £70 million shortfall in CalMac's 'gold chip' final salary pension scheme. The term of the pension scheme has moved from a ten-year funding arrangement to a six-year term under the new tender conditions issued by the Scottish Government on Monday. Publicly-funded CalMac and global private company, Serco, are the two bidders for the new Scottish Government six-year £1 billion contract to provide lifeline ferry services to Clyde and Hebridean ports from 2016.



“We will look after our people. That is what the pension scheme is there for”

Martin Dorchester (Pictured)

The unions have not ruled out another wave of industrial action to safeguard the existing final salary pension scheme for CalMac's 1400 workers. While jobs and the terms and conditions of crew were negoti-

ated between CalMac and the unions last month, pensions were not part of the discussion. The independent audit on the pensions scheme in 2012 revealed a shortfall of £32 million, but it was expected that it would be brought to a neutral position within 10 years. CalMac chief executive, Martin Dorchester, speaking exclusively to the *Oban Times*, said: 'There are still tough negotiations with the unions to take place over pensions. 'We have a good pension scheme and, in the future, it will be a good pension scheme, but in the intervening period there is no doubt things are tough. 'Issuing a six-year contract will mean we will need to alter our approach to the pension scheme. If we had, say a 10-15 year period, we would be able to get our scheme back to a cost-neutral position. 'As we have proven time and

again, we will look after our people. That is what the pension scheme is there for. We have an ageing staff profile and, while in six years the shortfall in the scheme will be high, in ten years we will be in a secure position. 'The pension scheme is fully funded by CalMac and is governed by the CMal (the parent company) Trustees Regulator.' Mr Dorchester explained the shortfall will mean that serious negotiations concerning the continuation of the current final salary scheme will have to take place as a matter of urgency. Mr Dorchester, who has been in post for three years, said of the recent strike: 'As far as I am concerned, it was the wrong thing to go on strike, because there are still negotiations to be had. CalMac might not be the future employer.' However, union representatives from both the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport

Workers (RMT) and The Transport Salaried Staffs' Association (TSSA) said they would mount a robust defence of the current scheme in negotiations with employers. RMT union organiser, Gordon Martin, said: 'Bidders now have to match the CalMac pension scheme and we have commitments of no compulsory redundancies or changes in conditions of service without union agreement. This is an unnecessary tender process and we will be upping the campaign to keep CalMac in the public sector.' A TSSA spokesman said that changes to the current CalMac scheme would be fought every step of the way. He said: 'People have the right to the pension scheme they have joined and are entitled to. 'Changes to the scheme are a personal attack on members and something we would be likely to go out on strike to maintain.'

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Politicians praise pupils as exam pass rates grow higher and higher

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PUPILS in Argyll have been praised for their academic achievement as tens of thousands of students across Scotland received their Higher exam results via text, email and post on Tuesday. Although specific figures were not confirmed at the time of going to press, Argyll and Bute's MP and MSP, Brendan O'Hara and Michael Russell, offered their congratulations to young people across the

region in a joint statement, saying: 'Congratulations to all our young people across Argyll and Bute for achieving a new high in this year's exams. 'Local attainment has gone up again this year, an indication that no matter how hard the task, pupils are keen to learn and keen to succeed. 'We are very proud of those who will build the future of Scotland. But even if some of them didn't achieve the grades they wanted, they musn't despair - they still have more chances ahead.'

This year, more than 1120 pupils across the region sat higher and advanced higher qualifications. Many pupils in the area also gained alternative certificates - including Scottish Vocational Qualifications' ASDAN'S (Award scheme development and accreditation network), Duke of Edinburgh, and Prince's Trust awards. Councillor Rory Colville, Argyll and Bute council's policy spokesman for education, said: 'I would offer my sincere congratulations to all of our

pupils on their achievements, and on the hard work they have put into exams during this year. In addition, I would like to recognise the support of staff in all our schools and the parents of our pupils who have encouraged their young people in all of their individual achievements. 'We will continue to build on the considerable work undertaken in session 2014/2015 to ensure continuing success for future groups of our young people participating in the new qualifications framework.'

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The Argyllshire Gathering
OBAN GAMES

Mossfield Park, Oban.
THURSDAY 27th AUGUST 2015

March to Games Field leaves Station Square at 10.30am

Oban High School Pipe Band 12pm from Station Square

HIGHLAND DANCING - TRACK & FIELD EVENTS

- TRADITIONAL HEAVY EVENTS - PIPING

Juvenile Exhibition Shinty (9.30am)

Birds of Prey - Artie's Tartan Tales

Tug O' War - Fun Races - Heritage Tent - Trade Stands & Food Stands

PREMIER PIPING COMPETITIONS AT VENUES ACROSS OBAN

WEDNESDAY 26TH AUGUST 2015

PIOBAIREACHD Gold Medal MacGregor Memorial Competition

Senior Piobaireachd LIGHT MUSIC: March, Strathspey & Reel (Former Winners)

Devastated by sudden deaths

TWO sudden deaths on Mull at the weekend saw the passing of two well-respected islanders.

Bert Leitch, a much-loved farmer, known for his hats, humour and unfailing support of farming and rural life on the island, and who had battled cancer in recent months, died on Friday evening.

As well as being a past regional chairman for Argyll and Islands NFU, he was a very active Scotland member for many years, holding several roles.

But it will be for Bert's real care of the land and the people on it that he will be remembered for most of all.

Keith Drake, who also died at the weekend, established the Tobermory Chocolate Company with his wife, Rhoda.

Between them, they turned it into one of the first professional chocolate shops in Scotland.

Full of fun, Keith had the ability to concoct some of the best chocolates sold throughout the islands.

He had been suffering from a long-term illness when he died, aged 60, over the weekend.

The funeral arrangements for both men have yet to be announced.

Weather hits Argyll hives

BEEKEEPERS in Argyll are reporting that colonies are on the verge of starvation because of the poor weather in July.

The risk is higher at this time of year as colonies are raising their brood and starvation can happen remarkably quickly.

A spokesman for the Scottish Beekeeping Association said: 'The forecast for the next week is not much better, so this is a gentle reminder to take action now.'

'In addition to emergency feeding of stocks with little reserves left, winter survival can be jeopardised if colonies go into winter too small or with insufficient young bees to take the colony through to spring.'

'Again feeding from now onwards, in advance of the usual September to early October main winter feed, can help by encouraging late brood rearing.'

'Little and often is the way to aid build-up and continued brood rearing. In most places there is still time to build small colonies for the winter.'

Awards for house designs

ARGYLL and Bute council has launched the sustainable design awards 2015, which recognise, celebrate and promote exceptional housing designs in the area. The awards are open to anyone, from community groups to developers. To enter go to www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sustainable-design-awards-2015

Raining on their parade doesn't deter Swedish youth orchestra

THE FOUL weather struck again in Oban and this time, it rained on the parade.

Vreta Kloster, a youth orchestra from Sweden, were playing in Oban as part of their Scottish tour.

But the players of the band were braced off on Tuesday as the wind and rain took its toll. Even their protective ponchos couldn't save them from the elements.

A young girl player found out the hard way as she tried to salvage her sheet music (see inset picture), from the downpour.

The orchestra of 30 people had only been in Oban for three hours but the weather didn't dampen their spirits.

One plucky member said: 'It's OK, we're from Sweden, -we're used to this.'



Coffee and a chat about old times

THE Oban Communities Trust (OCT), the organisation behind The Rockfield Centre, will be sharing stories from its oral history project tomorrow, Friday August 7, with a coffee morning at the centre huts from 10.30-12.30, writes Louise Glen.

Cori Princell, co-ordinator of the Heritage Lottery-funded project, said: 'The first stories have had some lovely similarities. We're hearing that children in the 40s and 50s enjoyed a lot of free-

dom in what was then a quieter and safer Oban.'

One such story is that of Nicholas MacLean who started at Rockfield School in 1946 and clearly remembers his first day, when the mothers dropped off their children to spend the whole day with their new teacher, Miss Rankin.

He said: 'The walls were covered with nursery rhymes and letters of the alphabet. 'It didn't seem very long before we were

able to read and write simple sentences. 'It was certainly within that first term of that first year ... I'm sure it was, because I was so pleased with my first achievement, "The cat sat on the Mat".

'And I was very pleased to be able to read and write, as I thought then, because I remember as an infant, adults spending time reading newspapers, just looking at what to me was a series of dots,

'I used to get annoyed because nobody was paying attention to me, they were all

looking at these big sheets of paper, and now I thought, now I can join them.'

Like others, Nick also remembers the sweets - Pan Drops, Rowntree's Fruit Gums, Fry's Chocolate Cream, Wrigley's chewing gum - which he'd purchase at Hannah's or another little shop in his neighbourhood.

Sweets were rationed until 1953, but Nick doesn't remember being asked for his ration card - and certainly didn't volunteer it.



DOUBLE JOY: Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society's secretary, Sharon Black (third from left) hands over a £200 cheque to Lindsay Elliott of Friends of Oban Community Playpark and another cheque of £200 to Gordon McNab of Oban Communities Trust 15_132cheque01

Six of the best: New Gaelic books in line to win top literary award

SIX new Gaelic books have been shortlisted for a top award.

The Gaelic Book of the Year will win the Donald Meek Award and financial support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig will enable the Gaelic Books Council to award additional literary prizes.

The prizewinners will be announced at a special reception in Edinburgh, on 27 August during the city's International Book Festival.

Rosemary Ward, director of the Gaelic Books Council said: 'We are delighted that the Donald Meek Award for Gaelic literature continues to grow and attract a high calibre of entries year on year.'

'We are extremely grateful to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for providing the necessary support to extend the range of literary prizes that recognises excellence in new Gaelic writing.'

'We are particularly pleased to see new Gaelic writers taking an interest in the competition and we wish everyone on the shortlist the very best of luck.'

'Prior to the announcement of the winners this year, the Gaelic Books Council will mark the literary contribution of Norman Campbell (Tormod a' Bhocsairst).

'Norman passed away in May and we will take this opportunity to acknowledge an exceptional writer who inspired Gaelic writers and delighted readers, young and old, for many years.'

The following six books have been shortlisted for the Donald Meek Gaelic Literature Award 2015: Ro Fhadan t-Suidheachadh Seo by Alasdair Campbell, An Raga by Stephanie Campbell, Air Chruaid by Roddy Gorman, Cho Snog 's a tha thu by Alison Lang, An Creanaiche by Roddy Maclean and A' Toirt Mo Chasan Leam by Maureen MacLeod.

Algae could be the fuel of the future

A SUSTAINABLE fuel could be the next source of oil for cars and engines.

Researchers at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) have unlocked a treasure chest of 'super-algae' that could provide a previously untapped supply of fuel.

Using a newly-devised technique, scientists examined micro-algae strains to find out which ocean-based strains had the highest oil content.

The results of the screening are likely to help bring forward research into algae as a source of biodiesel and other biofuels by a number of years.



Eye to eye with John Wallace

The value of children's vision

It feels as though summer has yet to begin and the shops are full of back to school offers. Considerable time has been spent on prime time television looking at the merits of the lowest price school uniforms. Queues formed well before opening time outside at least one local supermarket as mothers tried to clothe their offspring in low cost uniforms. Everywhere we look advertising is promoting low cost this or that. On the television last night were images of farmers buying up bottled milk in a major supermarket at a retail cost well below actual production cost. At no point was any mention made of the value of the goods or services provided. We have become a nation that knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.

My dog has been ill recently and has had to have specialist investigations and intensive treatment. The vets'

bills have run into several thousand pounds. Thankfully the dog is insured. It is only when you see an itemised bill listing all the procedures carried out and their associated costs that it is truly brought home ... health care is expensive. Not only are the drugs expensive but so is professional time. Failure to attend for an appointment is endemic throughout the NHS. The cost to the NHS of a missed appointment is well over £100. Yet patients persistently fail to attend for appointments. Their appointment is free so it has no perceived value.

In many ways the same can be said for our attitudes to children eye-care. It is free to the child yet parents seldom think about the importance of their child seeing well. The price for ignoring our children's eye-care can be very high. Poor performance at school and the failure to get a quality start in life!

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MULLlines

Clause withdrawn over cat calls on Tobermory

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A PROTRACTED legal battle over the use of the 'Tobermory Cat' name and images has ended as a happy tale.

Angus Stewart of Mull has run a Facebook page under the name of 'Tobermory Cat', which followed the adventures of a ginger moggie that roamed the nooks and crannies of Tobermory.

At the same time, Edinburgh publisher, Birlinn, produced a children's book under the same name - 'The Tobermory Cat'.

Since 2012, a court battle has been waged over who owned the name, but on Monday, the legal wrangling ended.

A joint statement by Angus Stewart and the publishers stated: 'Angus Stewart and Birlinn Limited wish to announce that they have resolved their dispute

over the right to use the name Tobermory Cat in creative works involving similar cat characters.

'A framework has now been agreed which allows both works to co-exist. The two parties now look forward to producing further creative works about the famous Tobermory Cat.'

Mr Stewart, who runs the Breadlabane Street studio, confirmed he has retained the use of his trademark 'Tobermory Cat'.



FELINE FINE: The Tobermory Cat can finally relax after a three-year legal battle is brought to an end



Alexander's in piping hot form

A YOUNGSTER from the island has won the Roger Jones memorial trophy for the best local piper at the Highland Games held on Mull last week.

A delighted Alexander Anderson, 16, was presented with

the trophy by Donald Seaward (pictured above), partner of the late Roger Jones.

It was quite a week for the young man after he won the Duke of Argyll trophy for piping at the Inveraray Highland Games.

Baby Eilidh's a real Oz-some cutie

A TINY TOT from down under won the top prize at the Lorn Show - making the 10,167 mile trip to rightfully claim to be the 'bonnie baby'.

Beautiful little Eilidh Anne McGill, aged one, on her second trip to Oban to visit her family, took the crown at the annual event held at Tralee Bay.

Very proud auntie, Claire McGill, contacted the *Oban Times* to share in her family's joy at the wee one's success.

Claire said: 'This was extremely special as she heads home back to Brisbane, Australia on Monday. She just turned one on August 14 and she celebrated this in Oban with her Scottish family.'

'Her dad, Greg McGill, an ex Lorne rugby player, came home to Oban to get married on July 17.'

The happy family came into the *Oban Times* office before heading back to Australia on the evening flight to Hong Kong.



BONNIE BABY: mum Eilish Anne, dad Greg McGill and auntie Claire McGill with baby Eilidh Anne

And woman with Oban ties is design wizard of Oz

AN OBAN family was celebrating this week after their relative was appointed to one of the most prestigious posts in Australian architecture.

Following in the footsteps of legendary Mull man, Lachlan Macquarie, who earned the sobriquet 'the father of Australia', Scots-born Kirsteen Mackay was given the job of State Architect for South Australia, one of the most senior design posts in the Australian government.

She was the former head of design review at the UK's Commission for Architecture and Built Environment.

Kirsteen is related to Oban councillor, Duncan MacIntyre, who said he is delighted with the news: 'Kirsteen's grandparents were Bill and Elsie Mackay, formerly of the Atholl hotel, Oban, and John and Ann Mushet nee Gillespie, Colum-



ba hotel, Oban. Her parents Dr Kenneth and Veronica Mackay were both born in Oban, but now live in Limekilns in Fife. Her appointment was announced by South Australia's acting premier John Rau, who said: 'Ms Mackay has played a pivotal role in shaping Adelaide's design review programme, and will bring her strong design expertise to the forefront of major projects in the city and across the state.'

Shellfish industry suffers as quality produce rots in standstill lorries

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THE WEST Coast fishing industry is reeling from the shock waves of the crisis at Calais, which is costing it millions of pounds in lost revenue. Thousands of migrant workers have been laying siege to the ferry terminal at the French seaport in a desperate bid to board lorries travelling to the UK.

Tailbacks of lorries at Dover waiting to cross the channel has now turned miles of Kent into an extended lorry park.

This has proved disastrous for the West Coast seafood and shellfish industry as millions of pounds worth of perishable produce is now being spoiled before it reaches high-paying European customers in France, Italy and Spain.

Possible alternative routes or modes of transport will be discussed by key figures from the seafood, fishing and transport sectors.

Scottish seafood exports to Europe are reckoned to be worth more than £450 million a year.

Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, has said the situation at the French port is costing businesses millions of pounds a week.

Richard Lochhead, the Scottish government's fisheries secretary, said Scottish seafood producers were being disproportionately affected by the disruption caused by the mayhem at Calais.

He said: 'The situation in Calais is clearly complex and requires a multi-agency response involving both the UK government and the French authorities.'

'The Scottish government continues to urge the UK government to play its part in a co-ordinated comprehensive EU plan of action to deal with the migrant crisis.'

'We also need action to address the immediate issue around getting vehicles and exports moving again.'

Barcaldine firm in new partnership with Far East uni

BARCALDINE-based Sustainable Project Partners Limited (SPP) was one of several companies accompanying the First Minister on a mission to Hong Kong.

Nicola Sturgeon was visiting the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park last Thursday.

The mission, which was supported by Scottish Enterprise also saw the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Barcaldine company and Hong Kong Polytechnic University to work in the recycling of waste biomass.

Dr Bob Irving, CEO of SPP, said: 'I was excited by the prospects of collaborating with PolyU and the potential benefits to both Scotland and Hong Kong from the expected innovations in technology for converting waste to bio energy in a sustainable and environmentally sensitive manner.'

Phone number in toilets led to man sending explicit texts to teenager

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AN OBAN man has pleaded guilty to sending 143 explicit text messages to a teenage boy.

Appearing before Sheriff Ruth Anderson, QC, on Tuesday, Brian John MacLennan, 47, whose address was given as Barranrioch Farm, Glencruitten, admitted sending explicit text messages to a boy aged 15.

Oban sheriff court heard that on August 11 of last year, the teenager, who was holidaying in Oban at the time with his father and brother, obtained a phone number from graffiti on a wall in the gents toilets of a supermarket in the town.

There was a suggestion by whoever left the message that if anyone was looking for a sexual relationship, they should contact the phone number scribbled on

the wall. Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court: 'It is fair to say the instigation was by the boy who was texting the accused, with questions including, "Are you into guys?" and "Are you gay?"'

The accused was said to have responded graphically, asking the 15-year-old boy, "What are you into?", with the boy then replying, "Would you have sex with me if I asked?"

Over the course of 14 hours between August 11 and 12, Oban sheriff court was told the accused sent 143 messages, which became more graphic and explicit, with a similar number sent in reply by the boy.

When asked by procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty if she wanted to hear an example of the more explicit texts, Sheriff Anderson said she could 'anticipate what they would be like in nature, and

It is a matter of fact that the complainer was not 16 and the accused knew this from the outset

Sheriff Ruth Anderson

there was no need for the court to hear them.'

Eventually the boy's father and brother noticed he seemed 'somewhat distracted'.

The teenager's older brother snatched the phone and read the texts, alerting his father to the messages.

The boy's father then phoned the number, and when the accused answered, he said, 'Hello, who's this?'

The man identified himself as the boy's father, to which the accused immediately hung up the phone.

The police were then contacted and the boy was interviewed where he gave an account of his contact with the accused.

On his arrest, the accused was interviewed where he admitted he had been sending text messages to the boy and that he knew he was only 15. MacLennan tried

to suggest it was part of 'a big wind-up'.

However, this explanation was not accepted by the Crown in his initial plea.

Sheriff Anderson told MacLennan: 'It is a matter of fact that the complainer (the teenage boy) was not 16 and the accused knew this from the outset.'

Sheriff Anderson noted that the offence went no further than the sending of the text messages.

And she accepted MacLennan's not guilty plea to the charge of making arrangements with the intention of meeting the boy.

Before passing sentence, which is scheduled to take place in September, Sheriff Anderson called for a criminal justice social work report to be carried out on MacLennan.

In the interim, MacLennan was placed on the sex offenders' register.

A folly not to provide information

TOURISTS to Oban's iconic McCaig's tower are being kept in the dark about its rich past.

That's the verdict of two Highlands and Islands MSPs, who have followed in the footsteps of Oban resident, Julie Cameron, who wants tourists to be able to read about the fascinating story of the tower, but there are no information panels on display there.

Highlands MSP Rhoda Grant says the marketing of the tower

has so far been a missed opportunity.

Ms Grant said: 'McCaig's tower is one of the iconic features in Oban and many visitors to the town now make the short journey up to the tower to see the views and look at the structure.'

'However, I have heard from a number of constituents that a common complaint is the lack of signage and tourist information about the tower.'

'Visit Scotland and the local council should work together to ensure that there is better signage and information available at the site.'

'I have heard many suggestions for improvements such as displays documenting the history of the site, to providing more information about the construction of the folly and about the incredible panoramic views over Oban and out towards the islands.'

MSP Mike Mackenzie echoed Ms Grant's call, saying more can be done to boost Argyll's tourism industry. The Highlands and Islands MSP said: 'Argyll is dripping with heritage. As the only part of the Highlands and Islands losing population, Argyll badly needs to boost its economy.'

The tower was built in 1897 by banker, John Stuart McCaig, as a lasting monument to the McCaig family.

Quality score holds key to ferry tender

THE long awaited tender document for the £1 billion contract to run the Clyde and Hebrides ferry services was published on Monday.

Unions have signalled their delight at the high value the Scottish government has placed on the quality of the service. This, they believe, may reduce the profits to be made from the service, thus making it less attractive to a private sector bidder.

A copy of the Initial Invitation To Tender (ITT) was issued to both bidders, CalMac Ferries Ltd and Serco Caledonian Ferries Limited last Friday, July 31. Both operators have to submit their final bids by December 2015, as the Scottish government wants to award the contract by May 2016.

The tender criteria will be scored on the basis of 65 per cent on cost and 35 per cent on quality of service. Unions hope this may put off the private sector bidder, Serco, because profit thresholds would be reduced on the service.

Holyrood minister for transport and islands, Derek Mackay MSP, said: 'We have promised to make this procurement process fair, open and transparent, so we are publishing the Initial ITT document to honour that pledge.'

'We will have an interim version of the ITT document in the Autumn before we issue the final version in December 2015.'

'We are in the process of appointing an independent Procurement Reference Panel, which will review both the Initial ITT and Interim ITT in order to provide assurance that nothing is being done in the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry services procurement that could be perceived as discriminating against either of the tenders.'

'It is also important to reiterate that Scottish Ministers will retain control of all of important issues, such as fares and timetables, through the public service contract. Vessels and port infrastructure will also remain publicly owned as they are now. I'm well aware of the vital role these ferry services play in enabling continued and sustainable economic growth for the islands.'

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GREEN DEVELOPER SLAMMED BY LOCAL POLITICIAN OVER SECTION OF WIND TURBINE LEFT ON COLL BEACH

Show some respect, says islands councillor

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

AN ISLAND councillor has condemned the actions of a businessman who has left a piece of wind turbine on a Coll beach.

A large piece of the turbine has been deposited on the island's Gallanach beach since the beginning of July.

Mary-Jean Devon, Councillor for Oban South and the Isles, said the actions of Neil Smith, director of a Gallanach Green Generation Limited, have shown a 'complete lack of respect' for his fellow islanders.

Mr Smith was granted permission to erect a 77-metre tall wind turbine at Gallanach farm following a public hearing in October 2012.

Progress stalled after an appeal to allow machinery and equipment to be taken to the site via Coll's unsuitable single-track roads was rejected last



BLOWING UP A STORM: the section of turbine on Gallanach Beach and (above) councillor Devon



year by Argyll and Bute council. In May, Coll residents described their 'disbelief' as Mr Smith then brought equipment onto the island via barges, and began channelling a route through the rocks to the turbine site, without permission. It has now also been confirmed that, as well as the unauthorised

works in May, Mr Smith has changed the age, model and size of the turbine without prior consultation with the council. There is also no permanent access route for maintaining the turbine, given that the channelling through the rock face was classed as a temporary measure. Councillor Devon, who lives

on Mull, said: 'Mr Smith has absolutely no regard for the island, no respect for Argyll and Bute council's planners and no respect for the people of Coll, and that greatly disappoints me. I would also like to clarify that this has absolutely nothing to do with wind turbines. I have personally put through

amendments for planning permission for turbines, including this one in 2012, and I'm fully aware of the benefits they can have for these small communities.'

An Argyll and Bute council spokesman described Mr Smith's behaviour as 'disappointing', but said the construction of a different model of turbine was a 'minor change'.

He said: 'We understand that the beach area is being used to store the tower until such time as the weather conditions allow an additional barge with a crane to move it onto the access road.'

'The landing of components and materials, the creation of storage areas and the construction of temporary roads are permitted developments and, as such, do not require planning permission.'

'Disappointingly, the developer has carried out works in an area outwith the original planning consent in order to

gain access to the turbine site.

'After we became aware of these unauthorised works we took all reasonable steps to compel the developer to follow the correct procedures. The developer has also submitted a traffic management plan which we are currently examining. This will be reported to the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing (PPSL) Committee at its August meeting.'

'The developer has submitted fresh planning applications for the area of works outwith the original planning consent. We will consider these applications on their own merits, in the context of our local development plan. We are currently considering a request to vary the turbine model to a 600kw Vestas V44 with a hub height of 53m.'

'We are now working to ensure this project progresses in the most appropriate manner.'

Mr Smith declined to make a comment.

Child care cover increased

THERE are increased opportunities for childminders in Argyll and free childcare has been extended to two-year-olds from households in receipt of state benefits.

Argyll and Bute council is reminding parents to apply to take up a place for their child.

And it is also asking childminders to take the opportunity to extend their service as well as encouraging individuals to consider becoming a childminder.

There are opportunities across Argyll and Bute for registered

childminders who have at least one year's experience and who have undertaken their first inspection and received a grade of good or above.

There are also prospects for school leavers and people returning to work who may be interested in embarking on a career in childminding.

Argyll and Bute Council might be able to offer start-up grants of up to £500 to prospective childminders as a way of enabling them to embark on a new career. The Scottish Government

announced on July 20 that the entitlement to 600 hours of paid for early learning and childcare each year has been further extended to two-year-olds from low income households.

It has come into effect from this month, in addition to the existing entitlement for all three- and four-year-old children.

For more information on how to apply for the additional support, people are advised to contact Argyll and Bute council's Early Years' service at earlyyears@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

An educational sea change for children



David Duffy, site manager from Scottish Sea Farms, visits a beach school at Dunstaffnage recently with pupils from Achaleven primary school and Janie Steele, beach school project worker. The company has just donated £5,000 to the beach school project, where children learn about their natural environment



MS MOTIVATOR: Dr Kirsty Crocket outside SAMS campus at Dunstaffnage, near Oban

Kirsty's a real class act

'MOTIVATED' students at the University of the Highlands and Islands have helped a marine scientist become an award-winning teacher.

Dr Kirsty Crocket, from the Oban-based Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), won the best assessment feedback award

in this year's University of the Highlands and Islands Teaching Awards.

The prize is awarded to the lecturer who receives the best feedback from students and Dr Crocket, who has only been teaching for two years, was praised for 'setting a marker for other lecturers to follow'.

Dr Crocket, who previously worked at Imperial College, London, said: 'This is my first position as a lecturer and I am really enjoying it.'

'I teach a fourth year module, so by the time the students come to me they are really highly motivated to do well.'

House prices in modest fall

THE average house price in Argyll and Bute fell by 1.6 per cent in the first quarter of the new financial year, according to figures released this week.

The house price survey, carried out quarterly by the Registers of Scotland, found that the average price of a residential property in the area between April and June 2015 was £153,629, compared with £156,066 for 2014.

Argyll and Bute was one of ten local authority areas in Scotland where house values fell in comparison to the same quarter last year.

The total volume of residential property sales in Argyll and Bute also showed a decline in comparison to the same time last year, of 4.2 per cent, while the total value of sales in the council area fell by 5.7 per cent, to £55,767,146.

The statistics cover all residential sales, including those not involving a mortgage.

Youth worker calls for park

AN OBAN youth worker has called on the authorities to build a dedicated facility for young BMX bikers and skateboarders in Oban.

Kevin Irvine, 27, organised and chaired a meeting last week at Oban Youth Cafe, after young people had been the subject of a public backlash for using the newly refurbished pedestrianised area of Stafford Street as a bike and skateboarding park.

Kevin, who has been a youth worker for five years, said: 'The support from the public has been fantastic; I've been inundated with messages of support from the community as a whole.'

Councillors Iain S Maclean and Iain Angus MacDonald have said they will support the cause after the council recess.

To get involved, email Kevin at: k.irvineyouth2012@gmail.com.

Group to lead broadband bid

EIGHT areas in the West Highlands and islands have joined forces to tackle poor broadband service.

Led by the Mull and Iona Community Trust, they include Colonsay, Mull, Iona, Jura, Lismore, Islay, Luìng and Craignish.

The areas have teamed up with Community Broadband Scotland (CBS) to form community-owned GigaPlus Argyll, which will deliver speeds up to 50Mbps in areas where people are struggling.

CBS, a Scottish government project delivered by the Highlands and Islands Enterprise, has worked with GigaPlus Argyll through the tender process and approved funding of £988,000 to support the rollout of the community-owned wireless network which will bring access to more than 1,400 homes and businesses.

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Hugh Smith's letter from ISLAY

People of all faiths will gather at one of the finest monuments in western Europe

An historic crossroads

Worshippers will participate in an ecumenical open air service at the foot of the Kildalton Cross on Sunday August 16, beginning at 3pm.

The Kildalton Cross, situated in the parish of the same name, dates from the second part of the 8th century and is widely regarded as the finest surviving cross of its type in Scotland and the most perfect monument of its date to survive in western Europe.

It stands in the grounds of the former parish church of Kildalton (CillDaltain), the Church of the Foster Son, a title generally thought to refer to St John the Evangelist.

