

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Raising the rafters as crews splash for cash



Bunessan Show

Nurses cracking under the strain, says ex-surgeon

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

AN SURGE in patients requiring treatment during the summer has placed an unbearable workload on nurses at an Oban hospital.

That's the view of former hospital consultant, Brian MacKay, who said he was 'horrified' watching over-stretched nurses trying in vain to cope with their workload recently.

Mr MacKay had taken his 86-year-old father, who lives in the Oban area, to the out-of-hours service at the Lorn and Islands district hospital where he had to wait for 12 hours before a nurse could treat his elderly parent.

The retired surgeon said: 'I was horrified to see staff who were overworked and unable to help those in need.'

'While I understand my dad was not a priority - I was shocked

to see just how busy the hospital was. My father didn't have anything seriously wrong with him - thank goodness. But getting access to NHS 24 and then through the out-of-hours service took too long.'

'Staff are very clearly over-stretched and unless something is done, it will remain difficult for them to get through their caseload.'

'We met people who had to make their own way to the hospital and then were being sent to Paisley, instead of receiving treatment here in Oban.'

His comments were endorsed by patients who say staff are working long hours and seem to be 'rushed off their feet'.

Briony Miller, who was visiting her parents in Oban, agreed with Brian MacKay: 'My eight-year-old son fell and broke his arm. We rushed him to Oban hospital.'

'But instead of him being treated there, he was taken to Paisley.

'We had to wait for hours to be seen, despite us phoning ahead. We also had to drive there ourselves.'

'While I appreciate there are various problems in getting staff, surely someone has noticed that the excellent staff at the hospital are overworked more in the summer. Children have a right to be treated nearest to their families.'

A nurse, who did not want to be named, said: 'Over the last few years, the hospital has seen fewer and fewer services delivered in Oban. Part of the problem is staff, and mostly, it seems to me, that it is keeping costs down at all costs.'

However, a spokesman for NHS Highland denied there had been a spike in the number of summer patients to be treated: 'There has been no significant increase in demand compared to the same period last year and therefore any suggestion that we are hav-

ing to transfer patients to other hospitals due to demand is not only wrong, but also potentially damaging to the confidence our communities may have in the services provided locally and it could also potentially undermine the morale of our hard-working staff.'

'The hospital is a busy environment due to the wide range of services that we provide locally and this is to be welcomed. We do ensure, however, that we have sufficient staff on duty to meet the needs of our patients.'

'However, we always welcome feedback on our services and if any individual does have any concerns, then we would ask them to contact us so that we can investigate those concerns.'

But Oban community council chairwoman, Marri Malloy, claimed the hospital was becoming 'an office block' with so many patients being referred elsewhere for treatment.

Spaceport a major boost to Argyll

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

ARGYLL and Bute will be 'transformed' if a bid to build the UK's first spaceport at Machrihanish is successful, according to the council's leader.

Dick Walsh made the comment during a visit to the former Ministry of Defence site in Kintyre on Monday, where it was announced the council has entered into a partnership with Machrihanish Airbase Community Company (MACC) for the next stage of

bidding. The newly-formed consortium is to be led by MACC subsidiary company, Discover Space UK.

Councillor Walsh said: 'We are delighted to be a part of the Discover Space UK consortium.'

'As the only shortlisted site to exceed the criteria for runway length and located away from densely populated areas, Machrihanish has a strong case.'

'With potential for up to 5,000 jobs and multi-billion pound investment in vital infrastructure, this could be truly trans-

formational for the area.' The spaceport is intended to be used to launch both human-carrying flights and commercial satellite missions.

Chairman of MACC and Discover Space UK director, Tom Millar, said: 'We are delighted to be working with Argyll and Bute council. The launch campaign really put Discover Space UK on the map and positioned Machrihanish as a serious contender in this process.'

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) welcomed the

news of the consortium and will continue to support the bid as it moves into the next phase.

Machrihanish is one of five potential sites expected to receive an invitation to tender from the UK government later this year.

It is hoped that spaceports will become hubs for commercial flights into space, as well as super-fast, round-the-world flights.

Companies involved in developing such technology hope that space planes will eventually be able to fly from the UK to Australia in just two hours.

Headliners

Fiona's high wire act



LIVING THE HIGH LIFE: Charity fundraiser Fiona pushes cash total to over £4000 for Yazidi appeal. See page three

Oban's high achievers



PASS MARKS: Two Oban high school pupils set a higher standard. See page five

TIMESLINE

Five cars in crash near to cemetery

FIVE cars were involved in two separate traffic accidents on Monday on the A85 near Pennyfuir Cemetery.

First there was a three-car collision, with one of the cars left at the side of the road, with a bashed-up bumper, awaiting assistance.

Following this, in the queue of traffic, a car rammed in to the back of another.

There were no major injuries, but police are urging people to drive with caution in slippery conditions.

Mull councillor on ferry tender panel

THE committee that will oversee the west coast ferry tender has appointed Mull councillor, Mary-Jean Devon, to its panel.

The Scottish government's Independent Scrutiny panel, which will decide the outcome of the ferry tender, is due to meet between September and December.

Independent MSP back left project

INDEPENDENT Highlands and Islands MSP, Jean Urquhart, has backed the Scottish Left Project, a pro-independence group endeavouring to build an electoral alternative in Scotland.

Urquhart was a member of the SNP, but resigned over the party's stance on Nato.

Movie star Kristin on an islands tour

BAFTA-winning actress, Kristin Scott Thomas, was spotted on Mull, Iona and Staffa on Tuesday. Thomas, who was Oscar nominated in 1996, was thought to be on a 'three island' tour.



Little Laila's big climb for kirk

DAVID MCPHEE
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A THREE-YEAR-OLD girl from Taynult has pledged to climb a 368-metre peak to raise money for St Conan's Kirk, after lead was stolen from the roof last month.

And now the tiny trekker has become part of the 'crowdfunding' craze as her cause gathers momentum, with 25 people already donating towards her walk.

Laila Lopez and her parents, Ailsa and Donnie, were driving passed the Loch Awe church when Ailsa told Laila about the £35,000 worth of lead that



TINY TREKKER: Little Laila with her mother Ailsa

was stripped by thieves. Laila, who believes a princess lives in the church, said she would buy a new pink roof with the money from her piggy bank.

Ailsa said: 'She usually keeps her money to herself, so the idea came as quite a shock.'

'I explained to her this money wouldn't be enough, but because it was such a nice idea, I suggested she could raise some money for St Conan's Kirk.'

Laila then suggested the family climb Beinn Lora, near Benderloch, to raise money for the repairs to the kirk. She has already raised £250 through her JustGiving page, with 17 days left to hit her target of £500.

Ian Craig, who is the chairman of the kirk's fundraising group, Friends of St. Conan's, said he would be organising some of group's members to go along on the walk.

He said: 'It's absolutely incredible that someone so young would do something so selfless with their pocket money. I'm thrilled that so many people have already donated and I am going to make Laila an honorary Friend of St. Conan's. At three, she is definitely our youngest member.'

Anyone who wants to donate should visit: <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/Laila-lopez>.

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Uniform plea for new term

AN OBAN woman has come to the aid of parents who may not be able to meet the rising costs of school uniforms.

Breege Smyth of Benderloch has long been an anti-poverty campaigner, but the school uniform campaign is aimed at helping families as the new term begins.

Breege, a fashion designer, said: 'I am concerned that there are families struggling to buy all the kit needed for their children to start or return to school.'

'The financial demands on families at this time of the year is enormous. We all recognise Christmas as a financial drain, but not back to school.'

'I have launched the Back to School Uniform Bank in Oban because I have been approached by some mothers who mentioned that they would be happy to donate to it and unfortunately I have also spoken to a single parent family struggling to meet the costs involved in getting two children all kitted out for school.'

'The bank will run on a pledge and demand system. I am asking anyone who can make a pledge to help kit out a child for school to contact me.'

'I would ask that anyone who needs help to get their children's school requirements to contact me - I will then match the need with the donation.'

'It is not nice asking for help or admitting that you are struggling, so I would urge anyone who knows of someone who could do with some help from the Uniform Bank to contact me and we can help.' Contact Breege by e-mail: breege131@btinternet.com or mobile: 07768406295.

CalMac bans all zero-hours

AS THE ferry tendering process for the Clyde and Hebridean Ferry Services (CHFS) continues, CalMac has agreed a ban on zero-hour contracts.