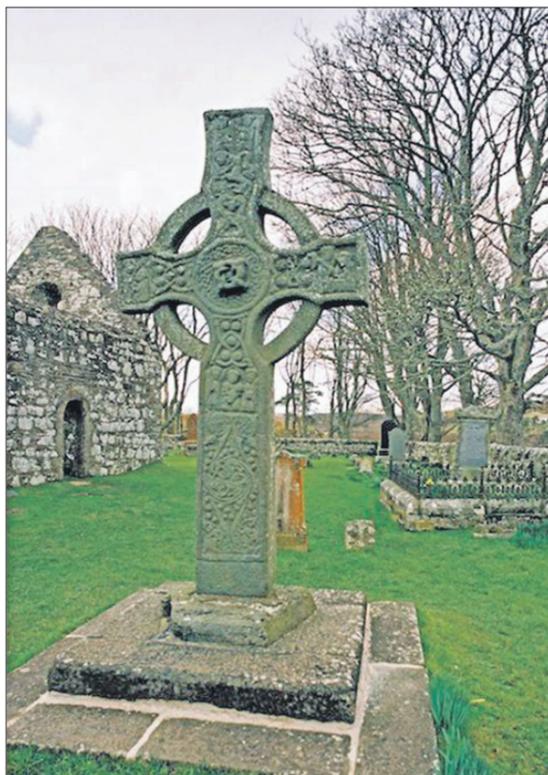
The parish itself is of medieval origin and early records suggest that it dates from around 1425AD.

The church building is certainly older, probably dating from the late 12th into the early 13th century and is likely to have been established during the tenure of the Lords of the Isles.

Following the Reformation, Kildalton church was used to serve a parish which stretched from McArthur's Head to the Mull of Oa peninsula in the south.

The drift of population towards the Ardbeg district saw the gradual discontinuation of worship at Kildalton as did the eventual formation of a new place of worship at Lagavulin.

The chapel and cross, now under the care of Historic Scotland, continues to be one of the island's main tourist attraction and visitors continue to enjoy their visits to a site of scenic beauty, enhanced by historic and spiritual significance.



SYMBOL OF UNITY: Kildalton Cross

Some like it hot

Organisers are putting the finishing touches to the Lagavulin Islay Jazz festival which runs from September 11-13.

The increasingly popular festival, now in its 17th year, attracts some of the top names in the jazz world.

Among the headline acts will be saxophonist, bass-clarinetist and balladeer, Courtney Pine, who will be appearing alongside pianist, Zoe Rahman.

Also weaving their keyboard magic will be pianists, Enrico Zanisi and Fergus McCreddie, while their fellow ivory tickler, Euan Stevenson, will be among the line-up paying tribute to jazz icon, Chet Baker.

Local favourite, Mario Caribe, pays a return visit and there will be further input from saxophonist, Konrad Wisznieski. And there will be contributions from the Gus Stirrat band, the Jim Mullen Trio and the grassroots combo, 95 Roots, featuring local cool cats such as Ellie MacGregor, Clare Jordan, Dunstan Gallery and Brian Palmer.

Beach mission

During this week, children from the island have enjoyed attending and participating in the activities at the beach mission at Port Ellen which was organised by the Scripture Union and led by team leaders, Sue and Calum MacFarlane.

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

ANGER FILLS PACKED MULL HALL OVER HIGH-HANDED APPROACH AND THE OUSTING OF TWO RESPECTED DIRECTORS

Sack the board and give us back our culture

LOUISE GLEN
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AN OVERWHELMING vote of 'no confidence' in a publicly-funded island arts body has led to calls for the sacking of its entire board of directors.

Frustrated Mull residents turned out in their hundreds to the Aros Hall on Monday night to call for the arts organisation, Comar, set up to promote the work of music and art space, An Tobar and Mull Theatre, to be disbanded and its board members to stand down 'immediately'.

'Umbrella' charity Comar was formed in 2013 and three directors were appointed to manage the artistic output of the organisation.

In February, the directors of the Comar board - who all live on the mainland - decided they had to cut costs and could only afford to employ one director.

Interviews were offered to all three artistic directors, but last week, both music entrepreneur, Gordon MacLean, and Alasdair McCrone - a director and established theatre promoter - were 'let go' while the other director, Sion Parkinson, the only one appointed by the Comar board, was given a permanent contract.

This led to Monday night's motion of 'no confidence' and a call for the reinstatement of the two sacked directors.

More than 250 people at the meeting told art-funding organ-



OUSTED: Gordon MacLean

“What we have here is the response to two guys who are the embodiment and guardians of our heritage and culture. And they have been sacked”

Duncan Swinbanks



OUSTED: Alasdair McCrone

isation, Creative Scotland, and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), who fund Comar, they had got it wrong and should never have 'squandered' cash on the organisation.

The standing-room only event held from islander after islander who said the grant-funded body had shown 'utter disregard' for the island and its own arts and culture.

Linda Devlin from Mull said:

'There is no theatre this summer, and no music, but we do have an art show entitled "Varicose Veins".'

'I doubt that is appealing to the tourists or us. All I need to do is look at my own legs. There is no longer anything from Mull - or Mull and Iona artists in Comar,' she added.

'My message for the funders is this,' said business owner and community volunteer, Duncan

Swinbanks, 'If this had been about something not working we would have had a handful of people here.'

'What we have here is the response to two guys who are the embodiment and guardians of our heritage and culture. And they have been sacked.'

More than thirty people spoke to say they were also frustrated by a lack of communication, off-island company directors, a lack of

transparency over funding and 'a non-existent' events programme for the summer season.

More than 250 people in Tobermory endorsed the setting up of a shadow board to bring back An Tobar and Mull Little Theatre into the hands of the community. HIE's head of strengthening communities, Kerri Grant, was called 'patronising' when she tried to explain they wanted to bring wider culture to the island.

Ms Grant said: 'What you are telling us is that you want this to work for Mull.'

'We are looking to fund something that is a growth-builder for more than just Mull. We are having to look at what we are able to fund.'

Creative Scotland's deputy director, Iain Munro, was held to account by the meeting for funding an organisation whose only members were those sitting on the board and making decisions - none of whom live or work on the island.

He said he would go back to his colleagues and discuss the 'very interesting' situation on the island.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, who was praised for her chairing of the meeting, said: 'We asked every single board member of Comar, and all your funders here tonight - and we still do not have the answers we were looking for. We gave Comar two of our most cherished community groups and you have done everything in secret.'

'We are not Teuchters who should be kept in the dark. We are intelligent people who want answers.'

Creative Scotland, who fund the organisation to the tune of almost £500,000, said they would discuss matters next week.

The meeting finished with the impromptu singing of A t-eilean Muileach - the anthem for the Isle of Mull.

TIMESLINE

Huge gates stolen from forestry land

POLICE are looking for criminals who stole two 14-foot galvanised steel gates from Forestry Commission Scotland land at Dalavich between July 24 and 27.

The heavy gates had been removed from their location at the bottom of a track and it is likely that more than one person would have been involved in the theft.

A large vehicle would also have been required to transport the gates from the scene of the crime.

Officers are not ruling out that the theft of a five litre container of oil and some batteries in the same area on July 25 may also be connected.

Anyone with information should call PC Alison Wilson on 101.

Woman accused of police attack

A FIGHT in Wetherspoons pub in Oban on Sunday night, saw a 50-year-old woman and a 22-year-old man end up in the custody of the police.

The two accused, both from Glasgow, were charged with offences under the Licensing Scotland Act, while the woman was also charged with assaulting a police officer.

A report has been made to the procurator fiscal.

Harmless psychic prank ends in violent altercation

STEVEN RAE
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A DRUNK Oban man who reacted violently when a 'psychic prank' was played on him, has been fined £600 for assaulting three men.

In an unusual case, Oban sheriff court heard on Tuesday that Ian Paul Macara, 33, of Croft Road in the town, arrived uninvited at an address in Lorn Avenue on January 29 this year.

Three men were inside the house, drinking and playing computer games when they heard a knock at the door. The court heard that one of the men 'vaguely' knew Macara and invited him into the flat.

The men then began to joke to the accused that one of them was psychic, relaying personal information to Mr Macara, which had in fact been obtained from Facebook.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGin-

ty said that while, for all intents and purposes, it was intended as a joke, the accused acted angrily, and punched one man on the face, who was sitting on the settee next to him. The injured man then ran from the flat.

Another man remonstrated with the accused, with Macara swinging punches at him. He also ran from the flat.

The third resident was then punched, kneed and kicked in the head, while he lay 'curled

up into a ball' as Macara rained blows down on him, before he left the property.

The third man phoned the police who arrived at the scene quickly, with two of the complainants outside the property in a state of distress and worried for their friend who they believed was inside 'being attacked'.

Police then saw the accused leave the block of flats with grazed knuckles and in a drunken state. They arrested him.

The court heard one of the victims was left with swelling around his eye and another had swelling to the side of his face and a cut to his head.

Laura MacManus, defending, said it was 'out of sorts' for her client to be so drunk.

She told the court: 'He receives drug and alcohol testing when working and he has addressed his use of alcohol outside of work.'

'He arrived at the wrong flat and was allowed entry and felt

he was taken advantage of and wound up.'

However, Sheriff Ruth Anderson, QC, noted that he had previously been charged with drink driving, and that his level of intoxication had meant he ended up at the door of an address for no reason, in the company of people he didn't know, and acted completely inappropriately, turning the situation into a physical altercation.

Sheriff Anderson also men-

tioned that, despite initially being meant as a prank, the case showed the danger of personal details being held on social media sites such as Facebook.

Sentencing Macara, she heard that while currently unemployed, he was waiting on a visa application for an offshore mechanical supervisor's job, where he expected to earn £5000 a month after tax. He was fined £900, reduced to £600 due to his early plea, to be paid by October 4.

TIMESLINE

Man in court over Benderloch thefts

OBAN police believe they have made a major breakthrough in solving a spate of thefts and house break-ins in the Benderloch area.

While the crimes were committed as far back as December last year, a man was brought before the court this week charged with the offences.

In December, the first of two thefts took place at the Victory Hall before a break-in at The Famous 'Pink' convenience store in Benderloch.

The arrest was made following an investigation by the Community Investigation Unit (CIU), based in Oban, and by forensic examination of the evidence.

Police sergeant Alan Moore said: 'We have a good track record in solving crime in this area. This arrest proves, when we have the evidence, we will bring these suspects before the court.'

'We take house theft very seriously and we use all resources available to us to tackle this crime.'

'A man has been arrested and charged with all the offences in the Benderloch area.'

Bigger wards puts councillors at risk

THE NUMBER of councillors for Argyll and Bute will drop by three to a total of 33.

The decrease would see one less councillor in the Oban North and Lorn ward, while increasing the number of councillors in Dunoon by one.

Argyll and Bute council's submission to the Boundary Commission said: 'The authority is not designated as an island council but has the characteristics of one.'

They continued in a further submission, saying: 'The council believes very strongly there will be much outcry and concern, when you consult on this later this summer.'

The local authority argued that some councillors would be at risk during the winter as they would have to travel greater distances because of the increased size of wards.

Sheriff issues jail threat

COURT REPORTER
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A MULL man has been told he could end up in jail if he continues to harass his elderly mother who suffers from dementia.

Callum MacDougall, 48, was arrested on June 25 outside his 84-year-old mother house at Fountainhead on the island.

Oban sheriff court heard on Tuesday that it was the third time MacDougall had been arrested for using threatening and abusive language towards his elderly mother.

Defence lawyer, Laura McManus, said MacDougall, who lives nearby at Ardmeanoch View, often visited his mother when sober and was 'helpful and caring'.

She said: 'He finds it difficult to cope with his mother's mental deterioration, and when drunk on the date in question, acted in an inappropriate manner.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson, QC, replied: 'I can't quite understand the connection, I'm afraid.'

'Yes, if you are feeling a bit down you might pour yourself a couple of 'large ones', but why that would make you want to shout and swear at your elderly, vulnerable mother, I just don't see the link.'

'I note that there have been similar complaints against you in 2011 and 2014, and again it was your mother who was the complainer.'

At a previous hearing in July, Sheriff Colin McKay had said it was clear Mr MacDougall had a 'serious issue with alcohol'.

MacDougall had since attended addiction treatment in Oban and had been progressing well.

He was banned from visiting Mull when he appeared at Oban sheriff court on July 8, the only exception being when carrying out his duties as a

delivery driver. He has been living in a guest house in Oban since that date.

Sheriff Anderson deferred sentence until December 8 and lifted the restrictions on MacDougall visiting the island and his mother.

She said: 'You are released from the conditions of your bail order, but I am warning you now, any repetition of the abusive and horrible behaviour towards your elderly mother and I won't hesitate to consider custody.'

'The court will have to take a look at sending you to prison. I understand you are the only child of your family left on the island, and you may find that difficult, but your mother is visited four times a day by carers so there are no physical demands on you as such.'

'At 84, your mother may not have much longer left, so it is now up to you to make up to her for what has happened.'



HOUSE PROUD: Holyrood housing minister, Margaret Burgess, with Councillor Currie and Morven Taylor from Bowmore primary school

Key moment for islanders

A NEW development has been welcomed by islanders hard pressed to find affordable homes.

Twenty new homes have just been built at Sealladh na Mara, Bowmore, Islay, by Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA). The 20 properties include 10 one-bed and 10 two-bed homes.

The total cost of the homes was £3,084,922, with contributions from the Scottish government, ACHA, Argyll and Bute council and Scottish Water.

The development is the first part of Project Shoreline involving ACHA, Holyrood, the council and Islay Estates.

Its ultimate objective is to provide 200 new homes for Bowmore. ACHA has a waiting list of 144 for homes-to rent

on Islay. Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'This is a proud day for us. We have built 20 new homes on Islay. The island is a growing success story for Argyll with a vibrant tourism, agriculture and whisky sector.'

'However, we need homes to support this developing economy and this development will deliver that.'

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Mull

CONSTABLES Davie Turner and Andy Crawford from Police Scotland teamed up with partners from RSPB and the Forestry Commission recently as White Tailed Eagle Chicks were ringed at a secret location on Mull. The agencies who form part of the successful Mull Eagle Watch Group were able to check on the success of this year's breeding pairs, to share information and experiences, helping ensure the birds are well protected. Constable Crawford, the wildlife crime officer for Argyll and West Dunbartonshire, based at Helensburgh, said: 'This was a fantastic opportunity to see these magnificent birds with my own eyes, and I wasn't disappointed, they are huge yet graceful and the pair put on a great display for us while we were in the area. 'Having seen these great birds first hand helps me understand why they are so important to Mull and Scotland. They are iconic figures which must be respected and protected so that more of us can enjoy them.' All wild birds, nests and eggs are protected in Scotland.

Arisaig

ARISAIG'S land sea, and islands centre is open for visitors again following a major renovation. The historical building will now cost the Arisaig community trust, thousands less each year in heating bills as eco-friendly materials have been built in to keep out draughts. A recent air-tightness test on the centre showed draughts in the building have reduced by 91 per cent since the work was completed. Hugh Cameron, chairman of the trust, said: 'This is the start of a new greener era for the Arisaig community. The refurbishment of this well-known information and heritage centre will provide much needed warmth in what was an extremely cold and draughty building and, by reducing the bills and the carbon dioxide emissions of course, it will be a much more cost-effective way of running this community owned building.'

Killin

THE Killin Highland Games will not take place next month, due to ground works to the event's venue. This year's games, organised for August 5, have been cancelled due to ongoing improvements to Breadalbane Park, where the games have been held for the last 23 years. The event, which annually attracts thousands of visitors, will now return next year. Charlie Grant, one of the event organisers, said: 'Our venue has undergone refurbishment and welcomed improvements. However, the ground needs time to dry out before it can take a volume of visitors and, unfortunately, this cannot take place before August 5. 'We are therefore very sorry that this year's games cannot go ahead, but look forward to seeing everyone in 2016.' Next year's games are to be held on Wednesday August 3.

Lewis

A COMMUNITY buy-out could see a former Cold War surveillance station on Lewis turned into a place to listen to the sound of whales singing. Locals at Gallan Head were expected to vote in favour of the plan yesterday (Wednesday) at a public meeting. The radio and radar station, set up at Aird Uig 60 years ago, was used as an early warning system against Soviet submarines and aircraft by NATO. It is now hoped a hydrophone could be placed in the sea to pick up the sound of the whales, now the Ministry of Defence has no further use for the derelict, cliff-top buildings.

Plockton

PLOCKTON Regatta fortnight started last Monday, with races held on Friday July 24 and Saturday July 25 in preparation of the 82nd annual event. Three races were held, with local sailor, Michael Hay, winning all three, and receiving the Duirnish Tankard. In second place was Graham Sharp and third was Douglas Hamilton. There are 11 local boats expected to sail over the fortnight, which concludes on August 8.

Canna

ISLANDERS on Canna welcomed an American band to perform earlier this month. The Fiddle Footed Cummings Family of Seattle put on a concert at the community's square. The family of four musicians played the fiddle, guitar and sang to a crowd on July 10. On Isle of Canna's community Facebook page, one local said a special thanks to the band: 'It was a wonderful evening of traditional song, dance and good company. Let's have more of them.'



AND THEY'RE OFF: racing towards the tape at Bowmore sports day

Sun shines on village sports day

THE ORGANISERS of Bowmore sports day, held at the Bowmore playing field on July 18, were delighted that the sun shone on their efforts and that the torrential rain and gale force winds of the previous evening gave way to blue skies and warm breezes. The day began with the sports parade which was led by a group of local pipers and

Bowmore

headed by the sports queen, Elise Proctor, accompanied by sports princess, Aimee Stewart. The event was officially opened by island GP, Dr Catriona Davis, and the children's events and races were well patronised as were the activities

featuring inflatables, Highland dancing and dog management displays provided further interests as did trade stalls and charity outlets. The bucking bronco was another highlight with Breagh Woodrow hanging on like grim death in the junior class while Louis Baker did likewise in the senior competition. In the adult section, Mairi MacArthur and Josh Pritchard ran like hares while, among others, Ian Bell, Alasdair Porter and Jamie MacFarlane, displayed muscle and grit in the heavy events. The organisers are indebted to everyone who supported the sports day. Monthly fundraising bingo sessions resume in Bowmore hall on August 29 at 7pm.



PRETTY IN PINK: Caitlin MacColl shows off the face painting talents of Marcia McDonald, who raised £53 for sports day funds



ARM IN ARM: youngsters enjoyed a three-armed race, instead of a three-legged race

Lismore

NOT EVEN torrential rain on Saturday July 25 could keep the Lismore sports and raft race from getting off to a blazing start. Eight rafts competed at Salen Bay this year and the competition was stiff. Strap On won the adult's race, cruising in at first place to beat 13-man behemoth, Rumble. The Relief of Lismore sailed gracefully into last place, blaming an electrical fault. The prize for the best design went to Little Black Dress and the best named adults raft was Blood, Sweat and Beers. The children's race was won by Loch Bent Ramp from the MacDonald clan, which also won best design, and the best named raft was Mr Speedy. The afternoon heated up as the field and heavy events got under way. The overall winners of the day in the adult class were Robbie Cook and Leanne Beattie, and proving that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, Robbie's children Fionn and Katie Cook were the overall winners in their classes, with Calum MacNamara coming in to tie with Katie for points. The Jubilee Trophy for the most points overall by either the North or South end of the island was won this year by the North. All of this was just a warm-up for the main event - the North/South tug of war. Both sides performed like champions, but the winners, once again, were both the men and women from the South, led by Iris MacColl. The children's tug of war was won by the North, so the South seniors may have their work cut out for future years. The committee would like to thank everyone who had a hand in organising a great day.

Scarecrows blaze a trail for fun



CHILL OUT: Scarecrow, Betty at the Jetty, a new resident of Shore House, relaxes with an Irm Bru

NEITHER disappointing summer weather or ravenous midgies could put off the Ross of Mull's newest scarecrow residents from spending their time in the garden of Shore House, Fionnphort. The two hardy sunworshippers - 'Betty at the Jetty' and her partner, 'Hugh on the Loo' - are the first scarecrows to be set up in place as entries in a scarecrow trail stretching from Pennyghael to Iona. This trail, which promises to have more than 40 scarecrows, is one of the events as part of a fortnight of activities to be held in the Ross of Mull and Iona, which started on Friday July 24 with a float parade in Fionnphort. Throughout the fortnight, which

concludes with the Bunessan Show Dance on Friday August 7, there will be many activities on offer for locals and tourists including art and craft workshops for children, ranger-led wildlife walks, poetry, open gardens, art exhibition, a dingy race, a five-a-side football competition, a producers' market, pub quiz, barbecues and more. A schedule of events has been produced and is on sale in local shops and businesses. The organisers thank Holiday Mull, D&K Lafferty, MESS, and Mike and Carol for their generous donations in helping the event to be realised, as well as local businesses and residents who are helping and supporting in any way.

Netherlorn

AN ENJOYABLE time was had by children who came along to the Netherlorn Churches fun day, held in Seil Island Hall on Saturday July 25. Children were able to take part in many activities with zumba, rounders golf, photography and craft work among the favourites. Jean Alexander of Luig said: 'We all enjoyed lunch together and the day ended with music in the sunshine, followed by a prizegiving event. 'This is the third year running that the fun day has been held and we hope to have another one next year. Thanks go to Maura



Rae and Maggie Brooks who organised the day and the Rev Paul Beautyman who led the worship. 'Look out for our Messy Church event in the autumn.'

Dunoon

THE SCOTTISH government has said it is making every effort to support workers in Dunoon following news that 60 staff at Stuart McNeen construction are being made redundant.

Business minister Fergus Ewing MP said: 'We are already engaged with the administrators who will issue a letter on our behalf inviting employees to drop-in sessions to provide help. 'These sessions aim to minimise the time individuals affected by redundancy are out of work.'

MORVERN lines

A Highland sea loch that may be out of bounds to yachts

A RIGHT good froth is gathering in our sea lochs thanks to Marine Scotland which wants to make a huge chunk of sea from the Sound of Jura to Loch Sunart a marine protected area. According to chief executive of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, Bertie Armstrong, this will have a devastating impact on many small and fragile coastal communities on the west coast by destroying the fishing industry. Mr Armstrong, who is concerned for the livelihood of the scallop dredgers, is not opposed to the concept of marine protection areas (MPAs) but has described some of the conservation arguments in favour of the order as 'populist and lightweight'. Of course, we don't want disinterested trawlers, who risk life and limb and work hard to provide us with fish at all times of the year, damaging scallop beds and marine archaeology, so there has to be a compromise. An amicable arrangement has been reached in Loch Creran where Marine Scotland, concerned that anchors and ground chains might disturb a rare organ-pipe worm called 'Serpula vermicularis' (commonly known as Serpulids), have worked closely with local communities and loch users to keep the reefs safe by establishing no-go areas. According to Marine Scotland's own confusing paperwork, no such agreement has been put in place yet for Loch Teacuis, a short sea loch in Morvern which also contains Serpulid reefs. Currently, Marine Scotland wants a complete ban on anchors which will effectively stop all vessels coming into the loch. Given that man has been using Loch Teacuis since the time of dugout canoes thousands of years ago, the proposal is both draconian and completely inconsistent with measures proposed elsewhere. Moreover it would set a dangerous precedent, possibly leading to the closure of other sea lochs as these reefs expand. There is no reason why an arrangement similar to that in Loch Creran cannot be established in Loch Teacuis through the hydrographic office, the RYA and the marine press if, indeed, the real objective is to preserve the natural history of the loch bottom and not the creation of a private lagoon. Not enough interest is being taken by local, working folk in the formation of these MPAs. Once established, the effects will be far reaching and irreversible. The agency dealing with this is a public body and may be criticised just like any other government department. It is not there to dictate to the Highland people. Given the Scottish government's near obsession with the right to roam on land, it is almost unbelievable it now wishes to legislate against man's movement on the timeless sea. More information can be found on Marine Scotland's website. Written representation, by August 9, either by email to Marine_Conservation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or by post to: MPA Team, Area 1A South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

Expensive shellfish

MY FOODIE friends with shellfish restaurants tell me aggressive and inventive marketing is the secret these days. For example, things have to be drizzled and not dressed in oil and no longer can scallops appear on menus as simply 'scallops'; they have to be described as 'hand-dived'. Can someone please tell me the difference in taste between a scallop that has come to the surface in a trawl to one picked by a diver? I assume the 'hand-dived' tag infers time is taken over the selection process which will make the diner feel less guilty about its demise and that, somehow or other, he or she will have done their bit to save the planet, especially if it has also been cooked by 'green energy'. Of course, all hand-made objects command a higher price. So the next time you order scallops ask for the non hand-dived variety and a 20 per cent discount. I am sure you won't be able to tell the difference. It makes you wonder if the anti-dredger campaigners are all shellfish restaurateurs.

Loss of seven jobs at Lochaline

STAYING with the fishing industry, there has been wide-spread disappointment in Mull and Morvern by Scottish Sea Farm's decision to close its net washing centre on the south shores of Lochaline. The net station, which has been operating for around 20 years, employing seven, will be a great loss to the area. Reinvestment, net-washing at sea and the requirement for a larger handling facility is blamed for the closure. Future business will be out-sourced to a unit at Kilbirnie in North Ayrshire, thus increasing the farm's carbon footprint.

A new local business

CONGRATULATIONS to Ardnornish man Jamie Boulton who recently gained a 2:1 degree in Product Design from Napier university. Jamie, 22, the son of Liz and Simon Boulton, head keeper on Ardnornish Estate, is already making a name for himself designing and manufacturing imaginative, high-quality, shooting gifts in the form of cuff-links, earrings, leather goods and key-rings which he has recycled from used brass cartridges, rifle bullet cases, hides, stag's tusks and antlers. Jamie, who hopes one day to have his own business, is to be encouraged for bringing his skill and undoubted talent back home to Tor Molach at the head of Loch Aline. Iain Thornber, iain.thornber@btinternet.com.

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West Ardnamurchan Show results 2015

BLACKFACE results: Home Bred: Branault Cup: John Alec Cameron; Ewe Lamb: Portuairk Cup: Megan Curtis; Champion Sheep: Mingary Cup: Angus John Cameron; Reserve Champion: Plocaig Cup: Angus John Cameron; Best Group of Sheep: West Ardnamurchan Shield: Angus John Cameron; Under 18 Best Blackface: Junior Cup - Iain and Cathie MacPhail; Alan Curtis; Cross Breed: Ewe in Milk: JD MacPhail Cup: Nan MacLachlan; Ewe Lambs: Jimmy the Shepherd Memorial Cup: John Alec Cameron; Tup Lamb: Bob MacWalters Trophy: Nan MacLachlan; Champion Cross Breed: Lord Trent Cup: John Alec Cameron; Reserve Champion: Alan MacLachlan Cup: Nan MacLachlan; Overall Sheep: Champion Sheep: Alistair MacKenzie Cup: Angus John Cameron; Crofter with the most points: West Ardnamurchan Show Cup: John Alec Cameron. SPORTS: Junior Sports: GM MacMillan Trophy: Alexander; Junior Sports - First: Katie MacDonald; Junior Hill Race: Alexander; Junior Hill Race Girl: Hill Race Cup: Eilidh Cameron; Senior Hill Race: Glenborrodale Cup: Michael Deason; Senior Hill Race: McConnell Salmon Trophy: Lauren Gane; HEAVY EVENTS: Overall Heavy: Championship Cup: James Cameron; Local Heavy Events: F MacDonald Cup: Bert Cameron; Junior Heavy: Boys Winner: Selkirk Cup: Ewen MacPhail; Girls Winner: Girl's Junior Heavy Trophy: Sarah Cameron; BAKING & CRAFTS: Best Baker: Baking Cup: Jac Crosbie; Best Gardener: Angus Henderson Trophy: Trevor Potts; Best Crafter: Janice Rodger; Best Child Entrant: 7 and Under Cup: Isla Ip; Best Child Entrant: 8 and Under Cup: Holly Cameron.

Clear train tracks of sewage pleads group

AMANDA CRAWFORD
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A COMMUNITY group is calling for an end to 'disgusting' waste dumping on Lochaber train tracks, following concerns about the health of railway workers.

Fort William community council (FWCC) has been in touch with British transport union RMT following a campaign it has championed to eliminate sewage dumping on Scotland's rail tracks.

FWCC is calling for operator West Coast Railways to implement a similar system on the Jacobite steam train, which runs two trains through the West Highlands four times a day.

The plea from FWCC comes after the union said it aims to have 40 per cent of ScotRail's trains fitted with controlled emission tanks by April 2016 and the remainder kitted out by December 2017.

At a meeting of FWCC, chairman Neil Clark said: 'Workers on the tracks in Fort William and Glenfinnan are getting splattered with human



ON TRACK FOR CHANGE: the Jacobite steam train on the Glenfinnan viaduct. (B2jac01)

a lot of wind and rain, whereas last summer was scorching. The heat would only have emphasised the problem.'

Direct discharge toilets have been in use since toilets on trains were introduced.

However, in response to concerns from local public bodies, West Coast Railway has stopped members of the public using the toilets while its trains are travelling.

A spokesman said: 'It is only very recently that retention tanks have been introduced, primarily on new rolling stock.'

'The Jacobite steam train which runs between Fort William and Mallaig is not the only train which has direct discharge toilets.'

In fact, all ScotRail services currently have the same direct discharge toilets, with the exception of the Caledonian Sleeper and Royal Scotsman which have retention tanks.

'RMT has been running a campaign to stop the use of direct discharge toilets and West coast railways is examining ways of fitting retention tanks to the heritage carriages.'

excrement.'

He called it 'disgusting' and said the RMT was already offering workers vaccinations to protect them from being infected by untreated human excrement.

Community council treasurer Trisha Jordan added: 'Although railway staff who work on the

tracks are working at night, they are having to work through the mess of the waste released from the steam trains.'