The operator announced the policy on August 7, after agreeing a deal with the rail and transport union, TSSA.

Union general secretary, Manuel Cortes, said: 'This sends out a clear message that CalMac is a progressive employer who wants to engage with a committed workforce who will not have to ever worry about the scourge of the modern labour market, the insecurity of the zero-hour contract.'

Leanne Taylor, a partner of CalMac's parent company, the David MacBrayne group, added: 'Over the last couple of years, a rise in the use of zero-hours contracts have seen them become a focus of much attention in Scotland and across the UK. Workers on zero hours contracts have no guaranteed hours and, as a result, have very little job security.'

'We felt that it was important for the David MacBrayne group, in conjunction with the TSSA union, to clarify that our organisation does not currently employ anyone on a zero hours contract.'

'We also want to confirm that we have no intention of doing so in the future.'

CalMac will go head-to-head with rival operator, Serco, over the six-year, £1billion contract, with a decision to be made in May next year.

OUT OF THE BLUE: fin-tastic 70lb catch for local couple

AN ARDCHATTAN father and daughter had a jaw-dropping moment on a recent fishing trip, but thankfully they didn't drop 'Jaws', after catching the blue shark.

Iona Campbell and dad Ronnie, who runs the fishing charter business, Fish N Trips in Bonawe, netted the blue shark during a trip with a family friend, 40 miles from the coast of Pembroke in Wales last month.

Iona, who works as an ophthalmic dispenser in Oban, said: 'This was my second time shark fishing and it was just as amazing as the first. I love the moment you can see the light reflecting off their stomachs as they come to the surface. They are beautiful creatures and it was lovely seeing them. We caught around 20 sharks in total, with the one in the picture the biggest, which was about 70lbs.'

The sharks caught on the trip by Ronnie and Iona were all released afterwards.



CATCH OF THE DAY: Iona and Ronnie with their impressive haul

Wait over as shelter is finally fixed

STEVEN RAE
editor@obantimes.co.uk

AFTER almost five months of waiting, a bus service has resumed as normal.

Travellers haven't been waiting for the bus for that period though - it's repairs to the shelter next to North Ledaig Caravan Park which stalled. An accident in February left the stance, which is on the A828 around two miles north of North Connel, severely damaged, with repairs finally completed last month.

Peter Weir, who has owned the caravan park for 33 years, and whose visitors regularly use the stop, said: 'It's been a long time coming.'

'A driver had an unsecured wheel on the bed of a lorry. It came flying off and smashed two front and two roof panels of the shelter. Thankfully there was no-one waiting on a bus at the time.'

'The driver came back about half an hour later, picked up the wheel and took off, but we never got the registration.'

'With the force it must have come off at, it's a miracle no-one was hurt, or even killed.'

'So basically, we ended up with half a bus stop for five months.'



The stop is served by four bus services - including routes linking Oban and Dunbeg and Oban and Fort William. Busy stops include the Sea Life Sanctuary and Oban airport. The 405 and 410 routes include

stops at Lochnell primary school. A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'The bus stop panels are made of glass.'

'In order to make the most of our available budget and to provide the most cost-effective service, repair

A LONG WAIT: Peter Weir outside the repaired bus shelter at Ledaig

work is contracted on a full-day basis. 'This means some repairs are delayed until such time as a full day's work can be contracted. The repair to the bus stop at Ledaig was delayed by four months.'

Bring back half-hourly buses plea

DAVID MCPHEE
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

RESIDENTS of Dunbeg want the old bus service to be reinstated after an increase in demand for seats during summer months.

New houses in the village and more people attending The Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) have put pressure on the service throughout the year.

Residents say when the bus gets to Dunbeg it is full to capacity with holidaymakers from North Ledaig Caravan Park.

'They claim they are being refused entry due to a no standing policy on some of the buses and having to wait a whole hour for the next bus. Margaret Macfarlane, 61, from Dunbeg, said: 'Argyll and Bute council cut the funding for the half-hourly bus service to and from Dunbeg, but since then there have been more people using it.'

'Every summer we have problems getting on the hourly bus because people on holiday at Ledaig use it. The half-hourly service should be reinstated.'

Peter Guy, 70, also from Dunbeg, said: 'One day when the bus was full, the driver managed to squeeze me on, but others were not allowed, as it was a no standing bus.'