'It was brought to our attention last year when reports of a vile smell were submitted to us. I think the only reason there haven't been as many complaints is because we have had

Rescue team finds hill walker's body

THE BODY of a hill walker who failed to return from a trek in Lochaber has been found.

A search was launched by Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team (LMRT) for Ian Bell, 60 from Hertfordshire, after he went missing in Carn mor Dearg on Monday.

The search for Mr Bell was

among a number of rescue operations launched this week.

On Sunday, the team had three rescues, including that of a mountain biker with head injuries on Aonach Mor and three 15-year-old girls on the Sgurr of Eigg, one of whom had a broken ankle.

In an unplanned rescue, the

team also came across a female casualty at Torridon when they were diverted north on the way to Eigg. In what has reportedly been LMRT's busiest year to date the team has rescued 96 people so far.

A spokesman for LMRT said: 'We would like to thank all the employers of Fort William who

allow team members to attend rescues as without their understanding we would not be able to function at the level we now find ourselves at. In particular, we thank all the team members who give up all their time freely, as where we are now is well beyond what would normally be expected of volunteers.'

Town team volunteer urges community groups to cash in

A DEDICATED Fort William volunteer has encouraged communities in Lochaber to apply for funding to improve their town or village.

Groups are being invited to bid

for government money through the 'charrette programme'.

A similar initiative last year saw the formation of Fort William's town team.

Since then the group has spent

time painting, cleaning, weeding and planting flowers around the town

Norrie MacLean, chairman of the team, said: 'Locals should do anything they can to take

pride in their community.' More information about how to apply is available at www.gov.scot/Topics/Built-Environment/AandP/Projects/SSCI/Mainstreaming.



HANDS ON: Tigrans Andreas, left, and Dennis Wilck, both nine, had fun building replicas of the Western Isles and Ben Nevis.

TO CELEBRATE a display of artwork by Lochaber school pupils, members of the community enjoyed a family fun day.

The event was held in Cameron square last Thursday, just outside West Highland Museum, where a 3D map of Lochaber is capturing the public's attention.

Six schools completed the sea to summit project to highlight the connections between the

mountains and the seashores which characterise Lochaber.

The town centre square was filled with stalls and activities as project partners from Highland council countryside rangers, Highland seashore biodiversity project and Nevis landscape partnership hosted the event.

Children had the chance to see how Ben Nevis was formed and recreated the Western Isles with natural materials.



INSIGHT: from left: Allan Audsley and Phoebe Webster of the Nevis landscape partnership with Eilidh-Ann Phillips, Highland council, at the exhibition. 21_f32fun02

TIMESLINE

Hard work reaps reward for pupils

EXAM performance in the Highlands has improved, results announced this week showed.

While teenagers across the region waited on the postman on Tuesday, Highland council said this year's 55 results were an improvement on last year, while 54 was down slightly.

In the new Higher exams, 443 pupils passed five in one sitting compared to 361 in 2014. There were also 77 pupils who achieved five straight As this year, up one on last year.

Councillor Drew Millar, chairman of the local authority's education, children and adult service's committee, praised the pupils: 'I am delighted to hear that all the hard work put in by pupils, families and staff has delivered a good set of results for the Highlands.'

'I wish to congratulate them all and offer my best wishes for whatever pathway the pupils pursue in the future.'

Rescheduled canal event goes ahead

THE BEAUTY of the Outdoor Capital of the UK will be celebrated with an event on the Caledonian canal next weekend.

Originally arranged as the opening of the Wild Lochaber festival in May, gale force winds postponed the Go Wild on the Canal event, disappointing the crowds planning to take part in the cruise and races.

Not to be put off, organisers have rearranged the fun night for next Friday (August 14) and are hoping the sun will shine on Banavie basin for the cruise to Gairloch and back. Commentary will be provided on board on the wildlife and landscape on the route before returning to Banavie for the rowing and raft races.

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Fears over Fort 'death trap' fix

EMMA CRICHTON
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ONE OF Lochaber's oldest landmarks has become a 'death trap', but plans to safeguard the Old Fort will see the visitor attraction blighted by metal eyesores.

The ancient fortification, the town's namesake, is visited by more than 10,000 people every year. But it has been crumbling away and concerns have been raised that children could fall 15 feet on to rocks and fencing on the shoreline below, leading caretaking group, Friends of the Old Fort (FOOF) to ask Historic Scotland to restore the stone wall around the area. But Historic Scotland said this would 'interfere with history' and advised owners, Transport Scotland, to surround the popular picnic area



DEATH TRAP: Norrie MacLean of Friends of the Old Fort is worried children could plunge 15 feet to the rocky shore below 21_132for101

with aluminium railings. Norrie MacLean of FOOF said: 'I just can't understand it at all. It's a death trap, a young child could easily fall and it's a 15 foot drop so it could kill them. We asked them to repair the wall and put in castellation so it would be in keeping with what's already here and still make it safe, but they said that would interfere with history. Instead they want to put metal guardrails everywhere which is going to interfere a lot more and look a lot worse.'

'We really want something done to protect the area because it's supposed to be somewhere for people to enjoy, not be afraid of, but all that aluminium will just be a blight on the area and an eyesore.'

The Old Fort's history dates back to the 1656 and includes the

Battle of Inverloch, Highland Clearances, the Jacobite Rebellion and was once an emigration point.

Work is due to start this month, which will allow the foreshore to be reopened to the public after it was closed due to falling boulders. But Mr MacLean, who also runs a guest house in the town, is worried the safety measures will put off visitors.

He said: 'There's so much history at the Fort and it has so much potential, but all of this metal is going to look awful. People are already put off visiting by the lack of signs and parking and I think this will make it worse. Something needs to be done to make the area safe, but this is the wrong way to go.'

A spokeswoman for Historic Scotland said: 'As the Fort is a

scheduled monument, we have been providing advice to Transport Scotland regarding the work and we can confirm we have been liaising with them in relation to the possible introduction of a guardrail. This would require separate scheduled monument consent and Transport Scotland has therefore decided to apply for it at a later stage so as not to delay the initial works.'

In a statement from BEAR Scotland, which carries out maintenance work for Transport Scotland, a spokeswoman said: 'We've appointed a contractor to carry out the masonry repair work which is expected to start later this month. We are continuing to liaise with Historic Scotland in relation to the introduction of a guardrail at the top of the Old Fort walls.'

Tablet computers for senior pupils

EVERY high school pupil in the Highlands will be given a tablet computer to aid learning, following a trial by Highland council.

The local authority piloted the scheme in AIness this year. All pupils from primary six upwards will now have their own hand-held device and younger pupils will share.

The exact cost is not available but it is thought the council will save money as tablets have less upkeep costs than desktop computers.

Bill Alexander, Highland council's director of care and learning, said: 'We took a report regarding this to committee in February, setting out our aspiration to provide all pupils with a technology-rich environment, to address their learner needs and curriculum goals and transform their learning experience. The plan involves reducing the number of centrally managed devices by around 50 per cent. These devices do not have the high support costs a centrally managed device involves, so we anticipate they will be less expensive to provide.'

Doors open on sports halls

COMMUNITY groups in Lochaber will soon have four new sports and recreation halls at their disposal, dubbed 'wonderful news' after one of the wettest summers in memory.

Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, the new Gaelic school and the first of four new builds in Fort William, will open later this month, including indoor and outdoor sports areas for the whole community.

Lundavra primary school in Upper Achintore is to open in October and the Caol campus, including Caol primary, St Columba's RC and Caol community centre, will be ready by August next year.

Highland council announced this week that the

new facilities will be available for out-of-hours use by sports clubs after concerns the gates would be locked after 3pm and during holidays.

Jane Blanchard, chairwoman of Lochaber sports association (LSA) was 'delighted' at the decision as current facilities in the area are often fully booked in bad weather.

She added: 'I'm delighted about this. These new facilities will serve sport and community groups who are desperate for more good quality training facilities.'

LSA is currently waiting a funding decision which, if granted by Highland council, will allow them to build another multi-use indoor facility in

the town. Councillor Thomas MacLennan, leader of Lochaber area committee, also welcomed the news: 'It is pleasing to see these new developments coming to fruition.'

'The new schools and associated community facilities at the heart of the community will be a tremendous boost to the area. Everyone will benefit from the fact that these are open and available to all out-with school hours.'

Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, the first Gaelic-only school in Fort William, will open to pupils on Wednesday August 19.

Facilities can be booked by contacting the headteacher at each school.



BAKING BOOST: Michelle Rodgers, left, 12, and Kate Biddulph, 11, helped out at the tea tent to raise cash for Mallaig swimming pool. 21_132moragames02

Mallaig games tea tent boosts pool funds by £803

FUNDRAISERS hosted a tea tent at Mallaig and Morar games at the weekend and raised £803 for a community pool.

Mallaig and district swimming pool has been under threat of closure for a year. Charity group, Friends of Mallaig and district swimming pool, is working hard

to raise money locally. Committee secretary, Edith McLean, said: 'This is the first time we have held a tea tent. The pool is still struggling to stay open and we constantly have to fundraise.'

Fresh sandwiches, home-baked cakes, tea and coffee were all on offer in the tent.

TIMESLINE

Mallaig relatives happy to be home

DELIGHTED Mallaig families welcomed their elderly relatives back to the village after living in Fort William for more than a year.

Four pensioners returned to the Mackintosh centre on Monday after being moved to Invernevis house amid allegations of staff poor practice last July.

A friend of the relatives said: 'It's been wonderful. They spent three hours together [on Tuesday] which they haven't been able to do for a long time. The staff have been so accommodating and helpful and everyone seems happy.'

The Mackintosh centre was closed in July last year amid allegations of poor practice and abuse, although there was no criminal activity found during investigations. An internal process is still ongoing within NHS Highland. At the time it was thought the home would be closed for four to six weeks, but long-running recruitment problems caused the re-opening to be delayed eight times.

Tributes paid to isles councillor

TRIBUTES have been paid to Iain Morrison, a Western Isles councillor who died on July 30.

The 60-year-old Lewis councillor was elected to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar in 1999 and many of his fellow members attended his funeral on Tuesday.

Mr Morrison was best known for his fundraising efforts and was a member of numerous community groups including the Barvas war memorial committee and Westside football club.

Norman A MacDonald, convener of the comhairle, said: 'Our thoughts are with his family at this very sad time. Iain was a man who cared greatly for these islands and particularly for the community which he represented.'

Language will be enhanced

FORT William's Gaelic-only school, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, will feature 'outstanding education facilities', according to a Highland council spokeswoman.

Councillor Hamish

Fraser, chairman of the local authority's Gaelic implementation group, said it will 'greatly enhance' language and culture in Lochaber.

He added: 'The benefits of bilingual education have been widely acknowledged and this

kind of education will also help to develop and sustain the Gaelic language.'

Councillor Drew Millar, chairman of education, care and learning and adult services, added the new school is 'eagerly awaited'.

New Skye Gaelic school approved

A NEW Gaelic school on Skye was approved by Highland councillors this week, despite widespread disapproval on the island.

The proposal, agreed by the local authority's north planning committee on Tuesday, involves demolishing a 19th century former poorhouse and hostel in Portree and replacing it with a new school described by one councillor as 'poorly designed, drab and factory-like'.

Objectors said the current building, formerly the Margaret Carnegie hostel, should be incorporated

into the new school whereas others said it should be abandoned and the money should go to current schools on the island in need of repair and upgrades.

Concerned Portree resident, Catriona Leslie, urged the planning committee to reject the proposal. She said: 'Given Highland council's severe shortage of funds, it would seem logical to cancel the proposed Gaelic medium school in Portree and build new schools in Broadford and Dunvegan where they are so badly needed. Portree primary

school has a very successful and greatly appreciated Gaelic medium unit and the building is relatively modern. So where is the logic in building a separate school in Portree and thus increasing running and staffing costs at a time when money is so short?'

But Skye councillor, Drew Millar, pledged his support to the application during Tuesday's meeting: 'I and the majority of people support this. This is one of the biggest steps forward for Gaelic education in Skye for a long time.'

Lochalsh teenager receives top award for public service

A WEST Highland teenager has received an award for public service.

Ruraidh Stewart, from Balmacara, Lochalsh, was given the Jubilee accolade during

a ceremony at the House of Lords for outstanding practical action in the service of others.

The 16-year-old teenager, who is the Skye, Lochaber and

Badenoch representative for the Scottish youth parliament, was recognised for his unstinting work with the junior climate challenge fund and promoting sustainability and

low carbon lifestyles. Ruraidh, a Saltire awards ambassador, was the only Scottish recipient among eight winners at the prestigious London ceremony on July 30.

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New landing craft for west coast firm



INVESTMENT: new landing craft the Keira May arrives at Loch Kishorn

INVESTMENT into the fishing industry on the west coast continues as a new landing craft arrived at Loch Kishorn.

The Keira May, which is almost 15 metres long, is capable of carrying 21 tonnes of deck cargo and was delivered to the Scottish Sea Farms site on the northwest Highland loch last week.

Jim Gallagher, managing director of Scottish Sea Farms, said: 'This latest vessel is part of a huge investment programme as we continue to develop new and existing sites to meet growing demand for our quality salmon, both here and abroad. This investment is part of our commitment to putting something back into the Scottish economy and supporting Scottish suppliers.'

IS YOUR 2-YEAR-OLD ELIGIBLE FOR FREE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE?

Early learning and childcare will help young children gain vital language and learning skills, improve their social development and help them do better at school when the time comes. It will also support parents to work, train or study.

Two-year-old children are eligible for 600 hours of free early learning and childcare if their parent or carer receives:

- Income Support (IS)
- Job Seeker's Allowance (income based)
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Incapacity or Severe Disablement Allowance
- State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit and your income is less than £16,105*
- Both maximum CTC and maximum Working Tax Credit and your income is under £6,420*
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- Universal Credit*

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

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

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

For more info visit earlylearningandchildcare.scot

ask your health visitor or contact your local council.

smarter scotland
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Viewpoint

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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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When all the torturous negotiations between bosses and unions are done and dusted and the ink has dried on the contracts, all that really interests the inhabitants of the West Highlands is that their vital lifeline ferry services have not been diminished or seriously compromised in any fundamental way.

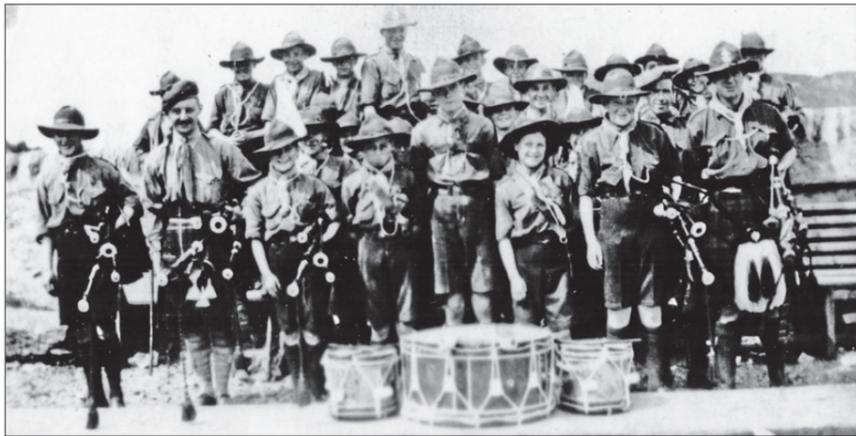
The Scottish government published its Invitation to Tender (ITT) document on Monday for the six-year, £1 billion contract for the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services, currently operated by CalMac.

The new contract takes effect from next year. So far, there are only two hats in the ring: publicly-owned Cal-

Mac has been joined by global private company Serco. The ability (or the appetite) of the private sector to deliver reliable, robust services where profit margins are negligible or non-existent, will be subjected to intense forensic examination over the next few months.

As will the 'safer' choice of opting for the same old, same old in the form of CalMac (better known as 'the devil you know' syndrome).

Either way, the ultimate test will be what is in the best interests of the people of the Highlands and islands, and to ensure that they are not short-changed in some shoddy, fudged compromise deal that puts profit before people or government targets before common sense.



Search for boy scout photographer

A photograph from 1991 was discovered in the Oban Times archives that is yet to be returned to its rightful owner. Dugald Irons sent in the photograph of the 18th Argyll, Tarbert, Boy Scouts, along with a 22 pence stamp and a handwritten letter asking for the photograph to be returned in due course. A lot has changed in the 24-years since Mr Irons sent it through the post, including his phone number. If you know of anyone who knows Mr Irons or his family, please get in contact with the Oban Times on 01631 568000 or email lglen@obantimes.co.uk. Digital versions of flashback photos for The Oban Times can be sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk or prints sent in to Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped addressed envelope.

Disbelief over claims in wind farm article

Sir, I read with disbelief your full page article about plans for expansion of wind farms in the west of Scotland. It is not acceptable to use shocking language claiming wind farms can cause 'chronic neurological problems, epilepsy and suicide' without backing these claims up with sound scientific evidence. According to Christine and others' will not do. We know well by the end of the article who Christine is, her history, her likes and dislikes. Who are the 'others'?

Your article has caused outrage on Facebook and Twitter - not because Christine is against wind power - that is her right - and, indeed, her view is stunning, but because it is blatantly biased and designed to engender fear. A quick skim on the internet will present you, Christine and others with lots of scientific evidence that contradicts almost every claim made in this article, but if I may die or become neurologically impaired by the wind turbines that have been erected near me, I want to be properly informed. It is clearly a matter of life and death. I look forward to a further article extrapolating the theories posited in this one.

Study the research by experts worldwide

Sir, In the letter 'Power and time are of the essence', the Oban Times July 23,

the writer appears to have misread the previous week's article. 'Not proven' are the claims of the industry over worth and employment. As reported on <http://wattsupwiththat.com> over the European Energy Performance, the Renewable Energy contribution to the electricity supply grid is inevitably erratic, intermittent and non-dispatchable, rendering it far less useful than dispatchable sources of electricity which can be engaged to match demand and maintain grid stability.

Strongly recommended is research into peer reviewed reports and the work of 76 experts worldwide now agreeing that adverse health concerns for near neighbours to turbines are real and first-hand reports from sufferers.

When examining a Portuguese ruling involving wind turbines, Neil van Dokkum B SocSc; LLB; LLM; PGC Con.Lit said: 'From a legal point of view what is important is that the courts, including the Supreme Court, accepted the expert evidence of the authors of this paper concerning the terrible toll that infrasound and low-frequency noise has on both humans and animals, whilst it rejected the opposing evidence led by the wind industry lawyers.'

Ardfern Yacht Centre is listed as a member of WHAM, an organisation which fights to preserve the peace and quiet of traditional yacht anchorages on the west coast. So being an Ardferran resident and possible supporter, it is more than strange that sight and sound of turbines would be 'welcomed' by the writer. Would other residents, perhaps reliant on tourism, feel the same should such a proposal materialise? Is it understood that much of the time, all those

wind turbines which are 'turning lazily' in no apparent wind is due to their being actually powered by the grid to prevent damage to gear boxes?

When turning 'full pelt', however, in addition to the noise produced, any vulnerable migratory species/birds such as Whooper swans unsuccessfully negotiating blade tips slicing the air at speeds of more than 200mph will add to already climbing mortality figures.

Christine Metcalfe, Loch Avich.

Thanks to Tíre music festival and islanders

Sir, My wife and I and our toddler were at Tíre music festival for the first time this year and I would like to take this opportunity through your letters page to thank the folk who helped us throughout the weekend.

From the staff on the buses who got us to the site, to the volunteers who helped set up our tent. Also the police officer who came to check that we had moved from the campsite to the hall when the wind really got going and then to the organiser who made sure we would be put up in a house for the night.

A big thank you to the family, who housed us, fed and watered us, allowed my daughter to get a bath and kept us for a second night. We went on to thoroughly enjoy the great music and atmosphere on the Saturday and Sunday and we will be definitely be back next year, providing we get tickets. So thank you to all the people who helped us out.

Gilbert Bannerman, Loch Lomondside.

Glasgow Letter

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

Ceòl's Craic annual general meeting

CEÒL'S Craic is holding its annual general meeting on Wednesday August 26 in Glasgow Gaelic School, Berkeley Street.

Established in 2004, Ceòl's Craic is a year-round programme of the best in contemporary Gaelic culture. Aimed at a non-Gaelic as well as a fluent audience, its events aim to inspire debate on what contemporary Gaelic culture is and who it is for.

A big night for Ceòl's Craic in 2015 will be its third annual 'Oidhche Americana'.

This year's Americana night will feature a host of exciting acts. Headliners are Iain 'Costello' MacIver and John Murray - performing together as the duo 'New Tradition'.

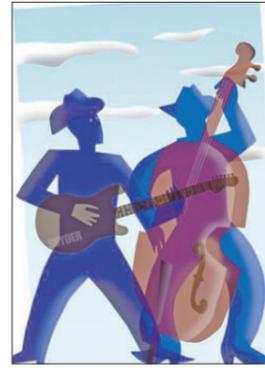
They have performed together for more than 20 years.

As 'New Tradition', they appeared in the television series 'Tuath Cheòl' in the mid 90s which resulted in the release of their only CD recording 'Ar Cànan 's Ar Ceòl' in 1995.

Since then, Iain MacIver has released four solo albums. Their music consists of many of his compositions which lean heavily towards the country genre.

They are currently being supported by Lynsey MacRitchie on fiddle/piano and Coinneach MacLeod on drums.

For the Oidhche Americana, 'New Tradition' will be joined by Monica Queen and Johnny Smilie in a new collaboration with Gaelic singer/songwriter Darren MacLean from Skye. The Véloniños also return to complete the line-up.



HIGH NOTES: Ceòl's Craic, which will hold its annual general meeting on August 26, is hosting a night of Gaelic Americana music next month.

Traditional Gaelic at Glasgow's Lismore

WEDNESDAY August 5 saw the latest of the An Lòchran traditional Gaelic sessions in the Lismore bar.

These are great evenings when a warm welcome is extended to everyone.

Attendees are encouraged to bring along an instrument or a few Gaelic songs and join in the session.

Or just come along and listen to the best of Scottish traditional music and Gaelic song.

Those taking part in the sessions

are encouraged to use Gaelic and a warm welcome is extended to those learning the language.

Welcome return to city of pop-up cafe

ÀIRC, the pop-up Gaelic café at the Merchant City festival, ran for a week this year between July 25 and August 2.

Located at 14 Albion Street, it was a welcome return after last year's celebrations at Culture 2014.

Each year, the Gaelic café provides the opportunity to enjoy Gaelic arts within a backdrop of cracking music, good coffee, cheap food and a dose of new cultural influences.

This year, there was StreetLyrics - a photographic exhibition and new publication of images from the streets with poems interpreted into English and Gaelic from German.

The exhibition offered a unique glimpse into the industrial craftsmanship in creating manhole and street covers - portraying it as an invisible art which is passed by daily - often unnoticed.

The supporting programme of films and talks picked up the theme of what we see and don't see in our environment, both within the industrial city and rural landscapes.

Pub scene

Islay Inn: Friday August 7: The Raggaels. Saturday August 8: Status Two. Wednesday August 12: quiz night, Park Bar. Thursday August 6: Session. Friday August 7: Ceòl an Aire. Saturday August 8: Scott Harvey. Sunday August 9: Martainn Skene.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

THA E na adhbhar misneachaidh a bhith a' faicinn Rìaghaltais na h-Alba a' daingneachadh agus gum bi innhe agus fèin-spèis aig a h-uile duine ann an Alba nam beatha.

'S e amas urramach a tha sin agus ged a tha a' mhòr-chuid de shluagh na dùthcha ann an suidheachadh meadhanach cofhurtail, tha e coltach gum bheil àireamh mhòr fhathast a' fulang bochdainn agus gainnead de chaochladh sheòrsa. A bharrachd air a' chon na leithid sin a' dèanamh air slàinte dhaoine thathas cuideachd ag amharas gum bheil suidheachaidhean mar seo a' ciallachadh nach eil cuid air chomas na coraichean daonna air am bheil iad a' dol a dh'adhbhar.

Ged a tha na buidhnean a tha an sàs a' feuchainn ri taic a chumail ri feadhainn a tha fo bhuaidh bochdainn, chan eil dealbh shoilleir air ire iomlan an dùbhlain a thaobh chòraichean.

'S ann air sgàth sin a tha a' bhuidheann-coiteachaidh Plana Nàiseanta na h-Alba airson Còraichean Daonna air cur romhpa innleachd a dhealbhadh a libhrigeas coraichean daonna dhan a h-uile neach an Alba a dh'aindeoin ire, neo cion, tuarastail.

Seo a' chiad iomairt de sheòrsa ann am Breatann agus tha a' bhuidheann a' cur romhpa mòr-shluagh na dùthcha oideachadh a thaobh an coraichean agus ciar a gheibh iad cothrom air na sochairean.

Tha fios gum bheil sgaolteach mhòr de dhaoine a chuireadh feum air leithid de chuideachadh, agus chan iad a-mhàin feadhainn a tha

gun dachaigh ach cuideachd daoine le cosnadh ach a dh'aindeoin sin a tha ann an duilgheadas a' cumail dachaigh is a' togail teaghlach.

Ma tha clann a' fuireach ann an dachaigh nach eil tèarainte agus seagair, bheir sin buaidh air an comasan ionnsachaidh, agus ma tha iad a' dol dhan sgoil le acras orra chan eil an inntinn gu bhith air an fhoghlam a bharrachd.

Nuair a choinnicheas a' bhuidheann-coiteachaidh airson a' chiad turas nas fhaide air adhart air a' mhios seo, bidh iad a' brosnachadh dhaoine far feadh na dùthcha, a th' air bochdainn fhulang, innse mu na thachair gus am beachdaich a' bhuidheann air mar a tha leithid sin a' toirt buaidh air coraichean daonna.

Tha Coimisean Chòraichean Daonna na h-Albann a' cur taic ris an iomairt seo. Tha iad mothachail gum bheil Alba san fharsaingeachd a' creidsinn ann an cothromachd

Ailean Caimbeul

Le taic bho

SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG

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

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

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

Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, 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.

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Across

7 Airborne (6)

8 One who sets (6)

9 An end word (4)

10 Evasion (8)

11 Outstanding (7)

13 Fetch (5)

15 Attack (5)

17 Cosy down (7)

20 Found at the end of a cabriole leg (8)

21 Degrees of bets (4)

23 Harden (6)

24 Honestly (6)

Down

1 Urban living at it's worst (4)

2 Supper (6)

3 Rocks formed by fire (7)

4 Abreast (5)

5 Knocker (6)

6 Classified (8)

12 Animate (8)

14 Whole (7)

16 Non-stop chatter (6)

18 World wide (6)

19 Cyst (5)

22 As expected (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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Sun shines on Dunvegan Show



WINNER: Alexander Macdonald, from Corriebhein, with champion of champions at Dunvegan show. f32dunvegan03

THE SUN kept its hat on for the 2015 Dunvegan show on Saturday July 25.

The day started with judging of home produce, horticulture, handicrafts, art, photography and children's classes. There was an increase in entries across the board.

The annual and ever popular children's music competition was organised by local music teacher, Nan Cleghorn, this year. Judges Meg Roshier - wind instruments - and Maria Pelletti - guitar - were both 'highly impressed' by the 'standard of musicianship and enthusiasm' from the competitors.

New classes introduced for the dog show this year proved



ENTHUSIASTIC: participants in the children's music competition with adult judges and organisers. f32dunvegan02

to be a hit with spectators, they included best party trick. Best in show winner was Bailey the border collie handled and owned by John Pickering, from Broadford.

Children enjoyed games and activities such as tug 'o' war, body zorbs, Dunia the stilt, bouncy castle. Free pony rides were the biggest hit among youngsters. Outdoor leaders from Skye trekking centre introduced Bertie and Selkie to the crowds and many took advantage of the free pony rides. Musical entertainment was provided once again by Portree high school pipe band, a popular attraction with visitors to Dunvegan Show.

Oral health improves in the isles

THERE are smiles all over the Western Isles after reports of a dramatic improvement of dental hygiene.

Oral health in the islands has improved as a result of Childsmile month, according to Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan.

The government-funded programme ran in the Western Isles from June 29 until July 24 and around 1,800 children had a check-up in this time.

Since Childsmile began in 2010, the number of island youngsters registered with an NHS dentist has increased by 29 per cent. Children in primary one who are free of tooth decay has also risen by 16 per cent.

Mr Allan welcomed the improvements: 'Childsmile is a great example of what can be achieved when we focus on prevention, rather than treatment, at a very young age.'

'The Western Isles has needed to improve its dental health and so it is hugely encouraging to see just how much progress has been made in this area since 2010.'

Help sought in tracing criminals

POLICE in Lochaber are appealing for information about the following crimes in the area.

A vehicle was deliberately damaged while parked on Union Road, Fort William, sometime between 10pm on Monday July 27 and 5.30am the following morning.

Sometime between Friday July 24 and Friday July 31, a vinyl sign was removed from the parking area at Glen Etive road end. Anyone with information is asked to contact local police on 101, Crimestoppers by phone on 0800 555111 or online at crimestoppers-uk.org.uk.



RIDING HIGH: Nicola MacSween of Skye trekking centre leading Selkie the pony with Lachlan Tonagh. f32dunvegan01

Champion of Champion between winners of horse, cattle and sheep sections: Margaret MacKinnon Memorial Cup plus £100 from PK Nutrition; winner: Alexander Macdonald, Corriebhein.

Best fleece at show: Calum MacLeod Memorial Trophy; Winner: Macdonald girls, Bernisdale.

Cattle: Champion in Cattle Class The late John MacLeod of Macleod Trophy; Winner: Alexander Macdonald, Corriebhein; Reserve champion in cattle class: The late Ewen MacRae Shield; Winner: Willie MacPherson, Eynort; Best Calf: Alexander Macdonald, Corriebhein; Best Calf (opposite sex): Willie Nicolson, Glenconon; Best Cow (3 years old and over): Willie Nicolson, Glenconon; Best Cow (confined to crofters and small farmers): Willie Nicolson, Glenconon; Best Cow with Calf: Chris Campbell, Drynoch; Best Non Dairy Heifer in Calf: Willie MacPherson, Eynort; Best Heifer - 12 months or over: Peter Nicolson, Glenconon; Best Pair of Calves: Alexander Macdonald, Corriebhein; Best Native Breed: 1 Alexander Macdonald, 2 and 3 Willie MacPherson;

Crofter with Most Points in Cattle class: Willie MacPherson, Eynort.

Blackface sheep: Champion Home bred Blackface Sheep Mr and Mrs W Richmond Cup Winner: Neil Montgomery, Ose; Best Blackface Ewe in Milk: Neil Montgomery, Ose; Best Blackface Female: Neil Montgomery, Ose; Best Blackface Tup: Kenny MacIntosh, Dunvegan.

Cheviot sheep: Champion Home Bred Cheviot Sheep The late Mrs O Martin Cup; Winner: Angus Beaton, Gesto; Angus also won: Best Ewe in Milk, Best Female Best

Results

Lamb, Best Tup, Best Pen of Three Milk Ewes, Best Pen of Three Gimmers, Best Pen of Three Lambs all in the Cheviot section; Best Group of Ewe, Gimmer and Ewe lamb: Jamie MacKinnon, Struan.

Sheep - special prizes: Champion in sheep classes Dunvegan Hotel Cup Winner: Angus Beaton, Gesto; Reserve Champion in Sheep Classes The late Audrey Martin Shield Winner: Neil Montgomery, Ose; Best Cheviot: Billy MacIntosh, Dunvegan; Best Sheep (Any other Breed): Mary Montgomery, Braes; Best Lamb at Show: Angus Beaton, Gesto; Best Tup at Show: John Angus MacCusbie, Totarder; Best Ewe, any breed with Twins: Angus Munro, Eabost West; Best Hand Reared Lamb: Kirsty Leitch, Uiginish; Butcher's Pen: Kenny MacIntosh, Dunvegan; Taylor Cup for Crofter with most points: Billy MacIntosh, Dunvegan.

Adult art: Picture of Animal, Flower or Skye Scene: Wilding Cup 1 Linda Jackson; 2 Ann Salter; 3 Linda Jackson; Sketch any subject: 1 Sam Nicolson; 2 Mairi MacLeod; 3 Linda Jackson. Adult photography: Photograph of any aspect of Skye Ann Trimmer Shield: 1 Andy Stables; 2 Thomas O'Brien; 3 Michael Cullen.

Children's competitions, photography: Photograph of Any Subject Ann Trimmer Cup Winner: Louise McColl; Photograph of a Pet Andrew Taylor Cup Winner: Ruairidh MacLeod. Best young cook at show: Three Chimneys Prize Winner; Kathleen Macdonald.

Handicrafts: Most Points in handicraft

section The Late Mrs Stewart Cup Winner: Linda Jackson; Best Hand Knitted Exhibit Paton and Baldwin Shield Winner: Ann Salter; Best Exhibit in classes one to 11 Jean Buchan Memorial Cup Winner: Mandy Boswell; Best Exhibit in Classes 12 to 22 Clachan Gael Voucher Winner: Irene Owen; Best Article of Crochet Margaret MacKinnon Cup Winner: Denise McColl; Best Handspun, Woven or Knitted Garment Shilasdair Yarn Winner: Ann Salter.

Home produce: Winner of Most Points Dunvegan SWRI Cup Winner: Alison Stables; Best Exhibit in Home Produce Fasgadh Stores Prize Winner: Catherine Matheson; Best Cloutie Dumpling Jessie Khaliq Shield Winner: Shona Macdonald.

Horticulture: Most Points Sligachan Challenge Cup Winner: Andy Stables; Best Potatoes Ardmore Memorial Trophy Winner: Andy Stables; Best Pot Plant: Michael Cullen. Flower arrangements: The Late Mary Macdonald Challenge Cup Winner: Maggie Walker, Dunvegan.

Children's music competitions: Guitar 5 - 8 years; 1 Jake Bold, Dunvegan; 2 Tim Nicolson, Kilmuir. Guitar 9 - 12 years; 1 Sophie Holmes, Portree; 2 Rebecca Collins, Dunvegan; 3 Kai Purdy, Portree; Most Points and winner of Trophy donated by Reverend Ted Redhead: Jake Bold.

Wind Instrument; 5 - 8 years; 1 Charlie Latton, Portree; 2 Catherine Robertson, Dunvegan; 3 Joshua Taylor, Portree; Wind Instrument 9 - 12 years; 1 Rebecca Collins, Dunvegan; 2 Lola Bold, Dunvegan; 3 Mhairi Gillies, Portree; Most Points and winner of trophy donated by Bill and Shirley Richmond; Rebecca Collins.

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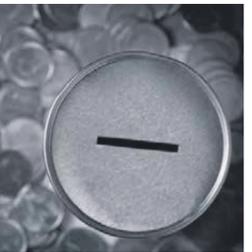
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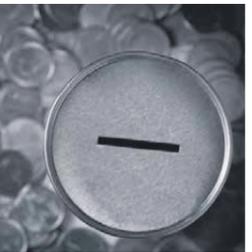
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The exam results have been released and whether your grades were expected or unexpected, you now need to make firm plans for your future.

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Some places are still available this September for a wide range of academic and vocational courses. From SVQ and NC qualifications to HNC, HND and degree courses.

From early years training, business administration, cooking, sport and fitness to hospitality, horticulture and hairdressing.

During 2015, Argyll College UHI have completed a far reaching technological upgrade to ensure all students

starting courses in September - and particularly those students studying IT-based courses - will benefit from a much enhanced student experience.

And they are now pleased to be able to offer two new technology-based courses - HND Sound Production and HNC Interactive Media - to complement the existing range of Digital Media, Sound Production and Computing courses.

Whatever you want to do, why not find out how Argyll College UHI can help

Visit www.argyllcollege.ac.uk/tellmemore for more information about courses and places still available. Or simply dial 01631 559 500 and speak to the Argyll College UHI Oban centre who will answer all the questions you may have and help clarify the many options that are available to you from your local university.



HAVE you ever wanted to learn a second language, or play a musical instrument?

Do you yearn to advance in your current job, or even study an entirely different trade? It's never too late to learn something new. From traditional university classes to trade courses to dance lessons, now more than ever, adults are taking to the classroom. In fact, almost one in three UK undergraduates is a mature student.

As the average retirement age increases, older workers, even those with a degree, need to update their skills, and a great way to do that is by taking a technology course at a local college or university. Employees who continually learn and develop can compete more effectively in the market place.

For those who did not complete higher education, night classes are an option. According to the Office of National Statistics, graduates earn an average of £12,000 a year more than non-graduates, while non-graduates are twice as likely to be unemployed. And with the Government's move to lift the age limit on student loans from 54 to 60, the potential cost of a degree need not be so discouraging.

Short courses are an option for those who don't want or need a degree. From computer science to creative writing, a short course can build skills, as well as ease one back into an academic environment. Almost anyone can benefit from continuing education. By taking a trade course, students can create a second career for themselves. A business owner can improve her management skills. A keen home cook can turn that hobby into a profession. A history buff can fulfil his dream of being an archaeologist. From photography to mountain climbing-the possibilities for the future are almost endless.

Academia isn't the only way to expand one's learning horizons. Dance, drama or fitness classes don't just offer great health benefits- by meeting compatible people, students can perk up their social lives while improving their bodies and minds. Taking the first step toward learning something new can be intimidating. But it doesn't take long to be high on the learning curve.



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Graduations



Sophia Campbell Linn recently graduated from Newcastle University BSc (Hons) Food Science and Nutrition. Sophia is the daughter of Bryan and Sandra Linn (nee Craven), granddaughter of the late Billy and Effie Craven and the late John and Nessie Linn. Sophia is grandniece to Colin and Morag Urquhart, Pennyfuir, Oban and Mary McFadyen, Dunbeg.



Jonathan Rimmer who has graduated from Stirling University, achieving a 1st Class Bachelor of Arts Degree with Honours in English Studies and Film & Media. He is the son of Peter and Sue Rimmer, Oban. A former pupil at Oban High he is now a weekly music columnist with The National newspaper and is also writer and editor for Scotland Standup, the Scottish Hip-hop website and blog.



Sarah McInnes graduated from the University of Glasgow with an MA (Honours) degree in History and Politics. Sarah is the second daughter of Ian and Rhoda McInnes, Oban and grand-daughter of the late John Hill and Barbara Hill and the late Roy MacInnes and Marie MacInnes. Sarah is a former pupil of Park Primary School and Oban High School and is continuing her studies at the University of Glasgow with a Masters degree in War Studies.



Nicola Stafford graduated from the University of Strathclyde with a BA in Marketing & Business Law. She is the daughter of John and Karen Stafford, Corpach and grand-daughter of the late Anna and Stevie Stafford and Agnes and Jimmy Francis. Nicola is a former pupil of Banavie Primary and Lochaber High School.



Dr Kayleigh Hamilton graduated from the University Of The West Of Scotland with a doctor of Philosophy. Kayleigh is the daughter of John and Hazel Hamilton, North Connel and the granddaughter of Bill and the late Christine Mason, Benderloch and John and Marie Hamilton, Ardrishaig. All the family are very proud and wish you every success in the future.



Kimberley Boa graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a Bachelor of Education Honours 2:1 in Physical Education. Kimberley is the Daughter of Ross and Marie, Granddaughter of William and the late Isobel Boa, Joy and the late Ken Kennedy. Kimberley will start as a PE Teacher in Lochaber High School in August. Kimberley is a former pupil of Banavie Primary School and Lochaber High School.



Amy Keenan Campbell graduated from Stirling University with a BSc and 1st class Honours in Sport and Exercise Science. Amy is the daughter of Danny Keenan and Carol Campbell, granddaughter of Danny and Beatrice Keenan, and Margaret and the late Len Campbell. Amy is a former pupil of Rockfield Primary and Oban High School.

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Arena

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

food and drink

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

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



This week...

Who is it? **Colintraive Hotel**
 What do they do?
Award winning hotel and gastropub with four en-suite rooms
 Where can I find them?
A 2-minute walk from Colintraive Ferry Terminal on the Kyles of Bute
 Tel: 01700 841207
 Email: enquiries@colintraivehotel.com
 Web: www.colintraivehotel.com



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

Colintraive Hotel original recipe Linguini Pescatore

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

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

This years' Ceòlas voted the best yet

CEÒLAS' symposium based at Iochdar School and Gèirinis Taigh Ceilidh "was the best yet" in the words of Donald MacRury, originally from Caolas, East Gèirinish, but home from Glasgow each year for this event.

This year the exhibition is a commemoration of those who died in WWI, but with very few photos available, a display was created for all those from the Parish of South Uist, including Benbecula and Eriskay, where so many lost their lives.

The opening of the exhibition was followed by an excellent talk from Murdo Beaton from Urras an Eilean, which was very well received – such enthusiasm for his subject. Jo MacDonald gave her talk on 'Biadh is Deoch ann an Orain Ghàidhlig' while awaiting the arrival of Murdo. A very rich table of samples was read by Katie Mary MacIntosh.

Sunday's outdoor Mass was cancelled owing to the weather forecast, but a full house at St Michael's, Ardkeneth, enabled all to hear the Roll Call from the exhibition read by Sarah MacEachen and Fiona Ballantyne.

Family Fun followed the church service and there was a great turn-out with the children enjoying the range of activities offered by Kay Marie MacInnes, Lisa Wilson and the team of face painters. The laughs were provided by



Singers of Ceòlas enjoy the final song

Ronnie MacPhee's Sumo Wrestling suits.

The adults had different interests with Lawrence MacEachen, showing how to make the right knots and splicing for the sròinein or Taod.

The Sunday evening Quiz was great fun with the quizmaster Morag MacDonald, which had followed on from the beer tasting! One of the challenges for 'Se ur Beatha' was to produce 'Leann nam Biast' – this was met by Tommy MacDonald, who produced a variety of flavours – to the surprise and delight of everyone.

A group of 15 took part in a long difficult hike. Those who were not keen to walk so far or who had the wrong footwear, climbed aboard Donnie Fraser's MacBrayne's bus to

go on the polytunnel tour organised by CJ MacPhee.

Monday was the Piping Recital, with one song from Rena Gertz, a Ceòlas regular.

Young pipers, Fergus MacVicar and Andrew MacIsaac were followed by Fiona MacLean who brought the first half to a close with an outstanding performance.

Second half opened with Ceilidh air chùirt (WI Ceilidh Trail) who showed why they had been selected with a great performance and then the master himself came to the stage, Allan MacDonald, who gave a great performance truly appreciated by the piping fraternity who were present. Angus MacMillan hosted the event in great humour.

Tuesday morning started with Dr Sarah Marr talking

about healing of plants and the place of natural medicines in people's lives.

Sarah is a very entertaining speaker and great fun was had discussing options for keeping well longer.

After lunch, the walk with CJ MacPhee and Becky Rennell - archaeologist, took place from Borge Castle – everyone returned just before the heavens opened saying how much they had enjoyed it.

The children were still dancing with Laura – so everyone was exhausted.

The community ceilidh was hosted by Morag MacDonald and she kept the show moving and what a show it was, with great numbers of young people.

The question now is how to top that next year - suggestions to Ceòlas will be welcome.

Yuko is top of the box



In the middle, Yuko practices with tutors, Fergie MacDonald and Robert Nairn.

A JAPANESE woman who became a star student in button accordion classes on Skye was so inspired that she relocated to Argyll and Bute.

Yuko Blair-Smith from Tokyo, had been visiting Scotland on a kayaking holiday when she came across the button accordion course held at Sabhal Mor Ostaig Gaelic college.

Her experience of the Highlands and west coast influenced her to make a dramatic change, leading her to settle in Oban.

Tutors of this year's summer course Fergie MacDonald and Robert Nairn, both from Aharacle, were particularly impressed with Yuko.

Mr MacDonald said: 'We had no problem teaching Yuko Gaelic

slow airs, marches, jigs and reels.

'Yuko has a natural talent in relation to traditional Celtic music and was so enthusiastic to learn. She did wonderfully!'

The five-day button accordion course has run every summer for the past three years and is not only gaining popularity locally, but is beginning to attract a wider audience.

A successful summertime ceilidh

LAST Thursday's summer ceilidh at Taynuilt provided a night of top class music and dance.

Oban piper, Alastair MacLean, started the proceedings with a lively selection of pipe tunes and

further musical excellence was provided by accordionist, Alasdair MacDonald, and fiddler, Ann Barlow.

Young sisters, Iona and Isla McKay (Isla Sinclair Dancers) delighted the audience with impressive

Highland dancing performances.

There was a wide range of enjoyable songs and the singers performing were Mòd gold medalist, Mary Catherine MacNeil,

Graeme Campbell, Becky

& Lyndsay Wilson, Lauren MacDonald, Janet Ferguson and holidaymaker Ellie Webb from St Albans.

Fear an Taighe for the evening was Donald Harrison who kept proceedings flowing smoothly.

FÈIS THIRIDH

THIG CRIOCH AIR SAOGHAL ACH MAIRI
25TH ANNIVE

DESCRIBED as being 'a good vibe for Tìree', Fèis Tìree - the children's traditional music programme has risen to new heights of success.

This remark, made by one of the tutors, summed up a special year for Fèis Thiriodh. With a 25th anniversary to celebrate, a surge in numbers, an epic 'Muse Cruise' to Barra and an exceptional group of young tutors, the island's Gaelic music festival was pronounced the best yet by a delighted but exhausted committee after the final dance with Trail West reached its triumphant conclusion.

The week started with a concert that raided its back catalogue reaching back a quarter of a century and underlined Tìree's position as Scotland's number one 'island of music'.

Top musicians Angus MacPhail from Skipinnish, Daniel and Martin Gillespie of Skerryvore, with Campbell Brown from Gunna Sound had come back to their roots to celebrate the work of the Fèis.

Joining this year's tutors and past

tutors including De mouth organ and si Executive of Fèise Arthur Cormack, c MacPhail told a success as a musici down to getting the ties.

Fèis Thiriodh had key to his musical p winning combinate summer festival and teaching.

Founder member, whose newly-writte the Fèis became an particularly thanke MacInnes and Johr tireless work promc island.

On Thursday a pa a hundred, includin committee member to Barra in the now Cruise', a six-hour r and sing-along. At Castlebay pier



Duo's six peak

TEENAGE Pipers climbed six 3,000ft Scottish mountains last weekend and played the pipes on each peak to raise money for charity.

Ned Robertson and George Nickerson, both 17, climbed six Munros to raise £12,000 for the Argyll Piping Trust, which pays for youngsters to learn the pipes.

So far, they have raised £7,209.

The pair, who attend Winchester, an English public school, wrote a new song especially for this challenge, 'Munros Mayketh Man', a

play on their school motto, which is 'Manners Mayketh Man'.

George, whose family comes from Kintyre, said 'We both feel very fortunate to have been able to learn the bagpipes throughout our school careers and want to help other children have the same opportunity.'

Ned, from Suffolk, is also playing 'The March of the Cameron Men' in memory of his grandfather, Sandy Robertson, who fought with the Second Battalion Cameron Highlanders in World War II. Ned said: 'I

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

The Holy Land

Truths, Tragedies and Triumphs
 Fireside Presentation
 August 10, 2015 7-8pm Glenstrae, Connel, PA37 1PG
 The true story of the Holy Land is both tragic and triumphant. What has happened in the Holy Land and will yet happen in this land is a story that affects us all. Come enjoy an evening of insights and warm hospitality. All interested individuals are welcome. Sponsored by the Oban Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day-Saints.
 Speakers: Elder Douglas S Ladle and Sister Carol D Ladle

St Columba's Bazaar

Saturday 8th August
 Corran Halls, 2pm
 Tombola, Bottle Stall, wheel of fortune, plants, books, home-baking, teas, coffees

OPEN DAY AT ST CONAN'S
 Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th August 2015
 10 am to 4.30 pm at St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe
 Guided Tours of the Kirk, Art & Craft Exhibition/Sale Local Schools' Art Competition Children's Activities Live Theatre Home-baking in the Tearoom Music
 www.stconanskirk.org.uk

Kilchrenan & Dalavich Church
CAR BOOT SALE
 Dalavich
 community centre
 Saturday August 22nd 11-4pm
 To book pitches and for info:
 Ring Adrienne
 01866 844244 or email:
 c-johnston@sky.com

AnComunn Gàidhealach
 CRUACHAN BRANCH
SUMMER CEILIDH
 Thursday 06 August
 Taynuilt Village Hall at 7.30pm
 Admission £4, Members £3, Children (5-16 yrs) £2

EASDALE ISLAND
ATLANTIC ADVENTURE DAY
 Saturday 8 August 11am-4pm
 Sponsored Swim - Raft, Wheelbarrow, Duck & Kids Races - Kids Treasure Hunt - Crafts, Home Baking, Teas, Seafair Trips around the Island - BBQ
 EASDALE ISLAND COMMUNITY HALL
 7.30pm-9pm Folk & Blues Jam Session - bring an instrument
 9pm Disco with DJMC
 Hall Bar opens 7.30pm



Donald Black on the fiddle and Chief In nan Gàidheal on stage, Angus MacPhail on the bagpipes and a large crowd that was chiefly made up of young people were in for a right opportunity to see the Oban Pipe Band progress with its 100th anniversary around the year.

Flora MacPhail, the theme song for the band, was an instant hit, as was the famous 'Muse' by John Holliday, for their piping session.

They were met by the pipers and Highland dancers of Fèis Bharraigh followed by a group strip-the-willow that included several dancers who had just emerged dripping from the waters of Bàgh a' Chaisteil still in their wetsuits and lifejackets.

Over the 25 years there have been 120 points for the Fèis as first the Tìre hall closed for re-building, and then the school was unavailable for a number of years due to repair work.

But, with Eilidh Campbell and Sheila MacKinnon at the helm, numbers at the Fèis classes this year were again significantly over 120, including 30 at the under-5s Fèis Bheag Bheag.

Long-serving Fèis Thiriodh committee member, Dr John Holliday, said: 'It was a week that will live long in the memory, with outstanding numbers and a real buzz.'

'It was heart-warming to see how many young, talented tutors we had, most of them fluent Gaelic speakers and many of whom were islanders from the ranks of the Fèis itself.'



pipe challenge

George and Ned, who climbed six Munros to raise money for the Argyll Piping Trust.

inherited the chanter on which he learnt the pipes in a prisoner of war camp. His battalion were matched into captivity to the pipe band playing the regimental march.

Class acts marking significant anniversaries at Blas 2015

BLAS festival

THREE of the top performers at the 2015 Blas festival will be marking significant milestones in their musical careers with the award-winning Kiltlearn Fiddlers, Fèis Spè and 'Acid Croft' pioneers Shooenliftly all celebrating a quarter of a century as entertainers.

Two of the three are testimony to the Fèis movement, which has enabled hundreds of musicians and singers from through the Highlands and Islands to embark on significant musical careers, bringing the best of Highland and Gaelic culture to a wide audience.

Established 11 years ago as a result of Highland Council's desire to create a festival that would match the vitality of Cape Breton's Celtic Colours, the Blas festival is now an international event showcasing Highland culture and its continuing success has been welcomed by the Scottish Government and Highland Council.

Blas 2015 will take place at venues across the Highlands and Argyll between 4 and 12 September.

Tickets for all Blas events can be bought online, or by phone, with details on the festival's website blas-festival.com where further information is available on the full programme of events.

Age no barrier for pics

A COMPETITION to take a photograph of someone from a different generation is part of a festival celebrating age.

The Luminare Challenge is a chance for anyone of any age to create a portrait of someone older or younger.

As part of Luminare 2015, a range of portraits will be chosen and exhibited online, and as part of a pop-up photography exhibition touring to various community venues including halls, libraries, care homes and sports centres across Scotland including Oban and Fort William in October.

The deadline for entries is midnight on Monday September 7, by email at mailto:challenge@luminareScotland.org or by phone 0131 668 8066.



Moth attracted to island living

Sightings of a rare six-spot Burnett moth have been seen on the Isle of Tiree earlier than was previously reported.

Sallie Jack of Onich took a picture of the rare moth back in 2014.

Sallie said: 'I read the article on page 4 in The Oban Times of July 16. It stated that that this moth been seen on Tiree for the first time recently.'

To prove the point Sallie has sent The Oban Times photographs. She said: 'I saw the moth when visiting the island for a week with a group from the Scottish Field Studies Centre at Kindrogan, Perthshire.'

The six-spot Burnett moth spotted on Tiree a year earlier than previously thought.

Music initiative hits high note for pupils

MORE than 300 primary school pupils from across the Highlands came together to celebrate a youth music initiative.

Run by Highland council, in collaboration with Gaelic arts group, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, the event saw short performances from children before games and songs in Scots, Gaelic and English.

Norma Bolton, Highland council's music development officer, said: 'All the skills delivered as part of youth music initiative projects enable pupils to build a high level of musical understanding, social skills and confidence they move through primary education.'

'Staff working in the council's instrumental tuition scheme and secondary music departments reap the benefit of the knowledge, understanding and enthusiasm generated by these aspects of music education.'

Martin flies home to be chieftain

A WELL-KNOWN Scottish actor has been unveiled as the honorary chieftain of Cowal Highland Gathering 2015.

Greenock-born Martin Compston, first appeared on the big screen in 2002 in the lead role of Liam in Sweet Sixteen, directed by Ken Loach.

And Martin will be making the 5,000-mile trip from Los Angeles to take his place as the ceremonial head of this year's event.

He said: 'It's an absolute privilege to be asked to be chieftain.'

'Having grown up just across the water in Greenock, I know what an event these games are to the west coast of Scotland. They are the perfect way to bring an end to any glimpse of summer we may have had.'

Cowal's Chairman, Ronnie Cairns is delighted to have Martin as this year's chieftain.

He said: 'Every year, we try to ensure that our chieftain is an individual with strong ties to this area and has excelled in their chosen field.'

'Martin is a Scottish actor who has won critical acclaim in virtually everything he has appeared in.'



Entertainment Guide

Cinema

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

07 AUGUST 2015 - 13 AUGUST 2015

INSIDE OUT (U)
Fri, Mon: 11:00, 13:15, 15:30; Sat: 10:15, 12:10, 15:10
Sun, Tue, Thu: 10:45, 13:40, 16:00; Wed: 13:00, 15:15

INSIDE OUT 3D (U)
Fri, Mon, Wed: 10:45

KIDS CLUB - MINIONS (PG)
Sat: 10:00

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - ROGUE NATION (12A)
Fri, Mon: 13:10, 15:50, 17:50, 21:15; Sat: 12:30, 14:30, 17:30, 20:00
Sun, Tue, Thu: 11:00, 13:10, 15:50, 18:30, 21:00; Wed: 15:50, 21:15

TERMINATOR GENISYS (12A)
Fri: 20:30; Sat: 17:15, 20:15; Sun, Tue, Thu: 18:20
Mon: 18:30, 20:30; Wed: 13:10, 17:30, 18:30, 20:20

TERMINATOR GENISYS 3D (12A)
Fri: 18:30; Sun, Tue, Thu: 21:15

FILM SYNOPSIS

TERMINATOR GENISYS - 12A
After finding himself in a new time-line, Kyle Reese teams up with John Connor's mother Sarah and an aging terminator to try and stop the one thing that the future fears, "Judgement Day".

Radio

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THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To advertise in our community noticeboard call 01631 568000

A Fundraising COFFEE MORNING in aid of OBAN PIPE BAND will be held in Oban Pipe Band Hall Shore Street on Saturday August 8, 2015 From 10am - 12 noon Admission £3

Scotland's Gardens Open day at Barguilean Farmhouse, Angus's Garden and Lorn Organic Growers Glen Loran, Taynult Saturday 8th August, 10am-4pm £5 entry for adults, children free Teas, plant stall and produce in aid of Oban Alzheimer's Group

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The Sponsorship Prize by Reid and Robertson, for Champion Poultry Bird was won by J and M Tunner, of Campbeltown, for their bantam fowl 15_t32lorn06



Supreme champion was home-bred, pure limousin heifer Creran Ifly, shown by Ewen MacGillivray, Barcaldine Home Farm 15_t32lorn03



The United Auctions perpetual trophy for J and J MacPherson, Balliemanoich Farm,



Judges look on during one of the blackface categories 15_t32lorn30



The pooches are put through their paces 15_t32lorn015



Children watch a speed sheep sheering exhibition, completed in less than a minute 15_t32lorn20



Weather never stopped a strong showing of sheep from across Argyll 15_t32lorn31



As the weather improved, the crowds increased 15_t32lorn12



The emergency services were on hand as a precaution 15_t32lorn24

THE Lorn Show



Judging during the dog show 15_t32lorn023



An impressive carved wooden Highland COW 15_t32lorn18



overall champion sheep at show went to for their Blackface gimmer 15_t32lorn04



Highland cattle champion was Tanya 3rd of Mottistone, shown by Willie MacLean, Barcaldine 15_t32lorn01



Overall champion dog, sponsored by Reid and Robertson, was Tia, with owner Sue Miller from North Connel 15_t32lorn05



The Rosebowl for overall Suffolk Champion was won by Craig Taylor, Barsloisnach Farm, Kilmartin with his three crop ewe, Rossiebank 15_t32lorn09



The Oban high school pipe band, led by Angus MacColl, weathered the storm 15_t32lorn14



The Highland cattle section is judged 15_t32lorn08



ABARCALDINE farmer is celebrating two-in-a-row after his limousin heifer took the champion of champions at a rain-soaked Lorn Agricultural show on Saturday at Tralee beach.

Even McGillivray, from Barcaldine Home Farm, led out two-year-old limousin heifer Creran Ifly to take the title, ahead of a champion Blackface from J and J Macpherson, Dalmally, and a large fowl from J and M Turner, Campbeltown.

Creran Ifly's dam is Grams Goldenfly who was the first pure limousin Even bought in 2012, as a foundation female. Her sire is Willodge Fastrac, and Creran Ifly will now be retained in the herd for breeding.

Even, who runs Creran Engineering, said: 'That's the second year in a row I've won so it's been a great day, despite the weather. Last year we won with

Burnbank Isabella who is now in calf. Last year was our first time winning the champion of champions with cattle, but my father has won it with Suffolk sheep in the past. We didn't spend much time at the farm this year getting livestock ready for showing, so were very pleased to get the prizes we did. The competition is always good here so I'm obviously delighted to have won. You're pleased to get any ticket, so to win the supreme champion is great!'

The weather, described early on by one attendee as 'horizontal' meant the beer tent was a popular destination to take cover from the rain, as well as the Highland dancing performances which went on throughout the day. There were breaks in the rain though, and the sun shone during much of the dog and sheep showing. The United Auctions perpetual trophy for overall champion sheep at show

went to J and J MacPherson, Balliemanoich Farm, for their Blackface gimmer, which was also placed at the recent Royal Highland Show. Also making it two-in-a-row was Highland cattle champion, Tanya 3rd of Mottistone, shown by Willie MacLean, Barcaldine, for Michael Poland, from the Isle of Whyte, who took the same title last year. The Rosebowl, awarded for overall Suffolk champion sheep, was won by Craig Taylor, Barsloisnach Farm, Kilmartin with his three crop ewe, Rossiebank. Elsewhere, the overall champion dog, sponsored by Reid and Robertson, was spaniel Tia, shown by owner, Sue Miller, from North Connel and the champion poultry bird was won by J and M Turner, of Campbeltown, for their bantam fowl. For a list of full results from every section, visit: www.obantimes.co.uk



The dancers performed an array of jigs 15_t32lorn17



Erin Binne, Olivia Veitch, Daniel Craik and Mairi Morrison, with their various dancing awards 15_t32lorn10



Anna Nicholson from Oban, who had half of her hair shaved for MacMaillan Cancer Relief, with the other half to be shaved at the Killin Show 15_t32lorn16



Three generations of the Macaulay family enjoyed the show 15_t32lorn07



All the trophies were engraved and presented on the day in the judges' tent 15_t32lorn22

Carnival atmosphere for 79th annual Arisaig games

A SUCCESSFUL day ended with a booming night for this year's Arisaig games.