'Buses are still generally running late. In the good old days they were every half-hour.' Councillor Iain Stewart MacLean, said: 'I will be supporting the community in seeking to secure funding to reinstate

a half-hourly service at peak times for this thriving village.'

Colin Craig, managing director of West Coast Motors, said: 'The half-hourly service was introduced ahead of the planned housing development in 2008.'

'Unfortunately it did not materialise and the patronage level after three-years' operation could not sustain the cost of the additional vehicle and driver used to provide this level of frequency, hence its reduction back to every hour in 2011.'

'At present we are using our highest capacity vehicles on this service to provide as many seats as possible. But if we can identify that a 30-minute service is sustainable to and from Dunbeg, we will look to reintroduce it for next summer.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'The council has plans for development in the Dunbeg area, and may visit again the frequency of this service in the future, but this may depend on availability of the Scottish government's bus investment fund.'

TIMESLINE

Motorbiker killed in A82 road crash

A MAN was killed in a road traffic crash on the A82 near to Inverbeg on Saturday.

Colin Cameron 44, of Glebe Street, Renfrew, was riding his Kawasaki motorcycle around 10.35am, northbound on the A82 near Inverbeg when he was involved in a collision with a Ford transit van also travelling northbound.

Mr Cameron died at the scene. The 24-year-old driver of the van was not injured.

Mr Cameron's relatives have been informed and a report will be now be sent to the procurator fiscal.

Constable Karen McCann at Dumbarton Road policing department would like to speak to anyone who was travelling on the road at the time and witnessed the collision. She can be contacted by calling Police Scotland on 101.

Road resurfacing will slow traffic

DRIVERS are advised that roadworks will slow traffic next week on the A85 between Bridge of Awe and Taynuilt.

The resurfacing is part of a £240,000 phase of work by Transport Scotland, to improve a 700-metre section of the road.

Restrictions are scheduled to start on Monday, August 17, and last until Friday, August 28, between 7am and 7pm, with no work planned at weekends.

A 10mph convoy system will be in operation while works are undertaken.

Traffic management will be removed outwith working hours to keep disruption to a minimum, although a speed restriction of 30mph will remain in place as traffic will be running on a temporary surface.

Agricultural show ready for islands

THE ISLAY, Jura and Colonsay show is on today (Thursday) from 9am until 6pm.

Held annually in Bridgend, Islay, the popular island agricultural show judges sheep, pigs, cows and horses.

There will also be side stalls including food by local producers, a pipe band, dog show and children's amusements.

The day doesn't end with the show, however, as the lively ceilidh is sure to keep revellers going until the early hours of the following day, with music from Trail West at Bowmore Hall, from 8pm.

Convicted texter lives in a caravan

IN A report in last week's edition of the Oban Times, titled 'Phone number in toilets led to man sending explicit texts to teenager' (August 6, 2015), the address given for Brian John MacLennan was Barranrioch Farm, Glencruitten.

It has been pointed out that Brian John MacLennan lives in a caravan on the farm.

OBAN STOVE CENTRE






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MULLines

Lease offer for stunning garden at Quinish

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A GREEN-fingered enthusiast is being sought to lease Quinish Garden, near Dervaig, which was reputedly used by Beatrix Potter as one of the views in her Peter Rabbit book.

Owner, Jonathan Quinn, said: 'The house has a large walled garden and was originally built in 1780. It's planted with fruit and vegetables and still has its original, massive walls. We've just bought it from the current owner with a plan to offer a long lease to a keen gardener to take it over. The garden has been restored over 25 years and it is stunning, with hundreds of different plants, some of them quite rare.'

'Despite this, hardly anyone has ever seen the garden, so we're hoping to find someone who, as well as having the walled garden, would also design and create a new garden around the main house.'

'This would be about four acres and we are quite open-minded about the layout and style,' he added.



SEASONS OF MISTS: mature, rich colours at Quinish may be an early harbinger of the advent of Autumn

There are some things you can't do with



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Fiona aims high as she raises £4,220 for Yazidi appeal

AN ARDCHATTAN woman and 15 of her friends embarked on a heart-stopping 500-metre climb last Friday to raise money for the persecuted Yazidi refugees in the Middle East, writes David McPhee.