The 79th annual event saw a record number of people turn out to watch Highland dancers, adult heavyweight champions and newcomers, junior heavies and runners compete on Wednesday July 29.

A series of children's races were enjoyed as were a variety of food and bar tents, carnival games and bouncy castles.

Thousands of people circulated throughout the day.

Despite getting off to a cold start with wind and rain on and off, the afternoon picked up and people

were able to enjoy some sunshine and heat at the village's Traigh Farm.

Later in the evening, members of the community and visitors turned out at Astley village hall to take part in a ceilidh and dance to music performed by locally-born band, Skipinnish.

Organisers later said on social

media: 'Numbers have yet to be officially counted, but we think we may have had record numbers today.'

'The Astley hall tonight was full to capacity within an hour. 'Great stuff - it's brilliant to see our wee village so busy.'

Although the windy daytime weather was not most welcome by

competitors, it seemed to encourage the public.

But the highlight of Wednesday's events was Skipinnish, according to all those who came along to the games.

The five-piece traditional Scottish Gaelic band performed a series of popular hits as well as some of their own on the night.



Lochaber schools pipe band played Scottish classics including Auld Lang Syne. 21_f32games20



Roy Valentine, from Stonehaven, competed in the heavyweights. 21_f32games25



Catherine Walker, from Virginia USA, was in town on business and went along to enjoy the games. 21_f32games08



The Pomer family enjoyed ice cream and hotdogs at the sidelines. 21_f32games09



Boys under 12 runners cross the finishing line. 21_f32games11

The Connolly family, from Dumbarton, enjoyed their first trip to the games after years of camping in Arisaig. Sisters Emma, 10, and Lauren, 12, (far right) and cousin Caitlin, eight, browsed the stalls. 21_f32games10

Nathan Burchett, 29, from Iowa enjoyed taking part in the games. 21_f32games01



Aimee Sneddon, 15, of Mallaig won first place in the local Highland dancing competitions. 21_f32games05



Tommy McEachran, 79, can still throw a hammer. 21_f32games22



David Hart, 34, from Fort William won the local events. 21_f32games21



Left: Andrew Johnson throws the 28lb weight for distance. 21_f32games12



Christian MacKenzie, five, was taken around the stalls and games by granny Morag, while mum and dad, James and Eve, manned the secretary's tent. 21_f32games03



Girls under 12 fight their way to the finishing line. 21_f32games13



Above: Four generations of a family and a group of friends had fun on the sidelines. 21_f32games23



21-month-old Scarlett Gillow enjoyed herself on the slide. 21_f32games19



Members of Lochaber Parish Church of Scotland raised more than £2,000 for North Lochaber Church. 21_f32games24



The gathering of Clan Donald was represented by Jonathan MacDonald, curator of the museum of the Isles and Chas MacDonald of the clan society of the Highlands and Islands. 21_f32games14



Two-year-old Elena Young was out with family and friends enjoying the games. 21_f32games18

Farming

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Experts are urging beef and sheep producers to get silage analysed now

EXPERTS from Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) are encouraging beef and sheep producers in Scotland and the North of England to get their silage analysed as soon as possible to give them maximum warning of potential problems they could face this winter.

While early published analysis showed a slight improvement on last year's feed value, the figures often relate to fields cut during the sunny days of late April or May.

For many parts of the country it has been a poor summer because of cold, rain and sometimes even drought.

According to well-known SRUC livestock specialist, Dr Basil Lowman, one of the many things to have suffered is the quality of silage made for feeding next winter.

He said: 'For the vast majority of beef and sheep producers making silage in the conditions of June and July has been

completely different. The cool conditions reduce the grass growth, but not the date when seed heads emerge, resulting in low yields of quite stemmy material. For many, conditions then worsened still further, with increased and even excessive rainfall.'

Dr Lowman points to evidence showing the huge impact silage quality can have on the amount of winter feed needed, if animal performance is to be maintained.

The SRUC believes that beef and sheep producers who get their silage analysed now give themselves time to plan and prepare for any problems they might face this winter.

However, whatever farmers are doing around their silage pits this season, SRUC urges caution. With lots of wet silage made pits are bulging and slippery and it is important to take a safety first approach.

Be involved with farming's 24 hours of fame this summer

TWENTY four hours of farming's activities will be collected and shared with the world, thanks to 24 Hours in Farming, a campaign just launched by Farmers Guardian.

From 5am on August 20, 2015, until the same time the following day, the farming newspaper's team will be working around the clock to collect and share the huge number of submissions anticipated via twitter and other social media channels.

The campaign is encouraging farmers and people involved in agriculture, from around the world, to upload their photos, videos and stories of the day's farming activities.

Farmers Guardian editor, Emma Penny, says while this is a fun way to promote the world of farming, it has a serious side to it too. 'We want to highlight everything farmers, their families and the farming industry does, to show how hard-working the industry is, and how much effort goes into producing food, energy and shaping the countryside that we all enjoy.'

'We'll be compiling a live story over the 24 hours to give a live picture of how much passion, determination and work goes into farming and maintaining rural Britain.'

The campaign is being sponsored by BASF. The company's Joe Dixon said: 'Farmers shoulder a lot of responsibility in an uncertain environment.'

'Within a given 24 hours, a farmer must be an economist, chemist, meteorologist, environmentalist and entrepreneur.'

'Farmers have to succeed, not just for themselves and their families, but for all of us.'

'We all rely on their success to feed us, provide us with energy and to keep farmland healthy for the next generation.'

'We work with farmers every day to solve real problems; and we wanted to support 24 hours in farming to raise awareness for the challenges that farmers face every day.'

'But also because we want to show just how innovative farmers are at overcoming them. Farming is the biggest job on earth.'

Creamery receives an investment cash boost from Scottish Government

RURAL affairs Secretary, Richard Lochhead, confirmed recently that the first instalment of funding to First Milk's Campbelltown Creamery has been paid.

A cheque for £311,000 was paid into First Milk's account last week, to support the firm's investment in new boilers for the facility.

Further instalments of the £416,000 food processing grant will be made as the company implements the remainder of the project.

The payment is latest instalment of actions promised in the Scottish Government's dairy action plan.

Mr Lochhead said: 'The Campbelltown Creamery plays a vital role in Argyll's dairy sector, which is the backbone of the local economy.'

'That is why the Scottish Government is investing over £400,000 into this facility, in recognition of its importance.'

This grant payment represents a contribution towards the cost of whey-recovery equipment.

And it will also enable First Milk to purchase new boilers as well as related infrastructure, all of which will make a positive contribution to the company's bottom-line.



Market reports

STIRLING

United Auctions (Wednesday 29th July 2015) sold 919 store cattle and young bulls 172 cast cows and forward cattle

Bullocks (434) - averaged 225.49p to 295.70p per kg for a 257kg LimX from Muirpark and £1320 for a 756kg SHX from Shawhead.

B & W Bullocks (191) - averaged 167.25p to 186.80p per kg for a 348kg HFX from Hilton of Cardross and £1020 for a 664kg BFX from Ardyne.

Heifers (223) - averaged 226.49p to 291.70p per kg for a 192kg LimX from Priorletham and £1370 for a 582kg LimX from Clydeside.

Young Bulls (27) - averaged 204.36p to 246.80p for a CHX from Graystale and £1280 for a LimX from Todhall.

Forward Cattle (16) - averaged 170.35p to 208.50p per kg for a LimX from Carslae and £1390 for a AAX from Fiddlehall.

Bullocks: Up to 250kgs- Priorletham £640, 272.30p 251-300kgs- Polquhairn £820, Muirpark 295.70p 301-350kgs- Polquhairn £940, 268.60p 351-400kgs- Easterton £1060, Polquhairn 268.40p 401-450kgs- Craigdhu £1090, 262.90p 451-500kgs- Ashfield £1170, 251.10p 501-550kgs- Oakersdyke £1240, 234.80p 551-600kgs- Oakersdyke £1260, 221.10p 601-650kgs - Shawhead £1270, 206.80p 651-700kgs- Shawhead £1320, 201.20p 700kgs + - Ardyne £1150, 151.30p.

Heifers: Up to 250kgs- Priorletham £640, 291.70p 251-300kgs- Muirpark £700, 263.20p 301-350kgs- Polquhairn £860, Auchlin 264.90p 351-400kgs- Brownhill £930, 250.70p 401-450kgs- Ashfield £1070, Hilton of Cardross 257.40p 451-500kgs- Oakersdyke £1210, 248.00p 501-550kgs- Clydeside £1280, 247.60p 551-600kgs- Clydeside £1370, 235.40p; 601-650kgs- Clydeside £1290, 212.90p.

Young Bulls: 301-350kgs- East Merkland £810,

234.10p; 351-400kgs- Darnbogue £970, 246.80p; 401-450kgs- East Merkland £980, 226.90p; 451-500kgs - Stralochy £980, 196.80p; 501-550kgs - Stralochy £1180, 216.10p; 551-600kgs- Fingask £1150, 192.30p; 601-650kgs - Stralochy £1280, 204.50p.

OTM Cows: Todhall (Lim) £1370, 167.90p, Graystale (Sim) £1270, Trowdale 139.10p; Todhall (AA) £1070, Lyleston 140.50p; Drumalea (HO) £1070, Meikle Camoquill 97.90p; Carslae (SD) £1030, 145.10p; Boghall (CH) £985, 124.36p; Norrieston (HF) £975, Westerhall 109.40p; Traprain (BA) £915, 138.00p.

OTM Bulls: Bonerbo (CH) £1470, 169.10p; Glendamp (Lim) £1250, 125.50p; Townhead (Sim) £1150, 136.90p; Courthill (STX) £985, 111.20p; Graystale (AA) £955, 122.80p.

Bullocks sold to a top of 238p per kg (twice) for Limousins from W Pettigrew, Faskine, Airdrie and T H Gray, Balquharrage, Lennox-town being purchased by D Campbell & Son, Butchers, Callander and D Comrie & Son, Butchers, Comrie respectively and to £1666.32 gross for a 786kg Simmental from R Colquhoun, Barrochan Cross, Houston.

Heifers sold to 250p per kg (twice) for Limousins from W Pettigrew, Faskine and M Jack, Carriston, Markinch purchased by D Campbell & Son, Callander and J Hastie, Butcher, Markinch and to £1545 for a 618kg Limousin from Carriston.

Bulls sold to 218p per kg for a Limousin from Croy Cunningham Farms, Killearn to N Bark, Biggar and to £1503 for a Blonde Aquitaine from Craigkelly Farm Ltd, North Glassmount, Kirkcaldy.

Heifers, 248p Mains of Culmalundie; 244p Classloch; 242p Easter Buchlyvie & Carriston; 238p Todhall; 236p Brockwoodlees; 235p

Mains of Culmalundie; 234p Craigend (Methven) & Classloch; Bullocks, 236p Balquharrage; 234p Bruckley; 233p Mains of Culmalundie; 232p Brockwoodlees & Seggarsdean; 232p Todhall; 230p Mains of Culmalundie; 229p Balquharrage; Young Bulls 216p & 213p Croy Cunningham Farms; 214p & 210p Carriston; 207p Gartness & Carriston; 202p Beild; Beef Cows sold to 153p per kg for a Limousin from J & D Mitchell, Offers, Gargunnoch and to £1020 gross (twice) for a Hereford from A J Millar & Co, Bonnington, North Berwick and Craigkelly Farm Ltd, Kirkcaldy.

Cast Bulls sold to £1270 from J W Murray & Son, Wester Balbeggie, Kirkcaldy.

Leading prices: Beef Cows: 144p Craigkelly; 141p Keadarroch; 139p Sheilds (Lochwinnoch); 138p Classloch & Sheilds; 134p Offers; 130p High Belltrees; Dairy Cows: 108p Rossbank (Colquhoun); 106p High Belltrees; 105p & 104p Barbeth.

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THE 2015 CALENDAR

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Subaru UK has announced a raft of modifications and upgrades to the interior and chassis of its XV compact crossover.

The interior changes result in further significant improvements to cabin refinement and ambience, and include an all new factory-fit infotainment system first seen on the new Outback earlier this year.

Boasting the lowest centre of gravity in the compact crossover class – and the highest ground clearance – changes to the car's suspension have been designed to result in a smoother, more compliant ride but without sacrificing any of the stability that the XV is renowned for.

The upgraded Subaru XV goes on sale through the Subaru UK dealer network this month.

Among the most important changes to the upgraded XV is a revised interior, which now features improved materials and an all-new touchscreen infotainment and navigation system.

The interior design now has a higher-quality look and feel thanks to the adoption of an all new instrument binnacle and new metallic and piano black accents throughout the cabin for the central console, dashboard and steering wheel switchgear and arm rests; Lineartronic models get a new shift lever and new housing with metal and piano black accents.

The driver's LCD instrument binnacle has been completely redesigned and features more upmarket, contemporary blue dials with new graphics. The overall result of these changes is a more contemporary and cossetting ambience.

An enhanced infotainment, navigation and audio system is now fitted as standard to all XV models in the UK. The all-new 7.0-inch touchscreen display allows smartphone-style control over the advanced navigation and infotainment features, with a swipe and pinch control function for map displays. The infotainment display echoes the new blue glow of the driver's instrument binnacle.

The infotainment system and other vehicle functions can also be controlled through Subaru's latest-generation voice control facility. This allows the driver to keep their eyes on the road ahead while selecting a favourite radio station or album, setting a new satellite navigation destination or changing the power or temperature of the climate control system.

The system's smartphone functionality extends to a range of apps that can be downloaded onto users' phones or tablets, which pair-up via Starlink – these include weather and traffic reports, wireless audio, news updates and a calendar.

The infotainment system also now houses a standard-fit rear view camera, offering a crystal clear wide 160-degree field of view behind the car when reversing.

The passenger can also now engage with the car's dashboard-top Multi-Function Display (MFD), with the

control switch moved from the steering wheel to the centre of the dashboard. The MFD provides a range of information relating to a number of the car's systems, including the status of its permanent All-Wheel Drive system, as well as fuel economy and trip information.

The car also now receives an extra USB jack, allowing occupants to listen to music from one USB-compatible device while charging another at the same time. The centre-console cup holders have been re-designed and now feature a sliding cover.

Modified suspension and extra soundproofing

The Subaru XV is sold as standard with a Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive powertrain and the brand's advanced Vehicles Dynamics Control system.

With its 220 mm ground clearance and lowest-in-class centre of gravity, the Subaru XV has always been remarkably stable in all conditions.

For the upgraded model, Subaru engineers' key focus was to improve the car's ride quality and reduce the intrusion of noise, vibration and harshness (NVH) into the cabin.

For both front and rear suspension, the dampers have had their pitch rate lowered, resulting in a smoother and more comfortable ride than earlier models, while reducing roll slightly. The damping power of the struts and new coil-spring settings now better suppress the transfer of vibrations into the cabin, while further reducing roll for greater cornering stability.

The rear suspension features new spring rate settings to further improve stability under cornering by ensuring greater tyre contact with the road, while allowing for greater flexibility in ride over broken road surfaces.

A 10% quicker steering ratio (down from 15.5:1 to 14.0:1) has been adopted to improve the XV's steering response and provide more linear, direct and stable handling characteristics, requiring only 2.8 turns, lock-to-lock. The front cross-member has also been stiffened to improve steering stability.

NVH changes

Noise from inside the cabin has been reduced thanks to the more widespread application of sound-absorbent material throughout the car, further cutting the intrusion of vibrations and engine, wind and road noise into the cabin.

This has been managed with the adoption of new under-bonnet insulators, extra sound-deadening material throughout the floor of the car, and sealing and sound-absorbing materials around the front and rear quarter lights and door lips.

The XV's under-body cover has also been reshaped to reduce wind roar around the rear of the car, while thicker glass for the front side windows and front quarter lights further reduces wind noise around the A- and B-pillars.

The upgraded XV's cabin is now 1dB quieter under acceleration or when travelling at high speed, providing a quieter and more relaxed environment for occupants.

Upgraded XV retains its £21,995 RRP

In spite of all the changes, the upgraded Subaru XV retains its existing on-the-road price, with the range starting from £21,995. Buyers of a new XV currently receive 3 years' free servicing and a £1000 deposit contribution from Subaru UK. The car is offered with Subaru UK's comprehensive five-year, 100,000 mile warranty.

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SUBARU XV WITH 3 YEARS FREE SERVICING.

From 1st July 2015 all Subaru XV models are available with low fixed monthly payments of £299 (plus deposit and final payment) on Personal Contract Purchase (PCP), spread over 4 years. And with additional deposit contribution of £1,000. Existing XV owners whose vehicle is over 2 years 5 months old will also receive £1000 towards their new car- Terms and Conditions Apply

FROM £21,995OTR FOR THE XV 2.0I SE



THE ALL-NEW SUBARU OUTBACK.

The Flagship of the Subaru range and all new for 2015, the Outback wears its colours as the worlds first crossover with pride. Built for the long haul but also for the road less travelled, the new Outback really is the car for all seasons. New Outback sets the standard for world class safety with Eyesight technology on selected models. Special offers on SE models.

FROM £27,995OTR FOR THE OUTBACK 2.0D SE



WRX STI A HIGH PERFORMANCE LEGEND REBORN.

The All new StI offers fresh styling, but the hood scoop and the dramatic downforce generating rear spoiler leave you in no doubt about what it is and what it's built for. From £299 per month there is no better time to buy an StI. Limited numbers are available for immediate delivery, ask for details on the Stelvio accessory pack.

FROM £28,995OTR FOR THE WRX STI

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ISUZU D-Max
 Scottish Farmer Special Edition with towbar, bedliner and rubber mats with 3.5 tonne towing limit and 5 years / 125000 mile warranty



THE ALL NEW LEVORG GT

The all new Levorg GT, spiritual successor to Subaru sport tourers of the past and an exciting addition to the range due here later this year. We are now taking orders for the New Levorg GT. With only 200 available before the end of the year demand is sure to be high.

West coast recruitment

The Scottish Salmon Company



The Scottish Salmon Company is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish Salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

Senior Marine Operative
Isle of Mull
Inch Kenneth / Geasgill

Salary: up to £25,500 plus overtime, dependent on experience

We are recruiting for a Senior Marine Operative based at our Inch Kenneth site on the Isle of Mull. Under the direction of the Site Manager, you will lead a small team in all the day to day operations of the site and will assume responsibility for staff, vessels and equipment.

The successful applicant must have proven leadership, fish husbandry and organisational abilities with good numeric and IT skills. They must also be committed to high standards of health and safety of staff and understand the importance of environmental issues. A current, clean driving licence is essential.

Working hours are 40 per week Monday to Friday, with weekend working required on a rota basis. We operate a generous company pension scheme and annual leave entitlement is 31 days.

For a detailed job specification and application form please contact the address below.

Environmental Data Planner
Western Isles (Stornoway), Argyll (Cairndow),
or Lochcarron (Strome)

Salary: Dependent on experience

This role will involve coordinating and managing the full application process for new site development including actively facilitating regular meetings with key stakeholders and participating in public consultation meetings.

The role will also focus on ensuring the optimisation of our existing sites whilst maintaining legislative compliance, and involve the utilisation of internal mapping tools for site design, and the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessments and the production of Environmental Statements.

The ideal candidate must have a degree or equivalent qualification in an Environmental discipline. A full clean driving licence is also essential, along with a flexible and independent approach to enable full support to our site teams across a varied geographical area. Experience of working within the Scottish salmon industry would also be advantageous.

Applications are requested by CV and covering letter to the address below before 14 August 2015.

For a detailed job specification please contact:
Lisa Connell HR and Training Manager
The Scottish Salmon Company
8 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 7JA
Email: lisa.connell@scottishsalmon.com
Visit our website at www.scottishsalmon.com



Grieg Seafood is recruiting for the following posts:

**Assistant Area Manager/
Feed Coordinator and Fish Farm
Senior Site Operative**

The Company:
Grieg Seafood, is a leading producer of quality Scottish farmed salmon, with a proven track record of achievement. We have openings at Dunvegan, Skye for dynamic and dedicated candidates.

Assistant Area Manager/Feed Coordinator - Dunvegan

The Role:
The successful candidate will be required to lead a team monitoring and controlling feeding operations on our fish farms in the Dunvegan area. You will work closely with and report to the Area manager and will be an integral part of the management team.

Requirements:
You will have previous experience and a proven track record within the aquaculture industry. While previous management experience is desirable full training will be provided. A base salary of £30,700 plus overtime is available for this position. In addition, performance and loyalty based bonuses are available for the successful candidate.

Fish Farm Senior Site Operative - Dunvegan

The Role:
The successful candidate will be required to assist in the day to day running of our fish farms in the Dunvegan area as part of a team. You will report to the Area Manager who will provide you with the necessary support services to allow you to concentrate on the main task of fish husbandry.

Requirements:
The successful candidate will have a track record within the aquaculture sector, although any additional training required will be given by the employer. A base salary of £26,388 plus overtime is available for this position. In addition performance and loyalty based bonuses are available for the successful candidate.

If you feel you have the necessary talent and commitment to apply for this position, please send an up-to-date CV to:

Bill Johnson, Grieg Seafood, Gremista, Lerwick, ZE1 0PX.
Or Email: bill.johnson@griegseafood.com

Closing date for application is Tuesday the 11th of August.

Additional Support Needs Assistant (Temporary)

£15,968 - £17,428 pro rata Gigha Primary School Ref: CME36465

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The Oban Times Group is seeking to appoint an experienced newspaper advertising sales professional who will be based in the popular West Coast town of Oban.

The group has a stable of four weekly newspapers, including the influential Oban Times – one of Scotland's most popular titles.

The successful candidate will proactively lead the newspaper advertising sales team, with additional responsibility for a series of holiday and special interest publications, plus the development of the group's digital strategy.

The position will require regular travel throughout Scotland to develop business, and there is the potential to progress to Divisional Director.

Applications with CV and covering letter to:
ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

WYVEX MEDIA

The Oban Times Group is part of Wyvex Media, which also has a separate magazines division based in Edinburgh, producing the leading lifestyle magazine Scottish Field and a number of b2b titles.

TRAINEE TEAM MANAGERS - ELECTRICAL/INSTRUMENTATION



WICK, THURSO, OBAN, CAMPBELTOWN

SGN manage and operate the network that distributes natural and green gas to 5.8 million homes and businesses across Scotland and the south of England. Whoever your supplier is, our pipes deliver gas safely, reliably and efficiently to every one of our customers. It's your gas, in our network.

We have exciting opportunities within our operational departments for Trainee Team Managers. These vacancies would suit highly motivated individuals who will participate in an extensive development programme which will provide excellent career opportunities with one of the UK's leading gas transportation companies.

These unique opportunities have arisen within our Scottish Independent Undertakings (SIUs) in the above locations. The SIUs are unique in the UK in that they are not connected to the National Grid system. They use either Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) or Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as a feedstock.

This is a technical role involving the day to day management of field based SIU operational teams who are primarily involved in the installation and maintenance of the local gas network. Much of the role will be field based, involving the planning and supervision of work to ensure the safe transportation of gas. You will gain experience through a two year bespoke training programme, enabling you to develop your engineering competence while focusing on gas engineering and management skills.

You must fit the following criteria:

- Have some experience of leading, developing and motivating teams/individuals in an engineering, construction or technical environment and demonstrate knowledge in this area.
- Hold a further education or vocational based qualification in electrical and Instrumentation (such as an HNC/City and Guilds qualification).
- Applications will also be considered from candidates who have recently completed a relevant Honours Degree level course but who may lack the necessary work experience.

Your starting salary will be around £25,000 dependent on qualifications and experience. Following satisfactory completion of the full two year programme your salary will rise to £31,000 plus standby/callout payments and a company car. We also offer an excellent benefits package.

This is a challenging development programme that will set you up for a rewarding career within SGN.

For a more detailed job description and to apply please visit our website www.sgn.co.uk or request an application form from jobs@sgn.co.uk quoting vacancy reference 15118.

Applications must be received by close of business on Monday 10 August 2015.

SGN is an equal opportunities employer

Experienced Receptionist required

An opportunity has arisen at Oban Veterinary Surgeons for a full-time receptionist to join a supportive and friendly team.

The successful candidate will have excellent communication skills, be hard-working and enthusiastic with a focus on client care.

Written applications should be accompanied by a CV and addressed to 'The partners, Oban Veterinary Surgery, 13 Tweeddale street, Oban, Pa34 5DD'

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We are looking for Carers to work in the Oban Area.

Rate of pay from £8.50/hour - evenings and weekends.

Alternate weekends essential. Car driver essential SVQ 2 preferred, training provided.

Application forms from 01631 569 550.

Registered with Scottish Care Commission. Applications subject to PVG Scheme vetting.



Experienced Individual, Engineering Technician or Graduate Engineer

We are looking for a suitably qualified or experienced individual to assist with tendering and pricing Civil and Marine based projects. This will involve entire project development from pricing and tendering to project delivery including client contact and site work. It is expected that the individual will be able to adapt to all situations as expected working with in a small company and will be Oban based. Driving licence and marine experience would be helpful but not essential.

Wages to suit individuals experience/qualification.

If interested please send your CV to Sara Milton, North West Marine Ltd, 7e Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG or email to sara@northwestmarine.co.uk or call 01631 565652.

Advertising Sales Executive

OBAN

Due to a reorganisation of the sales department and staff changes within the company we are looking an Advertising Sales Executive.

We offer excellent pay and real career progression and benefits including BUPA, holidays to 35 days (Scale), realistic targets and achievable bonus - most sales staff receive regular monthly bonuses.

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If you want to be part of the progressive new sales department, please submit CV and covering letter to ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk



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MORAR highland GAMES



Keen runners power on in the adult's section. 21_f32morargames14

THOUSANDS turned out for the Mallaig and Morar Highland Games on Sunday.

This year's chieftain, well-known theatrical producer, Sir Cameron Mackintosh, opened the event at Lovat memorial field by leading the Lochaber high school pipe band.

Sir Cameron said: 'I am really pleased to be here to open the games. The weather seems to be holding out for us which is good. The band have played well, so here's to a good day.'

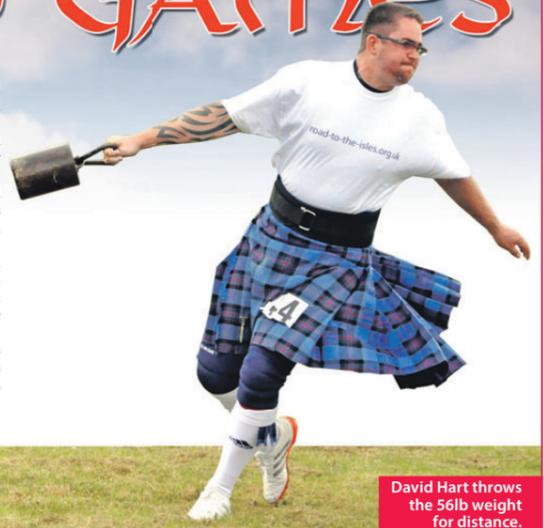
The games commentator made a special mention about Charles Kennedy, the former MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber. He spoke about

how Mr Kennedy, who sadly passed away recently, was a well-known and respected member of the community who always supported these local events. He said he would be sadly missed.

The heavy events started around 1pm in the afternoon and it was not long before visitors to the area took to the field to have a go.

Heavyweights, Ben Grunt and Andrew Johnston, were on hand to give the newcomers tips, but after a few tries most retreated back to the sidelines to spectate comfortably.

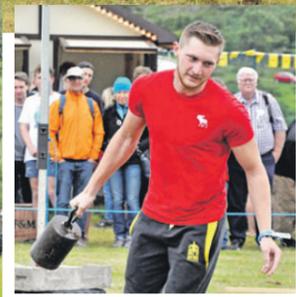
The games were a great success with all the regular heavy events and races as tourists and locals cheered on their favourite competitors.



David Hart throws the 56lb weight for distance. 21_f32morargames09



Lochaber high school pipe band was led by chieftain of the games, Sir Cameron Mackintosh. 21_f32morargames01



Brad North, from Nottingham was keen to try his hand at throwing the weight. He was taken under the wing of competitor, Ben Grunt. 21_f32morargames13



Roni Slater, from Glasgow won the girls 7 and under race. 21_f32morargames06



Anna Mackellaig, of Stenhousemuir, Aimee Sneddon, of Mallaig, and Megan O'Donnell, of Inverness. 21_f32morargames04

public notices

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 COMMERCIAL MOORINGS, KILCHOAN BAY, ARDNAMURCHAN

Notice is hereby given that Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd. has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of commercial moorings at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Kilchoan Bay, Ardnamurchan	56°41.364' N 56°41.387' N	006° 05.608' W 006° 05.617' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Kilchoan Post Office, The Ferry Stores, Kilchoan, PH36 4LH.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues 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: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: 05558

Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 CHANGE OF EQUIPMENT, INVERAWE WEST (ETIVE 1), 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 change of equipment, Inverawe West, Loch Etive:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Inverawe West (Etive 1), Loch Etive	56° 26.757' N 56° 26.740' N 56° 26.720' N 56° 26.734' N	005° 12.947' W 005° 13.035' W 005° 12.996' W 005° 12.908' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected Taynuilt Post Office.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues 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: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: 05638

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd

MULL CURRY LIMITED (t/a Sagar Indian Cuisine)
Company number: SC408735

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the Company must send their full names and addresses (and those of their Solicitors, if any), together with full particulars of their debts or claims to the Joint Liquidators at 10 St Helens Road, Swansea SA1 4AW by 22 October 2015.

If so required by notice from the Joint Liquidators, either personally or by their Solicitors, Creditors must come in and prove their debts at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, if they default in providing such proof, they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Simon Thomas Barriball and Helen Whitehouse of McLister & Co Insolvency Practitioners Ltd, 10 St Helens Road, Swansea SA1 4AW were appointed Joint Liquidators of the Company on 22 July 2015.

Further information about this case is available from Linda Tolley at the offices of McLister & Co Insolvency Practitioners Ltd on 01792 459600 or at simon@mclister.co.uk

Simon Thomas Barriball and Helen Whitehouse, Joint Liquidators

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

Mrs M C Maclean
5 Ruaig, Tiree
0.106 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.58093

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

First Registration of a Croft
Ewen J Morrison has registered their croft 11 Tresaig, Airdgord on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by March 15, 2016.

Details of registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is A0134

www.highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at http://wam.highland.gov.uk

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
15/01165/FUL	Wetherspoons Unit 3 98-104 High Street Fort William	Additional pavement cafe to be added to the side of the building
15/01759/FUL	Finuary Farm Lochaline Morvern Oban	Erection of house
15/02721/LBC	Dunbeg House North Ballachulish Onich Fort William	Alterations
15/02834/MSC	Land 70M SE of Braeside Cottage Achdaluie Fort William	Erection of a new dwelling house and temporary siting of static caravan
15/02902/FUL	Land 45M NE of Hillcrest Fassfern Kinlochell	Proposed erection of office building
15/02905/FUL	Integrated Freight Facility Corpach Fort William	Alterations & extension to office building (amended design)
15/02915/FUL	Workshop 80M East of Aonoch Mor Hotel Spean Bridge	Formation of 6 x serviced house sites (previous permission 12/03981/PIP)

Time period for comments is 14 days (15/02721/LBC is 21 days)
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD FIRST REGISTRATION OF COMMON GRAZINGS

The Crofting Commission have registered the following Common Grazings on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Cornaimore Common Grazings, Tiree
Registration Number: CG165

Hearnish Common Grazings, Tiree
Registration Number: CG168

Sandaig & Middleton Common Grazings, Tiree
Registration Number: CG171

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may appeal to the Scottish Land Court. The appeal must be brought within 9 months from the date of this advert and should be made directly to the Land Court.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Proposed Sublet of Croft
James Ardagh is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to sublet the whole croft at Seaview, Isle of Eigg, PH42 4RL to Alistair Kirk of Lageorna, Isle of Eigg, PH42 4RL for 4 years.

If you consider you have a relevant interest in this application, you may submit comments in writing to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW or email info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comment would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Proposed Assignment of a Grazings Share
Mr William MacGillivray is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the grazing share pertaining to the croft at 221B Acharachle to Mr Donald MacGillivray, School Lane, Acharachle, Argyll, PH36 4JL.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/01228/PP	Refurbishment of village hall including forming pitched roof over existing flat roof extension	Bridge Of Orchy Village Hall Station Road Bridge Of Orchy Argyll And Bute PA36 4AD	Sub Post Office Dalnally
15/01977/PP	Erection of fence and gate (retrospective).	Glencrean Estate Fasnacloich Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
15/02050/AMSC	Approval of conditions 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 10 relative to planning permission in principle reference 12/00715/PPP (Site for erection of dwellinghouse)	Land North Of Traigh Uaine Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 15B	Oban Area Office
15/02051/PP	Erection of detached domestic garage/boat store/workshop	Land North Of Traigh Uaine South Shian Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 15B	Oban Area Office
15/02092/PP	Installation of new external door in existing window opening	Ferry Terminal South Pier Railway Pier Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
15/02108/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Garden Ground Of Ach Na Caoraich Erray Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6PS	Tobermory Area Office
15/02120/PP	Removal of Condition 2 relative to planning permission reference 15/01142/PP (Change of use of 2 former modular classroom huts to offices and installation of accessible toilets and entrance ramps) - in relation to visibility splays	Rockfield Primary School Hill Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5NA	Oban Area Office
15/02140/PP	Amended access track and relocation of substation/control building to planning permission reference 11/01915/PP (retrospective)	Gallanach Farm Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6TE	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
15/02141/PP	Variation of conditions 4, 6, 8 and 9 of planning permission reference 11/01915/PP in relation to site access route, borrow pit, control building and construction compound	Gallanach Farm Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6TE	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Marse Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/02133/LIB	Internal alterations	5 School Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7TW	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Marse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

COUNCILLOR'S SURGERY

Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 7th August 2015 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 3.00pm - 5.00pm.
He can be contacted by email - Roddy.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567854.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

A Meeting of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee will be held in Seil Island Community Hall

At 10:30am - Wednesday 12th August 2015

Members of the public are welcome to attend and a public question time will take place during the meeting. Questions can be asked on the day or can be submitted in advance to the Area Committee Manager, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT. Telephone: 01631 567945.

The Agenda for the meeting will be available to view from Wednesday 5th August at the Service Point, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW and at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Douglas Hendry, Executive Director - Customer Services



Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

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Fiona Clark

Happy 11th Birthday

To my wonderful daughter **Leah MacCorquodale**

On her 11th birthday. I treasure the times we spend together. Have a great day.

Lots of love Dad xxx

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Your loving Gran xxx

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BIRTHS

MACGREGOR - Mark and Michelle would like to announce the safe arrival of Kelsey Maureen MacGregor born July 28, 2015 in the Belford Hospital. Little sister to Conner and Courtney and special thanks to all the Midwives in the Belford.

LE PREVOST - To Steven and Rachel (née Davies), a daughter Martha Kathryn, born on July 14, 2015. A first grandchild for Andy and Allison, Connel and David and Carolyn, Isle of Man.

DEATHS

DRAKE - Francis Drake died suddenly at home on Sunday August 2, 2015 in his sixtieth year. Known by everyone as Keith, he was a beloved husband, father and son and will be much missed. Funeral service to be held at Tobermory Parish Church on Friday, August 7, 2015 at 11.30am, thereafter to Tobermory Beadoun Cemetery. Family flowers only please donations if wished to Macmillan Cancer Care.

GILLIES - On July 30, 2015, in the wonderful care of Greenfield Park, Carnynte, Mary, (nee Rose), in her 86th year, formerly of 27 Achlonan, Taynuilt, beloved wife of the late Alister, loving and much loved mother to Rosie and Fiona, Gran to Clare and Grangran to Kayla and Lacey. Funeral service will be held in Muckkaim Parish Church, Taynuilt on Friday, August 7 at 1.00 p.m. She will be greatly missed.

MACDONALD - Peacefully, in North Argyll House, Oban, on August 4, 2015, Donald Archy, aged 96 years, formerly of Dunmar Court, Oban and North Uist. Beloved husband of the late Peggy, loving father of Anne, Angus, Marina and the late Calum and Katie, a loved papa and great papa, uncle and cousin.

MACGREGOR - Peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, surrounded by his family, on Sunday, August 2, 2015, Alexander, (Cherry), in his 79th year, dearly beloved husband of the late Rhoda, much loved dad of Linda, Kenneth and John, father-in-law of Denis, Catherine Ann and Flo. Dear Papa of Jordan, Eilidh, Erin and Laura and Great Grandpapa to Millie and Jessica. Funeral service to be held at Muckkaim Parish Church, Taynuilt, on Monday, August 10 at 2.00 p.m. Thereafter to Muckkaim Cemetery. Family flowers only, retiral collection/donations will be taken for Oban Hospice.

MACKINNON - Peacefully at Islay Hospital on July 28, 2015, Euphemia (Effie) nee McIntyre, aged 94, beloved wife of the late Willie MacKinnon, dear Mother to John and Fay, devoted and much loved Granny to Russell and adoring Granny Effie to Mia and Rory.

McFADYEN - Peacefully, at home in "Sunnyridge", Oban, on Friday, July 31, 2015, in her 87th year, Margaret, beloved wife of the late John, much loved mammy to Veronica and Clare, mother-in-law of Andrew, loving Grandma to Drew, Stacey, Jemma and Karen and dearly loved Great Grandma to Darcy, Riley, Annan and Eden. Requiem Mass to be held in St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban, on Monday, August 10 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMPBELL - Mairi and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for many cards, flowers and wonderful support following the sad loss of Hector. To Rev Dugald Cameron for his comforting service. To all who travelled especially Margaret and Alison, Hector's nieces, to be with us, much appreciated. Thanks to Care Plus girls, Lorn Medical Centre, Betty Graham, staff of Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital and Glassary Ward, Mid Argyll. Thanks to Catriona and Owen Hoey for invaluable care and attention - 7 Dalriach Court, Oban.

POTTER - Katrina and family would like to thank the doctors and staff of Taynuilt Medical Practice and doctors and staff of Ward B of Lorn & Islands District General Hospital for the care and attention given to her. Thanks to the many friends and members of the community for their kindness and messages of sympathy, to Ian at D&A Munn for efficient funeral arrangements, to Rev Margaret Miller for her comforting service, to Emma Law for her piping and to the Robin's Nest for their catering. Thank you to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside and who contributed so generously to the collection. £886 has been donated to ABCD.

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, Rhuaridh, Katie and Coll.

DEMPSTER - Margaret (née MacIver). In loving memory of Nellie who blessed us with her presence from July 5, 1969 until August 9, 2010. - C.x P.S. Thank you for all the rainbows my friend.

GUNN - In loving memory of our dear mother Cathie, who died August 5, 2003. Also remembering with much love dad John and brother Calum. Today, tomorrow our whole lives through We will always cherish our memories of you. - The Gunn family.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Annabel, who died August 5, 2014. A much loved and greatly missed mum, granny and great granny. - From the family at home and away.

MACINNIS /DOUGLAS - Eilidh. My dearest Eilidh you have been gone a year Always as vital, your presence I still feel near But life goes on without you Although nothing is the same Each day, each hour, each memory will pass 'til we meet again. Always in our thoughts. - Your loving mother x

MACKECHNIE - Loving memories of my beloved husband Angus, who died August 11, 2005 also remembering loved ones and friends no longer with us. Years slip by But memories last forever. Sadly missed, but not forgotten. - Grace.

MACKINNON - In affectionate and loving memory of my brothers, Donald William (Donald Barra), who died August 4, 2005, Donald (Wee Dan), who died January 19, 2006, Angus John (Dui), who died March 24, 2013. RIP. I can't have the old days back When we were all together But you live on in my heart and all my happy memories. - Peigi.

MACLEAN - To my wife Eleanor who died August 6, 2004. If tears could build a stairway And memories a lane I'd go all the way to Heaven To have you back again. - From Forbes and all the MacLean family.

MACPHAIL - In loving memory of my mother, Chrissie, who passed away on August 10, 1995. Loved and remembered always. - Mairi and George.

MACPHERSON - Raymond. Tragically died August 4, 2001. Loved and remembered always. R.I.P.

- Love Mum, Dad, sisters, nieces and nephews. **STEELE** - Treasured memories of James, a dearly loved fiance and daddy who died August 8, 2011. You may be gone from our sight But you are never gone from our hearts. Love always. - Michelle, Megan and Jamie xxx

STEELE - Treasured memories of my dear son James who was tragically taken from me on August 8, 2011. August comes with sad regret The day, the month, I'll never forget Memories of you will never fade away Loved and remembered every day. - Mum and Gilly.

STEELE - In loving memory of James who died August 8, 2011, a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle. Remembering also our dear dad and papa Donnie Steele who died April 30, 2015. Sorely missed Love always. - Karen, Ewen, Callie and Carter xxx

STOTT - Treasured memories of a dear dad and grandpa Bill who died August 5, 1999. Always loved and never forgotten. - Rosemary, Ewen and family, Swan Bridge.

Peter and Joan's 60 happy years together

Peter and Joan Cleave of North Connel received a card from Buckingham Palace to mark 60 years of marriage this week. The couple were married on July 30, 1955 in North London. In 1973, they moved to Geneva for six years and then spent twelve years in Montreal. The couple retired to live in Scotland 20 years ago.



The couple held a small family celebration over two days where they were joined by their son and his partner, their daughter and two teenage grandsons

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Coping with bereavement

LOSS happens to everyone at some time in our lives. Most people expect this to happen later on in life, perhaps to an elderly relative, where loved ones have an idea that they are going to be faced by loss. But even though they know a loved one is dying, when it happens it comes as a great shock, and they are overwhelmed by unexpected feelings. And sometimes the loss of a love one is sudden and unexpected.

Research has shown that in order to grieve in a healthy way, those suffering

bereavement need to spend time in grieving for the person and somehow continue to live and to function. If a person spends all of his time grieving and not engaging with life, or all his time pushing the grief away, he may have trouble moving forward and recovering. Experts give several tips for those undergoing the bereavement process. Talking to close family and friends, especially those that understand, can help feelings of loneliness by recounting memories and sharing stories that summed up the character of the person

no longer with them. Such discussions remind everyone why the bereaved was so loved in the first place. In a similar vein, some may consider making a tribute of some kind to help pay their respects in a symbolic way. Finding ways to continue the bond with the deceased person can help ease grief, such as engaging in activities they used to do, or participating in an event they would have liked, for example, a charity walk. Going back to work too soon can hamper the bereavement process, although some people find it helpful to

keep busy - as long as they don't push their feelings away and keep them bottled up. The funeral can be one of the most important parts of the grieving process. The funeral offers a chance to say goodbye while sharing memories, experiences and anecdotes with friends and family - a true celebration of a person important to so many. Funeral directors will take care of the practical arrangements and guide the bereaved through the selection of flowers, music and order of events. It is difficult to make decisions under

the weight of grief, and funeral home staff are skilled at assisting during this difficult time. Grief counselling can help make the bereavement process a bit easier. Sometimes it is helpful to talk to someone outside of the circle family and friends. A counsellor can help make sense of and help to normalise feelings. In addition, bereavement groups can help one through the process by providing an outlet to talk about difficult feelings, while acting a social hub for those who have something in common.

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Two games back to back prove just too much for Oban Saints

**Rhu Amateurs 1, Oban Saints 5
Oban Saints 1, Greenock HSFP 5
Greenock HSFP 1, Rhu Amateurs 1**

ON THE basis that they do more than their fair share of travelling during the season, Saints don't normally play away from home in pre-season. However, the invitation to take part in the 120th anniversary celebrations of one of Scotland's oldest surviving amateur football clubs proved too good to turn down. Saints therefore took to the road last Saturday and headed for the pretty conservation village of Rhu at the mouth of the Gare Loch.

Three clubs took part in the competition, Saints, their old friends, Greenock High School Former Pupils, and hosts, Rhu Amateurs, with the teams playing each other once in matches lasting 70 minutes.

The Oban side were missing skipper, Marc MacCallum, Thomas McCulloch, Craig MacEwan, Keith Millar and Dean Smith, but still managed to take a squad of 16 players to the competition.

First up on the well-prepared but steeply sloping and very soft playing surface were Saints and Rhu. Saints made the breakthrough in the 12th minute. Jamie Graham made a good run cutting in from the left wing and slipped the ball to Lewis Cameron whose

low cross from the left of the box was deflected into his own net by a Rhu defender.

After a raking Willie Gemmill pass from the back, Lewis and Jamie linked up again in a similar position to win a free kick when Jamie was tripped just outside the box. Lewis curled the free kick around the wall towards the keeper's bottom left-hand corner and, despite the keeper getting both hands to it, he was unable to keep the ball out of the net.

The Oban side were completely dominant in this first period and added a third when another long pass from Willie Gemmill picked out Lewis Cameron's run through the inside left channel.

With the defence beaten, a first time flick with the outside of his right boot from Lewis caught the keeper advancing totally by surprise and the ball nestled in the bottom corner of the net.

The Rhu defence was charitable with Ross Maitland the grateful recipient pouncing on a wretchedly short back pass to roll the ball into the net past the stranded keeper to make the score 4-0 at half-time.

Manager, Alex Craik, deployed all four substitutes at half-time sending on David McArthur, Matthew Kelly, Kevin Keen and Shaun MacIvor to replace Jamie Graham, Paul Kerr, Lewis Cameron and Allan Mackay.

Saints started the second half casually and were made to pay after just sixty seconds when Stuart McGillivray sprung the Saints offside trap for an easy finish past Daniel Cassells.

On the hour mark, Saints got their fifth goal when Shaun MacIvor made a good run to get on the end of a terrific defence splitting pass from Donnie Campbell leaving the Rhu defence appealing in vain for offside as he rounded the keeper and steered the ball into the unguarded net.



BACK OF THE NET: Saints' striker, Alan MacKay, on the ground, heads home Saints' equaliser against Greenock HSFP last Saturday.

Report and photos: Derek Black

Referee, James Gallacher, brought the first of his three matches to an end allowing Saints a ten minute breather before facing the fresh legs of West of Scotland Amateur Cup holders, Greenock High School Former Pupils.

Saints started the game against old friends the 'High' with the same line-up as the first match with the exception of Jamie Graham who made way for David McArthur at left back. The Central Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division outfit were to prove an entirely different proposition to that posed by the hosts and a very even opening thirty five minutes ensued.

Saints were almost caught out in the tenth minute by a swift High counter attack, but were saved by a timely Paul Kerr tackle on Stephen Burden at the expense of a corner. However Saints failed to clear the danger from the corner kick from the High left and Michael McColgan bundled the ball over the line from close range.

Two minutes later, Saints were back on level terms after Ross Maitland had won another corner on the right this time from a Donnie Campbell pass inside the full back. Once again Ross delivered a good out swinging cross which was met by a terrific

diving header into the net from Allan MacKay.

In the 23rd minute, Willie Gemmill picked up the only yellow card of the entire afternoon when referee Gallacher, who handled proceedings well throughout, finally tired of his incessant questioning of decisions.

The luck of the tournament draw saw Saints end the first half on 105 minutes of continuous high tempo football, but with their opponents on just 35 minutes, the pendulum was about to swing very much in High's favour.

Low cross

Four minutes after the restart there was nothing Daniel Cassells could do to prevent the High regaining the lead when a low cross from the right was turned in at the back post by Michael McColgan.

Greenock killed the game off when Stephen Burden delivered a corner from the right which was cleared but only as far as Burden whose first time left foot strike from the corner of the box fizzed past Daniel Cassells into the bottom corner of the net.

Moments later, Saints slipped further behind when a terrific Gordon Smith strike from the edge of the D flew past Daniel Cassells giving the big Saints keeper no chance. On 57 min-

utes, Saints had some good build-up on the left, but with the ball screaming out to be cut back to Donnie Campbell on the edge of the box, Allan MacKay elected to shoot from a tight angle sending his shot over the junction of post and bar. From the goal kick, the High again went long where Dene Cassells completely misjudged his attempted clearance slicing it into the path of the onrushing Gordon Smith who eagerly gobbled up the chance to make it 5-1 to the High.

To their credit, Saints kept plugging away in a match they were now clearly not going to get anything from, but mental fatigue was setting in and failure to maintain their shape was presenting the High with chances to further extend their advantage.

On the hour mark, Kevin Keen and Matthew Kelly came on to replace Ross Maitland and David McArthur with young Matthew facing a baptism of fire in an unfamiliar left back role against the very experienced Barry Munro.

Saints managed two more attempts of note in the closing fifteen minutes with Myles McAuley testing the keeper with a powerful run and shot and Donnie Campbell having a decent long range effort tipped over, but the match finished

without further scoring leaving Saints to hope for a home win in the final match.

The hosts put up a far better showing in the final match and were worthy of a share of the points against their more illustrious opponents. However Greenock prevailed thanks to a first half Stephen Burden strike earning them the handsome Murdoch Gardening Services Trophy. Saints received some consolation for their afternoon's work in the shape of the Player of the Tournament trophy awarded to Lewis Cameron.

Manager, Alex Craik, was happy enough with day. He said: 'It was hard going playing two 70 minute games back to back but good for fitness levels. We played really well against Rhu and for the first half of the game against Greenock, but they are a good side and when we began to tire and lose our shape they punished us. I would have liked to have played them first when both teams were fresh.'

Saints face another busy day next Saturday when they travel to Lochgilphead for the Argyll and Bute Cup before the league season kicks off on the following Saturday with a home game against newly-promoted East Kilbride.



Dalmally

A BLAZING back nine of level par 32 was the key to Gerry Davies securing Dalmally Golf Club's Leisuresport Stableford Trophy.

Going into the final round two behind Billy McKay, he quickly took the lead and never looked back, eventually coasting home by ten points from John MacKechnie, with McKay dropping into overall third position.

Ladies Raglan Decanter (net scores): 1 Lily McKay 67; 2 Ann Munro 72; 3 June Sutherland 75

Killin

GENTS Open: Saturday 1 August: Scratch - The Davies Trophy - 1 John R Cowan (Taymouth Castle) 74; 2 John MacCallum (Glencruitten) 74; 3 Cameron Milne (Glencruitten) 74.

Handicap - The Melia Quaich 1 Willie Hill (Kenmore) 68; 2 Andy Briggs (Killin) 70; 3 Charles Kemp (Killin) 70

Longest Drive: Category 1 (9th and 18th) : Kevin Mackie (Glencruitten); Category 2 (7th and 16th) : Bruce McLaughlan Jnr (Seaton Carew).

Nearest the Pin: Category 1 (8th and 17th) - Alan Scougall (Culterrieff); Category 2 (5th and 14th) - G Herd (Killin)

All in 2 (6th only) : A McHardy (Glencruitten)

The Wee Claret Jug: (Best Local Overall): Andy Briggs (Killin) 70.

Magic 2s: Rab Foster (Crieff), Jim Burton (Killin), John Dixon (Kenmore), Cameron Milne (Glencruitten) x2, Hugh McIvor (Glencruitten), Graham Herd (Killin), K Mackie (Glencruitten), Finlay O'Rourke (Glencruitten), John R Cowan (Taymouth Castle), John Elliot (Langholm).

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WINNER: Oban Saints striker, Lewis Cameron, was voted Player of the Tournament

Good conditions for WHYW competitors

THE FIRST day's racing at this year's West Highland Yachting Week (WHYW) saw good conditions for the fleet circumnavigating the island of Shuna off Craobh Marina. And Argyll sailors also made it a good start to the week on the results board.

With medium breezes both Tunnock's spinnaker fleet and Argyll white sail fleet had all points of sail with a long beat, close reach and run rounding Shuna clockwise twice.

Spirit of Jacana took the spoils in IRC Class 0 from Duckwall Pooley and J Fever with Erin topping the leader board in Class 1. Carmen II and James Hardie's Taz finished second and third.

Restricted sail class 2 was taken by Sunrise from Anne Campbell's X34 Ajax and Robin Ferguson's X443 Hoodlum.

Spinnaker Class 3 was won by local Steven Forthright and team on Shadowfax from Ian Hards' Hardslog and Oban's Graham Anderson and team on Lucky Ned Pepper.

Brian Young's Mylne ketch Glenafton, Steve Williams' Mystic Sun and Donald McLaren's Sigmatic made the line-up in white sail class 4.

Class 5 racing with kites was taken by Steel Pulse from the Glencoe Boat Club's Suiilven with Colin Crawford's Nimrod third. Craig Anderson's famous Cool Bandit 2 took the honours in Class 7 with fellow Moody 336 Piecemaker second and Boyd Tunnock's Lemerac third.

Angus Campbell's Grand Soleil Stargazer finished first in Class 8 by eight minutes on corrected time ahead of Lucy Downie and Garth Wilson's Zebedee. Ruairidh Campbell's First 29 Voila was third.

Craobh to Oban passage
Monday's race from Craobh to Oban promised big breezes and didn't disappoint. After the initial upwind leg and one close reach to the turning mark, kites were set for the run through Fladda past Easdale and Insh to the south of Kerrera.

With favourable wind direction this was a gybe mark and the spinnaker fleet held their kites to another turning mark before the short beat to the finish.

It was a fitting first for the major sponsor of WHYW, Boyd Tunnock CBE, who not only won Class 7 in his Moody 38 Lemerac from Craig Anderson's Cool Bandit,

but also took line honours of the whole fleet lifting the MacBrayne Centenary Challenge Cup.

Class 0 was again a Spirit of Jacana, Duckwall Pooley and J Fever run with Class 1 this time being taken by WHYW stalwarts Allan Jeffrey and Paul Scutt in their First 36.7 Carmen II. John Murphy's Erin was second and Roddy Angus's Misjif third.

The Chalmers family in Sunrise took another first in Class 2 with Hoodlum second and Spirit of May third.

In closely contested Class 3, Shadowfax made it another first from Lucky Ned Pepper, the two locals pushing Hardslog into third.

Busy Beaver took the win over Joey Gough's Tangle o'the Isles in restricted sail class Class 4 with Harold Hood's Sigma 33 Odyssey II in third place. Stephen Owen's Halcyon from Alastair Gay's Orwell Lass and Gordon Young's Rambler were the one, two three in a big Class 6.

Feeder Races

The thirty-strong fleet from Oban racing in the feeder to Craobh for the start of WHYW contended building breezes from the south with winds touching 40

Yachting

knots in the gusts. It was a big boat race evidenced by a convincing win for John Murphy with his Sun Odyssey 49 Erin. The X332 of Ian Hards - Hardslog - finished second and local boat, Shadowfax, of Billy and Steven Forthright third.

On a downwind roller coaster from Gigha, Rea MacKay's Moody 33 Kiri revelled in the conditions to win the Gigha feeder from Douglas Reid's Moody 336 Stargazer from Campbelltown with David McMullen's Steel Pulse third out of the six-strong fleet.

WHYW competitors were due to face strong winds on Tuesday for the inshore race and round the cans Olympic style courses.

Both Tunnock's spinnaker yachts and Argyll white sail yachts race as one fleet to Tobermory on Wednesday. After a day's racing off Tobermory all boats return to Oban on Friday for the final prize-giving dance at the Corran Halls.

All results on www.whyw.co.uk and www.facebook.com/West-HighlandYachtingWeek



Children who attended the training camp

Warriors training camp

AT 6'8" tall, former Scotland rugby captain, Alastair Kellock, has literally played rugby at the highest level.

Kellock was at Oban Lorne rugby club for a training camp on Monday, organised by his former side, Glasgow Warriors. He passed on his wealth of experience to youngsters from Oban, Taynuilt, Mid-Argyll and Mull.

The children were also given a chance to hold, the Guinness Pro12 trophy, currently on a 'trophy tour' of Scotland.

Kellock captained the Warriors to the win last season against Munster, in his final professional game. The win was the first time a Scottish team has won the prestigious trophy, which is competed for by teams from Scotland, Ireland, Italy and Wales.

Kellock, who now works for Scottish Rugby in an ambassador's role, said: 'The idea is to travel all over Scotland, showing children that they can start off at a small club, like I did, and go on to play at the very highest level. And the fact that Magnus and Fergus



Alistair Kellock held a question and answer session in Oban Lorne clubhouse

Rugby

Bradbury, both Oban lads, who are now playing for their country, is proof it can happen.

'I played in Oban a few times for my former club, Allan Glens, so will always associate the town with rugby.'

'This tour is all about building on the success of the win for Warriors to try and influence a new generation of children to get involved in the game at a grass roots level.'

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competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

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Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



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First Camanachd Cup semi-final takes place on Saturday

Newtonmore take on Lochside Rovers in Sutherland Cup final

Camanachd Cup

LOVAT will face Inveraray this Saturday in the Camanachd Cup semi-final, having seen off Fort William at the weekend in the tournament quarter-finals.

The rescheduled fixture at An Aird was the third time the tie had to be played, following a draw between the teams on July 11 and then a postponement on July 18, but John MacKitchie's men sealed their place in the final four with goals from Callum Cruden and a James Tangey own goal.

Saturday's tie with Inveraray, who beat Glasgow Mid-Argyll en route to the semis, will be held at the neutral venue of An Aird, with a 4pm throw-up.

It wasn't the most successful weekend for **FORT WILLIAM** as they had another player sent off, just a week after another suspension, and were knocked out of the Camanachd cup.

Stevie Stewart was red carded in the first half of the quarter-final at An Aird.

Lovat took an early lead with a 14th minute goal from Callum Cruden and, between the sending off and an own goal from James Tangey, there was little way back for the hosts and the visitors went through to the semi-final.

The Fort have a free weekend ahead as An Aird is being used for the Camanachd Cup semi-final between Inveraray and Lovat.

INVERARAY suffered a 4-2 league defeat away to Glenurquhart at the weekend. Lewis MacNicol and Euan McMurdo scored their two goals.

Inveraray take on Lovat this Saturday at An Aird in the semi-final of the Camanachd Cup. The game will be televised live on BBC Alba with a 4pm throw-up.

Sutherland Cup final

LOCHSIDE ROVERS play their biggest game of the season this Saturday, as they face Newtonmore in the final of the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland cup.

Manager, Gareth Evans, said: 'This is the big one this weekend. I pretty much have a full squad, apart from one person who is touch-and-go.'

'On our way to the final, we've beaten Aberdeen University,

Kingussie, Lochaber and Fort William - all north teams - so I'd say if we do win it, we'll have done it the hard way.'

'Camanachd and Newtonmore's senior teams both have free weeks too, so hopefully there will be a good travelling support.'

The final throws-up at 1.30pm at the Jubilee, Ballachulish.

NEWTONMORE ran out 1-0 winners over Kingussie last week. They have no game this weekend, but Newtonmore's second team are playing Lochside Rovers in the final of the Sutherland cup this Saturday, at 1.30pm, in Ballachulish.

Second team manager, Cameron MacDonald, said: 'This is without a doubt our biggest game of the year.'