Fiona Bennett and friends climbed the Via Ferrata, a mountain route equipped with fixed points, at Vertical Descents in Kinlochleven. Mother of two Fiona, a former psychiatric nurse, said: 'It was an incredible experience and the staff, Ben and Mikey, were excellent.' The climb raised £4,220. Anyone who would like to help or find out more, should visit 'www.gofundme.com' and search 'Yazidi Appeal'.



(Pictured above) Fiona (fifth from right) with her friends. (Right) Heddy Forrest and her son Chris, 11, get to grips with the climb



TIMESLINE

Search of lochside for missing man

POLICE Scotland are searching for a 66-year-old man who went missing after leaving a pub near Loch Lomond at the weekend.

Joe Brown had been camping and fishing in Pilot Bay, on the east side of the loch.

He was last seen leaving the Oak Tree Pub in Balmaha at around 10:30pm on Friday, August 7.

At around 11am on Saturday, a fisherman found his boat beached on rocks in Pilot Bay, north of Ross Point, with no-one inside.

He is described as 6ft tall, and was last seen wearing a beige-coloured fishing jacket, a blue shirt and a green jumper.

Anyone with any information should call Police Scotland on 101.

Snapper was too close to bird nest

AN EAGLE'S nest disturbed by a photographer at 3.30pm on Tuesday, August 5 is the subject of a police investigation.

The nest, which is located at Killecrannan at Aros, is home to a family of white-tailed sea eagles which are protected under law.

Witnesses said the photographer was very close to the birds and caused one of the eagles to fly away from its nest.

Police have launched an enquiry to find the man and are following a positive line of enquiry.

They reiterated that anyone who is seen disturbing sea eagles or walking close to nest sites should be reported to officers on 101.

Quick thief strikes during marathon

AN Apple Mac laptop computer was stolen within ten minutes on Mull.

The fast-acting, opportunistic thief stole the £800 piece of equipment from an unlocked car in Salen on Sunday between 4pm and 4.10pm during the island's annual half marathon race.

Anyone who has information about the crime, should report it as soon as possible to PC Sharon Carr on 101.

Stopped by police as he hit 88mph

A VEHICLE travelling at 88mph in a 60mph zone was stopped by police on Sunday near to Tyndrum.

A 52-year-old man from the Oban area has subsequently been reported to the procurator fiscal.

TRIBUTES POUR IN FOR GIFTED OBAN GRADUATE WHO OVERCAME ADVERSITY WITH A SENSE OF HUMOUR

Town mourns loss of 'inspirational' man

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A GIFTED Oban scholar who was described by his former headteacher as 'inspirational' died after falling ill at his student accommodation in Cupar, near St Andrews.

Rian MacAllister, 21, from Oban, had just completed a degree in Mediaeval History and Middle East studies.

And he graduated with honours from St Andrews university in June.

He overcame optic nerve hypoplasia, a severe sight impairment, to embark upon a highly successful academic career.

His cousin, Rachel, wrote on his Facebook page: 'Absolutely heartbroken. R.I.P to the most

intelligent man I've ever known, my beautiful little cousin Rian, just remembering the times we used to wrestle and pretend we were Lord of the Rings characters.

'Or when I was wee and was asked what I'd do if I won the lottery and I said I'd get Rian new eyes.

'Just shows how much I adored you and will do always ... Even though I'm older I always looked up to you ... such a caring, honest and smart guy and it's not fair that this happened to you.'

A pupil of Park primary school in Oban, Rian lived in the Longdale district of the town.

At Oban high school, he was a popular young student and a friend to all.

A pupil with a passion for pol-



TALENTED: Rian MacAllister

“ He was truly inspirational. He will be sadly missed ”

Peter Bain
Oban high school

itics, he took those who needed support and guidance under his wing.

Headteacher at Oban high, Peter Bain, paid a moving tribute to his former pupil.

He said: 'It is with great sadness

that we learned of Ryan's passing. He was a lovely young man. He was always polite, courteous and very hard-working.

Mr Bain continued: 'His passion for politics and public speaking encouraged many

other youngsters in the school to follow his example. He was truly inspirational. He will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with his family.'

A spokesman for St Andrews university said: 'Rian was an exceptionally bright and committed young man.'

'We're extremely saddened by this news.'

'It came