'It will be a tough and emotional game. Lochside got to the final through merit and they love a second half. It will be all about who turns up on the day.'

Newtonmore's second team have no injuries going in to the final.

Premiership

LOCHABER went down 6-1 to second place Kyles Athletic at home on Saturday.

The Spean Bridge side slipped down a place in the Premiership table after welcoming Kyles and a solitary goal from the hosts' Stuart Callison was no match for the visitors, who easily took home the points with two goals each from Gordon Whyte, Roddy MacDonald and Roberto Zavaroni.

Ally Ferguson's men have a free week ahead.

OBAN CAMANACHD were scheduled to play Kinlochshiel away last Saturday.

They travelled all the way to Fort William before getting a phone call letting them know the game was cancelled due to an unplayable pitch.

Manager, Ian Hay, said he was disappointed as they have a backlog of games to play.

They don't have a game this weekend either as the Sutherland cup final is on, but they will be up supporting their second team, Lochside Rovers, who are in the final.

Camanachd are next in action on August 15 away to Inveraray.

KINGUSSIE suffered a 1-0 defeat at home to league leaders, Newtonmore, on Friday night.

Shinty

The game got underway at 6pm and was shown live on BBC Alba.

Glen MacKintosh got the only goal of the game just before half-time. Kingussie are scheduled to play Kyles Athletic away on August 8 with a 2pm throw up.

GLENURQUHART defeated Inveraray 4-2 at home on Saturday with Neale Reid getting a hat-trick and Fraser Heath getting the additional goal.

The home side went 3-0 up before Inveraray got on the score sheet on the 66th minute. Both teams then went on to score one more before the game was over.

Glenurquhart don't have a fixture this weekend, but they are back in action on August 15 at home to Lovat with a 2.30pm throw up.

KINLOCHSHIEL were scheduled to play Oban Camanachd on Saturday, but the game was postponed at the last minute due to an unplayable pitch.

The Balmacara-based side don't have a fixture this weekend.

KYLES ATHLETIC ran out 6-1 winners over Lochaber on Saturday, with goals coming from Gordon Whyte, Roddy MacDonald and Roberto Zavaroni, who all managed to bag a double.

Kyles, who are currently sitting second in the league, take on Kingussie at home this Saturday with a 2pm throw up.



TUSSLE: Fort William's James Tangey and Lovat's Kevin Bartlett in a tussle for the ball during last Saturday's Camanachd Cup quarter-final replay which Lovat won 2-0. Photo: Neil Paterson



ACTION: Fraser MacNicol, Inveraray, and Neale Reid, Glenurquhart, in action during last Saturday's Premiership match. Photo: Donald Cameron

National League

After having two weekend's off **BALLACHULISH** Camanachd will play host to Glasgow Mid Argyll this Saturday.

The game at the Jubilee will throw up at 12 noon.

SKYE CAMANACHD'S home game against Beaulieu was postponed last weekend due to an unplayable pitch.

This Saturday the team will travel to face Glasgow Mid Argyll.

Manager, John MacLeod, is confident that his team can win this week, which would give them two points and join Kilmallie at the top of the table.

MacLeod said: 'We are looking good this weekend. It is the first time we have had a full squad to choose from so I confident we can take the two points.'

The game throws-up at 2pm. On August 15, Skye will compete for the top spot on the league table at home against Kilmallie.

For the first time this season **KILMALLIE** lost a point in the league as they drew 1-1 with Caberfeidh at the weekend.

But manager Mark MacPherson said it was a 'point gained not a point lost' as the Strathpeffer hosts were the better side on Saturday.

He said: 'We didn't play well at all in the first half. The second was better but still nothing to write home about. It was disap-

league this weekend with a 12 o'clock throw-up at Ganavan.

TAYNUILT ran out 4-3 winners away to Strachur on Saturday after going 2-0 down. Willie Gillies and Willie Neilson both picked up a double to secure the two points.

They are away to Oban Celtic this weekend with a 12pm throw-up at Ganavan.

BUTE were due to play Inveraray second string at the Winterton last Saturday, but the match was called off due to the pitch being unplayable. This Saturday the islanders make the tip to take on Abedour with a 3pm throw-up.

KILMORY'S home game against Kyles also fell victim to the weather. This Saturday, the Mid Argyll team will be hoping the weather improves to allow their game against Glenorchy to go ahead at the Mart park, Dalmally.

STRACHUR went down by the odd goal in seven last Saturday at home to Taynuilt.

Despite scoring three goals scored by Steven Bulloch, Duncan Smart and Iain Wilson, they lost a close game 4-3.

This Saturday they make the short journey to take on Inveraray at the Winterton. Throw up is 12noon.

SOUTH DIVISION TWO **OBAN LORN** suffered a 3-1 defeat to their mid-table counterparts, Glenorchy, last Saturday.

Their only goal came from Andrew MacMillan on the 17th minute.

They don't have a fixture this weekend.

COL GLEN'S away game against Bute was called off after a pitch inspection found the park to be unplayable due to heavy overnight rain on Friday night. Col Glen have no game this Saturday.

POINTING compared to how we've performed recently but all credit to Caberfeidh, they played well and just had something that we didn't. Well done to them, they were well organised and were the better team. It's a point gained rather than a point lost because Caberfeidh deserved to win and easily could have.'

With a free weekend, MacPherson looks ahead to his clash with Skye on August 15. The islanders are just two points behind Kilmallie with a game in hand so both teams have everything to play for.

South Division One

GLENORCHY were scheduled to take on Lochside Rovers last Saturday.

But the game was cancelled due to an unplayable field. However, their second team beat Oban Lorn 3-1.

Glenorchy's first team take on Kilmory at home this weekend and Glenorchy's second team are away to Tayforth, with both games starting at 2pm.

OBAN CELTIC managed to secure a 4-0 win over Abedour last weekend with goals coming from Allan MacKie, Kenny Wotherspoon and Daniel Madej.

Manager, Davy Hamilton, said: 'It took a wee while to get the goals, but we got there in the end. It's good to get the home games won.'

Celtic take on Taynuilt in the

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Celtic take on Taynuilt in the



Fixtures

Saturday August 8
SSE Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Semi-Final
Inveraray v Lovat
Billy Wotherspoon 4pm
at An Aird, Fort William

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final
Newtonmore v Lochside Rovers
Calum Girvan - 1.30pm
at Ballachulish

Bullough Cup Semi-Final
Aberdour v Kyles Athletic
Ewen MacDonald - 12pm

Marine Harvest Premiership
Kyles Athletic v Kingussie

Marine Harvest National Division
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Skye

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Kingussie v Fort William
John Matheson
Kinlochshiel v Lochcarron

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Aberdour v Bute
Ron Kennedy - 3pm
Inveraray v Strachur
Lachie Wood - 12pm
Glenorchy v Kilmory
John MacGregor
Oban Celtic v Taynuilt
Deek Cameron

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Aberdeen University v Inverness
Andy MacLean
Glengarry v Strathpey
Willie MacDonald
Skye v Kilmallie
Scott McNeil

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Bute v Glasgow Mid Argyll
John Wood
Tayforth v Glenorchy
Jon Gallagher
Throw ups 2.00pm unless stated

Women's Camanachd Association
Sun 9th August
Marine Harvest National Division 1
Badenoch & Strathpey v Skye
Glengarry v Aberdour
Lorn v Lochaber

Saturday August 15
Marine Harvest National Division 1
Skye v Lorn

Results

Friday July 31
Marine Harvest Premiership
Kingussie 0 - 1 Newtonmore

Saturday August 1
SSE Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 3rd Round Replay
Fort William 0 - 2 Lovat

Marine Harvest Premiership
Kinlochshiel P - P Oban Caman Unplayable Field
Lochaber 1 - 6 Kyles Athletic
Glenurquhart 4 - 2 Inveraray

Marine Harvest National Division
Caberfeidh 1 - 1 Kilmallie
Skye P - P Beaulieu
Unplayable Field

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Beaulieu 2 - 1 Lovat
Fort William P - P Strathglass
Unplayable Field
Kingussie 7 - 0 Glenurquhart
Kinlochshiel P - P Lochcarron
Unplayable Field

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Inveraray P - P Bute
Unplayable Field
Kilmory P - P Kyles Athletic
Unplayable Field
Glenorchy P - P Lochside Rovers
Unplayable Field
Oban Celtic 4 - 0 Aberdour
Strachur 3 - 4 Taynuilt

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Boleskine P - P Strathpey
Rearranged for August 15
Glengarry P - P Caberfeidh
Caberfeidh unable to field a team, points to Glengarry
Inverness 2 - 2 Aberdeen Uni
Kilmallie P - P Lochaber
Unplayable Field

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Bute P - P Col Glen
Unplayable Field
Oban Lorn 1 - 3 Glenorchy

'More win Sir Tommy Macpherson Trophy

A BIG shinty night out in Badenoch last Friday saw Newtonmore win the Marine Harvest Premiership derby match 1-0 against Kingussie and lift the inaugural Sir Tommy Macpherson Memorial Trophy.

Friday night's match also celebrated the 125th anniversary of the two most successful clubs in the game. The fact these clubs are both from Badenoch and come from communities only three miles apart and with populations numbering less than 1200 each, makes this all the more remarkable.

In 1889 a Badenoch Shinty team was raised to play Brae Lochaber in a challenge match. Following the interest in this game, Badenoch Camanachd Club was formed in early 1890. Less than six weeks later, Badenoch Camanachd Club was disbanded without ever having played a match, as the Kingussie and Newtonmore

men in the team could not agree. In the following weeks at separate meetings in the two communities, Newtonmore and Kingussie Camanachd Clubs were formed and so would begin one of the greatest rivalries in Scottish sporting history.

Fifty three Camanachd Cups and numerous MacTavish Cups, Macaulay Cups and League titles later, the Kingussie and Newtonmore clubs celebrated 125 years of happily living apart by playing Friday night's Marine Harvest Premiership fixture as a 'double header'; not only were vital league points at stake, but also the inaugural Sir Tommy Macpherson Cup. Sir Tommy, who died recently, was an honorary Vice-president of Newtonmore Camanachd Club, Chieftain of the Clan Macpherson and had an outstanding military record in World War 2.

His family home was at Glen-truim, near Newtonmore.



PRESENTATION: Lady Macpherson presents the Sir Tommy Macpherson Memorial Trophy to Cameron Binnie, captain of Newtonmore. Photo: Neil Paterson

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JUST CHAMPION: Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre in action during the Scottish Amateur Open at Muirfield. Photo: Kenny Smith



MacIntyre is the Master of Muirfield

I had to dig deep in the final. I just kept telling myself not to give up'

ON THE same green where Phil Mickelson lifted his first Claret Jug at Muirfield two years ago, another 'leftie' had his moment at the renowned venue on Saturday.

After producing a quite stunning comeback, Robert MacIntyre claimed the Fairstone Scottish Amateur Championship, becoming the first left-hander in living memory to secure the title.

Two days before his 19th birthday, the Oban player, attached to Glencruitten golf club, gave himself an early birthday present with a two-hole victory over Craigie Hill's Daniel Young.

It was the first staging of the Scottish Amateur at Muirfield since 1968, home to The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, and how the 256-man field enjoyed competing on one of the world's best layouts last week.

On a blustery but largely pleasant day in East Lothian, MacIntyre's bid looked set to be blown off course when he trailed to his fellow Scotland international by four holes at lunch in the 36-hole final.

Young, the reigning South African amateur winner after his victory at Silver Lakes in March, showed his matchplay

pedigree to carve out an impressive lead, mainly thanks to his short game prowess.

But former Scottish youths champion MacIntyre, a college student at McNeese State University in the US, dug deep to produce a stunning comeback to level the contest at the 27th. Young edged ahead once more with an immediate birdie at the 28th, but MacIntyre refused to be denied and went ahead for the first time in the match at the 31st, when some brief rain showers threatened to spoil the occasion for both the players and the healthy crowd.

In a see-saw match that was engrossing to watch, MacIntyre's bogey at the 32nd levelled the showdown again, before the Argyll and Bute teenager decisively went one up when Young missed from four feet at the 35th before he clinched the win on the final green.

'It feels unbelievable,' said Scottish Golf Academy graduate MacIntyre, who emulates past Scottish Amateur winners like Colin Montgomerie and Stephen Gallacher. 'It's my first victory at Men's level in Scotland so I guess it's not a bad one

to win, probably the best. I went out onto the range after lunch and felt I was hitting it good, so just took it out to the golf course.'

Robert, coached by George Boswell, added: 'It feels great to be the first left-hander in living memory. I believed I had a chance this week, coming in with a relaxed mindset. It got me through so far and I just had to dig deep in the final. I just kept telling myself not to give up.'

MacIntyre, who will rise from his World Amateur Golf Ranking of 154, believes his first year of competition at his University in Louisiana helped him secure the national crown.

'America has helped me immensely,' he admitted. 'Not just the golf, but the belief. I was as calm as ever coming up the last, I just felt in control. Over the putt on the final green, I was just thinking "get this done".'

'The golf has been great in the US, playing competitions every week. I've been playing against the likes of Jon Rahm, the world No 1, and played against a lot of top 50 guys. I've been getting that competitive edge every week.'

Oban youth is Argyll and Bute under 18 champion

Golf

THE ARGYLL and Bute Boys' Championship was held recently at Taynuilt golf club.

The winner of the under-18s competition, and boys' champion for the year, was Steven Murphy of Glencruitten golf club, Oban, winning with a gross 66 to take the title.

Alastair Shaw of Port Bannatyne golf club won the under-16s trophy with the second best score of the day, a gross 69.

Argyll and Bute golf union would like to thank Taynuilt golf club for hosting this year's championship.



WINNER: Steven Murphy, from Glencruitten golf club, won the under-18s title



TOP MAN: A relaxed Robert MacIntyre during his victory at Muirfield
Photo: Kenny Smith

Argyll football clubs take on the Buddies

SCOTTISH Championship outfit, St Mirren, will add a touch of glamour to this year's Argyll and Bute Cup to be held on Saturday at Ropework Park and Lochgilphead High School astroturf pitch.

Along with welcoming the Paisley Buddies, host club, Lochgilphead Red Star is looking forward to hosting Tarbert, Oban Saints, Campbeltown Pupils, Dunoon Amateurs, Dunoon Athletic and Oban Athletic to the Mid Argyll Youth Development Services and Stag Hotel-sponsored tournament.

Football

Drawn in section one are Red Star, Tarbert, Dunoon Ams and St Mirren, who will play their games at the Ropework Park.

Astro pitch

The section which includes Oban Saints, Campbeltown Pupils, Dunoon Athletic and Oban Athletic will take place at the astro pitch.

The tournament kicks off at 10am and will conclude with the final at the Ropework at around 5.30pm.



WINNERS: The winners of the Iona Cup played at Oban Bowling club last Sunday were N Etherson, J Campbell and A Carmichael. The cup is being handed over by club president, Iain Boyd.

Green Machine pipped at the post

Oban Lorne	14
Murrayfield Wanderers	19
Pre-season game	

OBAN Lorne lost out in their first pre-season game of the season after an impressive late comeback from Murrayfield Wanderers.

The Green Machine were aided in their preparations for the game by former Scotland captain, Jason White, who travelled to Glencruitten to put the team through their paces prior to the game and offer some valuable advice throughout the match.

Debuts were given to Dominykas Ma at scrum half and fellow Lithuanian, Airidas Savickas. Finlay Carmichael who has joined from Isle of Mull RFC started at stand off.

Missing from the squad were captain, Cammy Smith, along with twin brother, Struan, wingers, Calum MacLachlan and Plato Moisiadis, who missed out through injury as well as back row, Andy MacDougall.

The first half hour was played out as a training game between the two sides with referee, Willie Malone, and both sets of coaches working together to set up phases of play for attack and defence.

This period of play ended 7-7.

The sides then played out a 60 minute match. Both teams played out a scrappy and unstructured first 30 minutes with no scoring chances of note.

Oban looked fairly rusty in attack and struggled to get out of their own half with some poor decision-making, but managed to hold firm with a strong defence.

The home team came to life at the start of the second half by scoring two well-worked tries from Craig Wright and Robin MacQueen to sail 14-0 ahead.

With 20 minutes to go, Oban still led 14-0 and looked on course to record an impressive opening season victory.

Late rally

These hopes were short-lived however, as Murrayfield Wanderers capitalised on some Oban defensive errors to score three successive tries and race 19-14 in front. Despite a late rally from the local side, the game ended in defeat for Oban Lorne.

Lorne coach, Corrie Louw, was left pleased with his team's efforts and was impressed with the showing, apart from the last 20 minutes.

Certain areas of play will be worked on this week in training ahead of this Saturday's games against Highland RFC.

Kick off is 2pm at Glencruitten.

Argyll and Bute RFC had a round robin tournament against both Aberfeldy and Kintyre, a good opportunity for the players to get some game time with the competitive season edging closer.

The first match was Argyll v Aberfeldy, the visiting side's first ever game of 15 a side rugby.

Argyll ran out 19-7 winners in a hotly contested match.

The second fixture of the day came against fellow Argyll and Bute side, Kintyre RFC. The Campbeltown players were keen

Rugby

to put in an impressive performance against their local rivals, and managed to do that by going 12-0 ahead.

A brilliant comeback from 12-0 down ensured Argyll and Bute won 15-12 in a tight match, with a powerful score from prop, Andrew Johnston, to seal the game.

It was fantastic to see so many players taking part at Glencruitten to show that rugby has a bright future in the area.



ADVICE: Former Scotland rugby captain Jason White was at Glencruitten last Saturday to offer advice to the team

Bullough Cup and Strathearn Cup semi final venues Shinty

THE venues for the semi-finals of the Strathearn and Bullough cups were decided by the toss of a coin in the Camanachd Association office last Friday.

The draw is: Strathearn Cup - August 15 Kinlochshiel v Glengarry at Craighair, Invergary; Newtonmore v Fort William at An Aird, Fort William.

The final will take place August 29, and the venue will be confirmed after the semi-finals.

Bullough Cup: August 8 Kyles Athletic v Aberdeen at Silversands, Aberdeen; SCOTS or Tayforth v Inveraray at Levenhall Links, Musselburgh.

The final will take place on September 12, the venue to be confirmed after the semi-finals.

Saints' youth tournament

Youth football

THE Oban Saints Youth tournament, postponed at the end of June, has been re-organised for Sunday August 9 at the rugby pitch and Glen 2.

Teams taking part are Hamilton Accies, holders, St Johnstone, St Mirren, Dumbarton, Fort William and hosts, Oban Saints.

Action gets underway at 10.15am

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WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy with some ligh rain showers
Winds light south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

Friday Light rain showers
Winds light south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

Weekend Outlook Light rain showers on Saturday
Heavy rain on Sunday
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 15°C.

FRIDAY

Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, August 6, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	03.55	0.9	09.35	3.3	16.15	0.9	22.14	3.4
Fri	04.50	1.1	10.33	3.1	17.16	1.2	23.28	3.1
Sat	05.54	1.4	11.58	2.9	18.27	1.4	**.**	**
Sun	01.14	3.0	07.05	1.5	13.43	2.9	19.52	1.6
Mon	02.44	3.0	08.23	1.5	15.07	3.1	21.24	1.5
Tues	03.52	3.2	09.30	1.3	15.56	3.3	22.24	1.4
Wed	04.33	3.3	10.21	1.2	16.30	3.5	23.09	1.2

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate



Carnival atmosphere for 79th annual Arisaig games

Report and photos inside

MORAR highland GAMES



Clear train tracks of sewage pleads group

AMANDA CRAWFORD
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A COMMUNITY group is calling for an end to 'disgusting' waste dumping on Lochaber train tracks, following concerns about the health of railway workers.

Fort William community council (FWCC) has been in touch with British transport union RMT following a campaign it has championed to eliminate sewage dumping on Scotland's rail tracks.

FWCC is calling for operator West Coast Railways to implement a similar system on the Jacobite steam train, which runs two trains through the West Highlands four times a day.

The plea from FWCC comes after the union said it aims to have 40 per cent of ScotRail's trains fitted with controlled emission tanks by April 2016 and the remainder kitted out by December 2017.

At a meeting of FWCC, chairman Neil Clark said: 'Workers on the tracks in Fort William and Glenfinnan are getting splattered with human excrement.'



ON TRACK FOR CHANGE: the Jacobite steam train on the Glenfinnan viaduct. (13/2jaco01)

He called it 'disgusting' and said the RMT was already offering workers vaccinations to protect them from being infected by untreated human excrement. Community council treasurer Trisha Jordan added: 'Although railway staff who work on the tracks are working at night, they

are having to work through the mess of the waste released from the steam trains.

'It was brought to our attention last year when reports of a vile smell were submitted to us. I think the only reason there haven't been as many complaints is because we have had a lot

of wind and rain, whereas last summer was scorching. The heat would only have emphasised the problem.'

Direct discharge toilets have been in use since toilets on trains were introduced.

However, in response to concerns from local public bodies, West Coast Railway has stopped members of the public using the toilets while its trains are travelling.

A spokesman said: 'It is only very recently that retention tanks have been introduced, primarily on new rolling stock.'

'The Jacobite steam train which runs between Fort William and Mallaig is not the only train which has direct discharge toilets.

In fact, all ScotRail services currently have the same direct discharge toilets, with the exception of the Caledonian Sleeper and Royal Scotsman which have retention tanks.

'RMT has been running a campaign to stop the use of direct discharge toilets and West coast railways is examining ways of fitting retention tanks to the heritage carriages.'

Rescue team finds hill walker's body

THE BODY of a hill walker who failed to return from a trek in Lochaber has been found.

A search was launched by Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team (LMRT) for Ian Bell, 60, from Hertfordshire, after he went missing in Carn mor Dearg on Monday.

The search for Mr Bell was

among a number of rescue operations launched this week.

On Sunday, the team had three rescues, including that of a mountain biker with head injuries on Aonach Mor and three 15-year-old girls on the Sgurr of Eigg, one of whom had a broken ankle.

In an unplanned rescue, the

team also came across a female casualty at Torridon when they were diverted north on the way to Eigg. In what has reportedly been LMRT's busiest year to date the team has rescued 96 people so far.

A spokesman for LMRT said: 'We would like to thank all the employers of Fort William who

allow team members to attend rescues as without their understanding we would not be able to function at the level we now find ourselves at. In particular, we thank all the team members who give up all their time freely, as where we are now is well beyond what would normally be expected of volunteers.'

Town team volunteer urges community groups to cash in

A DEDICATED Fort William volunteer has encouraged communities in Lochaber to apply for funding to improve their town or village.

Groups are being invited to bid

for government money through the 'charrette programme'.

A similar initiative last year saw the formation of Fort William's town team.

Since then the group has spent

time painting, cleaning, weeding and planting flowers around the town

Norrie MacLean, chairman of the team, said: 'Locals should do anything they can to take

pride in their community.' More information about how to apply is available at www.gov.scot/Topics/Built-Environment/AandP/Projects/SSCI/Mainstreaming.



HANDS ON: Tigrans Andreas, left, and Dennis Wilck, both nine, had fun building replicas of the Western Isles and Ben Nevis.

TO CELEBRATE a display of artwork by Lochaber school pupils, members of the community enjoyed a family fun day.

The event was held in Cameron square last Thursday, just outside West Highland Museum, where a 3D map of Lochaber is capturing the public's attention.

Six schools completed the sea to summit project to highlight the connections between the

mountains and the seashores which characterise Lochaber.

The town centre square was filled with stalls and activities as project partners from Highland council countryside rangers, Highland seashore biodiversity project and Nevis landscape partnership hosted the event.

Children had the chance to see how Ben Nevis was formed and recreated the Western Isles with natural materials.



INSIGHT: from left: Allan Audsley and Phoebe Webster of the Nevis landscape partnership with Eilidh-Ann Phillips, Highland council, at the exhibition. (21_132fun02)

TIMESLINE

Hard work reaps reward for pupils

EXAM performance in the Highlands has improved, results announced this week showed.

While teenagers across the region waited on the postman on Tuesday, Highland council said this year's S5 results were an improvement on last year, while S4 was down slightly.

In the new Higher exams, 443 pupils passed five in one sitting compared to 361 in 2014. There were also 77 pupils who achieved five straight As this year, up one on last year.

Councillor Drew Millar, chairman of the local authority's education, children and adult service's committee, praised the pupils: 'I am delighted to hear that all the hard work put in by pupils, families and staff has delivered a good set of results for the Highlands.'

'I wish to congratulate them all and offer my best wishes for whatever pathway the pupils pursue in the future.'

Rescheduled canal event goes ahead

THE BEAUTY of the Outdoor Capital of the UK will be celebrated with an event on the Caledonian canal next weekend.

Originally arranged as the opening of the Wild Lochaber festival in May, gale force winds postponed the Go Wild on the Canal event, disappointing the crowds planning to take part in the cruise and races.

Not to be put off, organisers have rearranged the fun night for next Friday (August 14) and are hoping the sun will shine on Banavie basin for the cruise to Gairloch and back. Commentary will be provided on board on the wildlife and landscape on the route before returning to Banavie for the rowing and raft races.



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BLAZE: firefighters outside the indoor climbing centre last week

Fire shuts climbing centre for weeks

AN ACTIVITY centre is expected to be shut for more than a month following a fire that has left tens of thousands of pounds worth of damage.

The blaze broke out at Ice Factor climbing centre last Wednesday afternoon and it is thought the damage will cost the centre more than £60,000.

Firefighters have determined that the fire had started accidentally in the sauna room of the climbing centre.

The £4.3million centre is the biggest indoor facility in the world.

So far, work to be done includes the restructure of 125 routes, replacement of the sauna area and resetting of 9,000 climbing holes.

A spokesman for the centre in Kinlochleven said: 'The facility will be closed for at least a month. Fortunately the fire was contained to one area, but the smoke has caused an enormous amount more damage than the fire itself.'

Glenfinnan Gathering & Highland Games

Annual games held in the shadow of the Glenfinnan Jacobite Monument.

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Fears over Fort 'death trap' fix

EMMA CRICHTON
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ONE OF Lochaber's oldest landmarks has become a 'death trap', but plans to safeguard the Old Fort will see the visitor attraction blighted by metal eyesores.

The ancient fortification, the town's namesake, is visited by more than 10,000 people every year. But it has been crumbling away and concerns have been raised that children could fall 15 feet on to rocks and fencing on the shoreline below, leading caretaking group, Friends of the Old Fort (FOOF) to ask Historic Scotland to restore the stone wall around the area. But Historic Scotland said this would 'interfere with history' and advised owners, Transport Scotland, to surround the popular picnic area



DEATH TRAP: Norrie MacLean of Friends of the Old Fort is worried children could plunge 15 feet to the rocky shore below 21_f2for101

with aluminium railings. Norrie MacLean of FOOF said: 'I just can't understand it at all. It's a death trap, a young child could easily fall and it's a 15 foot drop so it could kill them. We asked them to repair the wall and put in castellation so it would be in keeping with what's already here and still make it safe, but they said that would interfere with history. Instead they want to put metal guardrails everywhere which is going to interfere a lot more and look a lot worse.'

'We really want something done to protect the area because it's supposed to be somewhere for people to enjoy, not be afraid of, but all that aluminium will just be a blight on the area and an eyesore.'

The Old Fort's history dates back to the 1656 and includes the

Battle of Inverlochty, Highland Clearances, the Jacobite Rebellion and was once an emigration point.

Work is due to start this month, which will allow the foreshore to be reopened to the public after it was closed due to falling boulders. But Mr MacLean, who also runs a guest house in the town, is worried the safety measures will put off visitors.

He said: 'There's so much history at the Fort and it has so much potential, but all of this metal is going to look awful. People are already put off visiting by the lack of signs and parking and I think this will make it worse. Something needs to be done to make the area safe, but this is the wrong way to go.'

A spokeswoman for Historic Scotland said: 'As the Fort is a

scheduled monument, we have been providing advice to Transport Scotland regarding the work and we can confirm we have been liaising with them in relation to the possible introduction of a guardrail. This would require separate scheduled monument consent and Transport Scotland has therefore decided to apply for it at a later stage so as not to delay the initial works.'

In a statement from BEAR Scotland, which carries out maintenance work for Transport Scotland, a spokeswoman said: 'We've appointed a contractor to carry out the masonry repair work which is expected to start later this month. We are continuing to liaise with Historic Scotland in relation to the introduction of a guardrail at the top of the Old Fort walls.'

TIMESLINE

Mallaig relatives happy to be home

DELIGHTED Mallaig families welcomed their elderly relatives back to the village after living in Fort William for more than a year.

Four pensioners returned to the Mackintosh centre on Monday after being moved to Invernevis house amid allegations of staff poor practice last July.

A friend of the relatives said: 'It's been wonderful. They spent three hours together [on Tuesday] which they haven't been able to do for a long time. The staff have been so accommodating and helpful and everyone seems happy.'

The Mackintosh centre was closed in July last year amid allegations of poor practice and abuse, although there was no criminal activity found during investigations. An internal process is still ongoing within NHS Highland. At the time it was thought the home would be closed for four to six weeks, but long-running recruitment problems caused the re-opening to be delayed eight times.

Tributes paid to isles councillor

TRIBUTES have been paid to Iain Morrison, a Western Isles councillor who died on July 30.

The 60-year-old Lewis councillor was elected to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar in 1999 and many of his fellow members attended his funeral on Tuesday.

Mr Morrison was best known for his fundraising efforts and was a member of numerous community groups including the Barvas war memorial committee and Westside football club.

Norman A MacDonald, convener of the comhairle, said: 'Our thoughts are with his family at this very sad time. Iain was a man who cared greatly for these islands and particularly for the community which he represented.'

Tablet computers for senior pupils

EVERY high school pupil in the Highlands will be given a tablet computer to aid learning, following a trial by Highland council.

The local authority piloted the scheme in AIness this year. All pupils from primary six upwards will now have their own hand-held device and younger pupils will share.

The exact cost is not available but it is thought the council will save money as tablets have less upkeep costs than desktop computers.

Bill Alexander, Highland council's director of care and learning, said: 'We took a report regarding this to committee in February, setting out our aspiration to provide all pupils with a technology-rich environment, to address their learner needs and curriculum goals and transform their learning experience. The plan involves reducing the number of centrally managed devices by around 50 per cent. These devices do not have the high support costs a centrally managed device involves, so we anticipate they will be less expensive to provide.'

Doors open on sports halls

COMMUNITY groups in Lochaber will soon have four new sports and recreation halls at their disposal, dubbed 'wonderful news' after one of the wettest summers in memory.

Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, the new Gaelic school and the first of four new builds in Fort William, will open later this month, including indoor and outdoor sports areas for the whole community.

Lundavra primary school in Upper Achintore is to open in October and the Caol campus, including Caol primary, St Columba's RC and Caol community centre, will be ready by August next year.

Highland council announced this week that the

new facilities will be available for out-of-hours use by sports clubs after concerns the gates would be locked after 3pm and during holidays.

Jane Blanchard, chairwoman of Lochaber sports association (LSA) was 'delighted' at the decision as current facilities in the area are often fully booked in bad weather.

She added: 'I'm delighted about this. These new facilities will serve sport and community groups who are desperate for more good quality training facilities.'

LSA is currently waiting a funding decision which, if granted by Highland council, will allow them to build another multi-use indoor facility in

the town. Councillor Thomas MacLennan, leader of Lochaber area committee, also welcomed the news: 'It is pleasing to see these new developments coming to fruition.'

'The new schools and associated community facilities at the heart of the community will be a tremendous boost to the area. Everyone will benefit from the fact that these are open and available to all out-with school hours.'

Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, the first Gaelic-only school in Fort William, will open to pupils on Wednesday August 19.

Facilities can be booked by contacting the headteacher at each school.



BAKING BOOST: Michelle Rodgers, left, 12, and Kate Biddulph, 11, helped out at the tea tent to raise cash for Mallaig swimming pool. 21_f2moragames02

Mallaig games tea tent boosts pool funds by £803

FUNDRAISERS hosted a tea tent at Mallaig and Morar games at the weekend and raised £803 for a community pool.

Mallaig and district swimming pool has been under threat of closure for a year. Charity group, Friends of Mallaig and district swimming pool, is working hard

to raise money locally. Committee secretary, Edith McLean, said: 'This is the first time we have held a tea tent. The pool is still struggling to stay open and we constantly have to fundraise.'

Fresh sandwiches, home-baked cakes, tea and coffee were all on offer in the tent.

Language will be enhanced

FORT William's Gaelic-only school, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, will feature 'outstanding education facilities', according to a Highland council spokeswoman.

Councillor Hamish

Fraser, chairman of the local authority's Gaelic implementation group, said it will 'greatly enhance' language and culture in Lochaber.

He added: 'The benefits of bilingual education have been widely acknowledged and this

kind of education will also help to develop and sustain the Gaelic language.'

Councillor Drew Millar, chairman of education, care and learning and adult services, added the new school is 'eagerly awaited'.

New Skye Gaelic school approved

A NEW Gaelic school on Skye was approved by Highland councillors this week, despite widespread disapproval on the island.

The proposal, agreed by the local authority's north planning committee on Tuesday, involves demolishing a 19th century former poorhouse and hostel in Portree and replacing it with a new school described by one councillor as 'poorly designed, drab and factory-like'.

Objectors said the current building, formerly the Margaret Carnegie hostel,

should be incorporated into the new school whereas others said it should be abandoned and the money should go to current schools on the island in need of repair and upgrades.

Concerned Portree resident, Catriona Leslie, urged the planning committee to reject the proposal. She said: 'Given Highland council's severe shortage of funds, it would seem logical to cancel the proposed Gaelic medium school in Portree and build new schools in Broadford and Dunvegan where they are so badly

needed. Portree primary school has a very successful and greatly appreciated Gaelic medium unit and the building is relatively modern. So where is the logic in building a separate school in Portree and thus increasing running and staffing costs at a time when money is so short?'

But Skye councillor, Drew Millar, pledged his support to the application during Tuesday's meeting: 'I and the majority of people support this. This is one of the biggest steps forward for Gaelic education in Skye for a long time.'



INVESTMENT: new landing craft the Keira May arrives at Loch Kishorn

New landing craft for west coast firm

INVESTMENT into the fishing industry on the west coast continues as a new landing craft arrived at Loch Kishorn.

The Keira May, which is almost 15 metres long, is capable of carrying 21 tonnes of deck cargo and was delivered to the Scottish Sea Farms site on the north-west Highland loch last week.

Jim Gallagher, managing director of Scottish Sea Farms, said: 'This latest vessel is part of a huge investment programme as we continue to develop new and existing sites to meet growing demand for our quality salmon, both here and abroad. This investment is part of our commitment to putting something back into the Scottish economy and supporting Scottish suppliers.'

Lochalsh teenager receives top award for public service

A WEST Highland teenager has received an award for public service.

Ruraidh Stewart, from Balmacara, Lochalsh, was given the Jubilee accolade during a ceremony at the House of Lords for outstanding practical action in the service of others.

The 16-year-old, who is the Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch representative for the Scottish youth parliament, was recognised for his work with the junior climate challenge fund and promoting sustainability and low carbon lifestyles.

Ruraidh, a Saltire awards ambassador, was the only Scottish recipient among eight winners at the London ceremony on July 30.

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Oban man's clan mission

AN Oban man named MacGillivray is ready to fight for his uncle's right to become clan chief, when he discovered the role was vacant.

Gordon MacGillivray, who runs a fish stall on Oban pier, says his uncle, Robert Galbraith MacGillivray, 84, is 'the real deal' and should be put into the role 'immediately.'

Although the MacGillivray clan is without a chief, it will gather at Inverness next week to learn how to find a new head.

Clan MacGillivray, whose most famous chief was killed in battle at Culloiden, has searched the world but has still to find a candidate who will satisfy Scotland's Lord Lyon King of Arms, who confers the title of clan chief.

Mr MacGillivray said: 'People all over the place treat my uncle like a king, and he knows the

Millions for historic plan

EXCITING plans to highlight the importance of Britain's oldest Bronze Age and neolithic artefacts at Kilmartin Glen have been awarded lottery millions.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) award of £3.1 million will transform Kilmartin museum and safeguard many thousands of artefacts in the care of the museum's Redevelopment Project.

The project was initially turned down by the HLF, but the determined charity revised its groundbreaking plans.

While final stages of the application are still to be completed, a £400,000 development grant has been awarded to the project to progress the project's plans for the museum and the glen.

Monuments within 10 miles of the museum include the world's largest prehistoric cup and ring marked rock and Dunadd Fort, citadel of the Kings of the Scotti tribe.



Robert's the driving force

LEFT-handed Oban teenager, Robert Macintyre, made golfing history when he was crowned Scottish Amateur champion at Muirfield.

The Glencruitten club player, who turned 19 on Monday, won the prestigious trophy on Saturday.

He is the only Oban player to have won the tournament and is reckoned to be the first 'leftie' in living memory to get his hands on the trophy. Turn to back page for full story

CALMAC AND UNIONS SET FOR CRISIS TALKS AS 'BLACK HOLE' IS REVEALED IN OPERATOR'S PENSION FUND

£70M shortfall for scheme

LOUISE GLEN
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A LOOMING multi-million pound black hole in the CalMac pension scheme will see another round of crisis talks between the ferry operator and the unions.

The *Oban Times* can reveal that serious discussions will get under way with unions after an independent audit forecast a £70 million shortfall in CalMac's 'gold chip' final salary pension scheme.

The term of the pension scheme has moved from a ten-year funding arrangement to a six-year term under the new tender conditions issued by the Scottish Government on Monday.

Publicly-funded CalMac and global private company, Serco, are the two bidders for the new Scottish Government six-year £1 billion contract to provide lifeline ferry services to Clyde and Hebridean ports from 2016.



“We will look after our people. That is what the pension scheme is there for **”**

Martin Dorchester (pictured)

The unions have not ruled out another wave of industrial action to safeguard the existing final salary pension scheme for CalMac's 1400 workers.

While jobs and the terms and conditions of crew were negoti-

ated between CalMac and the unions last month, pensions were not part of the discussion.

The independent audit on the pensions scheme in 2012 revealed a shortfall of £32 million, but it was expected that it would be brought to a neutral position within 10 years.

CalMac chief executive, Martin Dorchester, speaking exclusively to the *Oban Times*, said: 'There are still tough negotiations with the unions to take place over pensions.'

'We have a good pension scheme and, in the future, it will be a good pension scheme, but in the intervening period there is no doubt things are tough.'

'Issuing a six-year contract will mean we will need to alter our approach to the pension scheme. If we had, say a 10-15 year period, we would be able to get our scheme back to a cost-neutral position.'

'As we have proven time and

again, we will look after our people. That is what the pension scheme is there for. We have an ageing staff profile and, while in six years the shortfall in the scheme will be high, in ten years we will be in a secure position.'

'The pension scheme is fully funded by CalMac and is governed by the CMal (the parent company) Trustees Regulator.'

Mr Dorchester explained the shortfall will mean that serious negotiations concerning the continuation of the current final salary scheme will have to take place as a matter of urgency.

Mr Dorchester, who has been in post for three years, said of the recent strike: 'As far as I am concerned, it was the wrong thing to go on strike, because there are still negotiations to be had. CalMac might not be the future employer.'

However, union representatives from both the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport

Workers (RMT) and The Transport Salaried Staffs' Association (TSSA) said they would mount a robust defence of the current scheme in negotiations with employers.

RMT union organiser, Gordon Martin, said: 'Bidders now have to match the CalMac pension scheme and we have commitments of no compulsory redundancies or changes in conditions of service without union agreement. This is an unnecessary tender process and we will be upping the campaign to keep CalMac in the public sector.'

A TSSA spokesman said that changes to the current CalMac scheme would be fought every step of the way.

He said: 'People have the right to the pension scheme they have joined and are entitled to.'

'Changes to the scheme are a personal attack on members and something we would be likely to go out on strike to maintain.'

TIMESLINE

Bad weather's a box office draw

OBAN's Phoenix cinema is enjoying the wet weather as families flock to the community-owned picture house.

Showing a rise in seat sales for films such as 'In and Out' and 'Ant Man', the rain isn't dampening spirits.

Cinema manager, Jennie Larney, said: 'In the last three years of operating we have seen some hot summers and hardly anyone comes into the cinema. So while everyone else is complaining about the rain, we are delighted.'

Vandals damage medieval shrine

VANDALISM to a medieval shrine on the island of Iona is being investigated by Police Scotland.

The damage to a wooden hatch and spars in St Columba's Shrine, a small building to the left of the abbey's main entrance, happened between 11.45am and 2pm on Monday August 3.

Board's 'watching brief' increased

GOVERNANCE within NHS Highland will be changed after a scathing Public Audit Committee report on its lack of communication with its board members.

The board has been given financial awareness training to 'raise the level of scrutiny' on the public body.

Islanders have a say on new Bill

ISLAY and Jura islanders were the first to be consulted about the Scottish Islands Bill. The legislation, due to go before parliament in 2017/18, would see more autonomy given to the isles.

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Baby Eilidh's a real Oz-some cutie

A TINY TOT from down under won the top prize at the Lorn Show - making the 10,167 mile trip to rightfully claim to be the 'bonnie baby'.

Beautiful little Eilidh Anne McGill, aged one, on her second trip to Oban to visit her family, took the crown at the annual event held at Tralee Bay.

Very proud auntie, Claire McGill, contacted the *Oban Times* to share in her family's joy at the wee one's success.

Claire said: 'This was extremely special as she heads home back to Brisbane, Australia on Monday. She just turned one on August 14 and she celebrated this in Oban with her Scottish family.'

'Her dad, Greg McGill, an ex Lorne rugby player, came home to Oban to get married on July 17.'

The happy family came into the *Oban Times* office before heading back to Australia on the evening flight to Hong Kong.



BONNIE BABY: mum Eilish Anne, dad Greg McGill and auntie Claire McGill with baby Eilidh Anne

And woman with Oban ties is design wizard of Oz

AN OBAN family was celebrating this week after their relative was appointed to one of the most prestigious posts in Australian architecture.

Following in the footsteps of legendary Mull man, Lachlan Macquarie, who earned the sobriquet 'the father of Australia', Scots-born Kirsteen Mackay was given the job of State Architect for South Australia, one of the most senior design posts in the Australian government.

She was the former head of design review at the UK's Commission for Architecture and Built Environment.

Kirsteen is related to Oban councillor, Duncan MacIntyre, who said he is delighted with the news: 'Kirsteen's grandparents were Bill and Elsie Mackay, formerly of the Atholl hotel, Oban, and John and Ann Mushet nee Gillespie, Colum-



ba hotel, Oban. Her parents Dr Kenneth and Veronica Mackay were both born in Oban, but now live in Limekilns in Fife. Her appointment was announced by South Australia's acting premier John Rau, who said: 'Ms Mackay has played a pivotal role in shaping Adelaide's design review programme, and will bring her strong design expertise to the forefront of major projects in the city and across the state.'

Shellfish industry suffers as quality produce rots in standstill lorries

LOUISE GLEN
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THE WEST Coast fishing industry is reeling from the shock waves of the crisis at Calais, which is costing it millions of pounds in lost revenue. Thousands of migrant workers have been laying siege to the ferry terminal at the French seaport in a desperate bid to board lorries travelling to the UK.

Tailbacks of lorries at Dover waiting to cross the channel has now turned miles of Kent into an extended lorry park.

This has proved disastrous for the West Coast seafood and shellfish industry as millions of pounds worth of perishable produce is now being spoiled before it reaches high-paying European customers in France, Italy and Spain.

Possible alternative routes or modes of transport will be discussed by key figures from the seafood, fishing and transport sectors.

Scottish seafood exports to Europe are reckoned to be worth more than £450 million a year.

Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, has said the situation at the French port is costing businesses millions of pounds a week.

Richard Lochhead, the Scottish government's fisheries secretary, said Scottish seafood producers were being disproportionately affected by the disruption caused by the mayhem at Calais.

He said: 'The situation in Calais is clearly complex and requires a multi-agency response involving both the UK government and the French authorities.'

'The Scottish government continues to urge the UK government to play its part in a co-ordinated comprehensive EU plan of action to deal with the migrant crisis.'

'We also need action to address the immediate issue around getting vehicles and exports moving again.'

Barcaldine firm in new partnership with Far East uni

BARCALDINE-based Sustainable Project Partners Limited (SPP) was one of several companies accompanying the First Minister on a mission to Hong Kong.

Nicola Sturgeon was visiting the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park last Thursday.

The mission, which was supported by Scottish Enterprise also saw the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Barcaldine company and Hong Kong Polytechnic University to work in the recycling of waste biomass.

Dr Bob Irving, CEO of SPP, said: 'I was excited by the prospects of collaborating with PolyU and the potential benefits to both Scotland and Hong Kong from the expected innovations in technology for converting waste to bio energy in a sustainable and environmentally sensitive manner.'

Phone number in toilets led to man sending explicit texts to teenager

STEVEN RAE
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AN OBAN man has pleaded guilty to sending 143 explicit sex text messages to a teenage boy.

Appearing before Sheriff Ruth Anderson, QC, on Tuesday, Brian John MacLennan, 47, whose address was given as Barranrioch Farm, Glencruitten, admitted sending explicit text messages to a boy aged 15.

Oban sheriff court heard that on August 11 of last year, the teenager, who was holidaying in Oban at the time with his father and brother, obtained a phone number from graffiti on a wall in the gents toilets of a supermarket in the town.

There was a suggestion by whoever left the message that if anyone was looking for a sexual relationship, they should contact the phone number scribbled on

the wall. Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court: 'It is fair to say the instigation was by the boy who was texting the accused, with questions including, "Are you into guys?" and "Are you gay?"'

The accused was said to have responded graphically, asking the 15-year-old boy, "What are you into?", with the boy then replying, "Would you have sex with me if I asked?"

Over the course of 14 hours between August 11 and 12, Oban sheriff court was told the accused sent 143 messages, which became more graphic and explicit, with a similar number sent in reply by the boy.

When asked by procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty if she wanted to hear an example of the more explicit texts, Sheriff Anderson said she could 'anticipate what they would be like in nature, and

It is a matter of fact that the complainer was not 16 and the accused knew this from the outset

Sheriff Ruth Anderson

there was no need for the court to hear them.'

Eventually the boy's father and brother noticed he seemed 'somewhat distracted'.

The teenager's older brother snatched the phone and read the texts, alerting his father to the messages.

The boy's father then phoned the number, and when the accused answered, he said, 'Hello, who's this?'

The man identified himself as the boy's father, to which the accused immediately hung up the phone.

The police were then contacted and the boy was interviewed where he gave an account of his contact with the accused.

On his arrest, the accused was interviewed where he admitted he had been sending text messages to the boy and that he knew he was only 15. MacLennan tried

to suggest it was part of 'a big wind-up'.

However, this explanation was not accepted by the Crown in his initial plea.

Sheriff Anderson told MacLennan: 'It is a matter of fact that the complainer (the teenage boy) was not 16 and the accused knew this from the outset.'

Sheriff Anderson noted that the offence went no further than the sending of the text messages. And she accepted MacLennan's not guilty plea to the charge of making arrangements with the intention of meeting the boy.

Before passing sentence, which is scheduled to take place in September, Sheriff Anderson called for a criminal justice social work report to be carried out on MacLennan.

In the interim, MacLennan was placed on the sex offenders' register.

Quality score holds key to ferry tender

THE long awaited tender document for the £1 billion contract to run the Clyde and Hebrides ferry services was published on Monday.

Unions have signalled their delight at the high value the Scottish government has placed on the quality of the service. This, they believe, may reduce the profits to be made from the service, thus making it less attractive to a private sector bidder.

A copy of the Initial Invitation To Tender (ITT) was issued to both bidders, CalMac Ferries Ltd and Serco Caledonian Ferries Limited last Friday, July 31. Both operators have to submit their final bids by December 2015, as the Scottish government wants to award the contract by May 2016.

The tender criteria will be scored on the basis of 65 per cent on cost and 35 per cent on quality of service. Unions hope this may put off the private sector bidder, Serco, because profit thresholds would be reduced on the service.

Holyrood minister for transport and islands, Derek Mackay MSP, said: 'We have promised to make this procurement process fair, open and transparent, so we are publishing the Initial ITT document to honour that pledge.'

'We will have an interim version of the ITT document in the Autumn before we issue the final version in December 2015.'

'We are in the process of appointing an independent Procurement Reference Panel, which will review both the Initial ITT and Interim ITT in order to provide assurance that nothing is being done in the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry services procurement that could be perceived as discriminating against either of the tenders.'

'It is also important to reiterate that Scottish

A folly not to provide information

MINISTERS will retain control of all of important issues, such as fares and timetables, through the public service contract. Vessels and port infrastructure will also remain publicly owned as they are now. I'm well aware of the vital role these ferry services play in enabling continued and sustainable economic growth for the islands.'

TOURISTS to Oban's iconic McCaig's tower are being kept in the dark about its rich past.

That's the verdict of two Highlands and Islands MSPs, who have followed in the footsteps of Oban resident, Julie Cameron, who wants tourists to be able to read about the fascinating story of the tower, but there are no information panels on display there.

Highlands MSP Rhoda Grant says the marketing of the tower has so far been a missed opportunity.

Ms Grant said: 'McCaig's tower is one of the iconic features in Oban and many visitors to the town now make the short journey up to the tower to see the views and look at the structure.'

'However, I have heard from a number of constituents that a common complaint is the lack of signage and tourist information about the tower. 'Visit Scotland and the local council should

work together to ensure that there is better signage and information available at the site.'

'I have heard many suggestions for improvements such as displays documenting the history

of the site, to providing more information about the construction of the folly and about the incredible panoramic views over Oban and out towards the islands.'

MSP Mike Mackenzie echoed Ms Grant's call, saying more can be done to boost Argyll's tourism industry. The Highlands and Islands MSP said: 'Argyll is dripping with heritage. As the only part of the Highlands and

Islands losing population, Argyll badly needs to boost its economy.'

The tower was built in 1897 by banker, John Stuart McCaig, as a lasting monument to the McCaig family.

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- State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit and your income is less than £16,105*
- Both maximum CTC and maximum Working Tax Credit and your income is under £6,420*
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- Universal Credit*

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

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

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Fort William hit for six at Forres

Football

Forres Mechanics	6
Fort William	0
Highland League	

A PRE-GAME injury put paid to Fort William's hopes of their first victory of the season when they took on Forres away at the weekend.

Claggan goalkeeper, Dougie MacLennan, was injured in the pre-match training and although manager, Ally Ewen, said replacement Robin Harvey played 'very well', they were steamrollered at Mosses park on Saturday.

Ewen's men played fairly well in the first half and were 2-0 down by the half-time whistle, but the new manager said his team were 'atrocious' during the final 45 minutes.

He said: 'We had three or four chances in the first half, if we had taken them we would have gone into the first half on an even keel, but we missed our chances. Then in the second half we were just atrocious, there are no excuses for that performance.'

It is a disappointing start for the Fort after celebrating their best league finish in 25 years last season, when Ewen was assistant manager.

He hopes this is a false start and the Claggan men will improve with time: 'We're missing a few men, just with it being this time of year people are on holiday and have work commitments. Last year it took until October for us to start performing well and that was a great season for us.'

These missing men could prove problematic for this weekend's home game against Inverurie Locos as Ewen expects to be nine men down on Saturday: 'This is going to be a big test for us, especially with so many missing. On the plus side I'll have Ritchie Munro, Lewis Campbell and Tony Miller back who were all missing on Saturday.'

Results from Fort William golf club

Golf

THE August medal, played on Saturday August 1. Section one: 1 Ian Robertson 73 bh (86-13); 2 Rusty Duncan 73 (84-11); 3 Neil Feggans 76 (86-10).

Section two: 1 Frank Sweeney 72 (87-15); 2 Jimmy Ross 75 (83-18).

The senior August medal, played on Sunday August 2: 1 Gerry Conaghan 63 (83-20); 2 Steven Jamieson 64 (69-5); 3 Willie Duncan 66 (78-12).

Annual regatta starts today

Sailing

THE WEST Ardnamurchan regatta kicks off today (Thursday) with two fun-filled days of races and games.

Sailing races will be held on both days of the annual event in Kilchoan and Friday will see rowing, kayaking and races on outboards, powerboats and rafts.

There will also be food and craft stalls and a dance in the community centre to close the regatta on Friday night.

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IN THE SWIM: Children aged from five to 12 years old who take part in swimming classes at the Ben Nevis leisure pool, celebrated their successes in gaining skill and distance in the water with a presentation of certificates by teacher, Caroline MacIntyre, last week

Caley Thistle Hotshots pay a visit to the town

Football coaching

IT WAS mayhem at Claggan park when a popular children's football coaching project came to town.

Forty-five youngsters turned out last Monday morning to register for the week-long coaching programme, Hotshots, which tours the Highlands and Islands twice each year.

The programme, delivered in Lochaber by Inverness Caledonian Thistle, is designed to give boys and girls aged between three and 14 the opportunity to participate in a safe, fun football environment.

The club's community coaches tour with Hotshots twice a year. Brian MacDonald, community coach, said: 'We come to Fort William for one week in the summer holiday and one week in the October holiday.'

'It is always popular here and 40 kids is quite a lot for a smaller place. The full week keeps the kids busy and entertained for a while. All kids can get involved and they are keen to learn, which makes our job easy.'

'The coaches try to focus more on games to help them improve teamwork and individual skills without it feeling like hard work for them. It is a good place for them to come. It is relaxed and maybe different for them than going to a six-week camp.'

Millie's trophy

Bowling

YOUNG Jay Brown handed over Millie's trophy to the winners of the Railway bowling club triples competition, held on Saturday.

In memory of his great-grandmother, Millie Strangeways, Jay presented the shield to winning team Martin Keenan, Susanne Williamson and George Mackay.

Lifeline grant for Claymores

YOUNG BOXERS in Lochaber have been thrown a lifeline grant after fears the club would have to close. Martin Glenesk, head coach with Kinlochleven's Claymores boxing club, suffered a stroke last year and spent four months in hospital leaving other committee members struggling to raise rental costs.

But the rotary club of Lochaber has agreed to fund the shortfall for the successful club to allow the amateur boxers to train and compete.

Terry Lee, rotary president, said: 'We had no hesitation in agreeing to fill this financial gap and to support the boxing club. We are particularly keen on promoting inclusive sport, enterprise and healthy activities and, knowing that the club includes girls and disabled children among its members, fitted our own criteria for funding.'

'Most of our fundraising comes from the great Lochaber public and this is a fitting use for their donations. We wish Martin

a speedy recovery and a long association with the club.'

Sophie Leatherbarrow, Claymores secretary, welcomed the help: 'A big thanks to the rotary club for this grant and for agreeing it so quickly. It is very much appreciated.'

'We have a number of initiatives planned to raise income and raise awareness of all the club can offer. However, these will take time, and we need financial support to bridge the gap in the meantime. Many

Boxing

of our members are juniors and young adults who might otherwise spend their time sitting in front of the television or playing on games consoles.

'We keep them active in body and soul as we try to teach them the benefits of a healthy and nutritious diet alongside the physical and mental discipline demanded by the sport.'



CHAMPIONS: Caol United were crowned winners of the Lochaber Welfare League for the second year running. Team captain, Farquhar MacRae, received the trophy from Gareth Butterfield, left, and Davie Corrigan of sponsors, Marine Harvest 21. f32presentation32

Two in a row for Caol United

IT WAS two in a row for Lochaber Welfare League 2015 winners, Caol United, as they scooped the trophy again this year.

The team were undefeated in the league and team captain, Farquhar MacRae, was pleased to accept the cup on behalf of the club during training on Friday July 31. The trophy was presented by Marine Harvest's representatives, Davie Corrigan and Gareth Butterfield.

Stephen Lopez, team manager said: 'I'd like to say a big thank you to Marine Harvest for its

continued sponsorship of the Lochaber welfare league.

'The boys in the team have performed really well all season, and we will aim for much of the same next year.'

With the league finished, the cup competitions are now well underway with Lundavra taking an early lead in the Kinloch Shield when they beat Nevis Range 2-0 last Tuesday, but Nevis pulled it back with a 6-1 victory against Ballachulish on Thursday night.

In the Duthie cup, Caol United

Football

continued their success with a 10-4 win over Lochaber.

This week Nevis Range were scheduled to play Lundavra for the shield on Tuesday (August 4) before taking on Ballachulish tonight (Thursday).

Next week, Lochaber and Lundavra will play in the semi-final of the Uisdean MacDonald memorial cup, along with Mallaig and Nevis Range, ahead of the final on August 14.

Like father, like son

A YOUNG athlete from Fort William is following in dad's footsteps after winning gold in the under 18 race at Snowdon.

Member of Lochaber athletic club, Steven Burns, successfully gained first place in the junior section at the internationally acclaimed Wales hill race.

The former Lochaber high school pupil also won gold at the north district track and field

championships in Inverness in May of this year and silver in the Inverness half marathon in March.

The 17-year-old said: 'I got into running when I was about nine years old, but I fell away from it when I was about 12 or 13.'

'I wanted to get back to running and joined the club last July.'

Steven was inspired by dad, also Stephen, who has been a member of the same club for 25 years, to take up the sport as a youngster.

The pair work together at Stephen Burns roofing in Fort William. Young roofer, Steven, said: 'I'm progressing well at track. My dad is my coach. We get on fine even though we work and train together.'

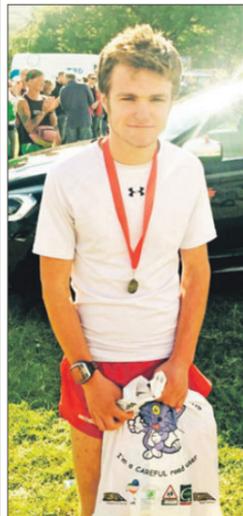
Steven is getting set for this year's Scottish Championship road races to be held in Grangemouth.

He told the Oban Times he aims to shape a career out of running: 'The races I am competing in are the 5,000 metre and 800 metre. I'd like to progress to professional track racing and hope to work up to a Great Britain vest.'

'After taking some years out of track and cross country, it is nice to see that all of my hard work is paying off. Track needs to be consistent and I have to stay motivated.'

Steven likes to set out targets for himself and for the past 12 months he has managed to achieve all of his personal goals.

Dad Stephen, who was also a former junior track champion



GOLDEN BOY: Steven after receiving his gold medal in Snowdon last month

Athletics

for Scotland, said: 'He could definitely run for Scotland, but it is a gradual progression. Despite Fort William being known for hill racing, that is not what Steven will concentrate on. There are more opportunities in track and field.'



HARD WORK: Steven taking part in the track and field event in Inverness in May.

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WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy with some ligh rain showers
Winds light south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

Friday Light rain showers
Winds light south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

Weekend Outlook Light rain showers on Saturday
Heavy rain on Sunday
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 15°C.

Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, August 6, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	03.55	0.9	09.35	3.3	16.15	0.9
Fri	04.50	1.1	10.33	3.1	17.16	1.2
Sat	05.54	1.4	11.58	2.9	18.27	1.4
Sun	01.14	3.0	07.05	1.5	13.43	2.9
Mon	02.44	3.0	08.23	1.5	15.07	3.1
Tues	03.52	3.2	09.30	1.3	15.56	3.3
Wed	04.33	3.3	10.21	1.2	16.30	3.5

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Port	Difference	Port	Difference
Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Route	Sea State
Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate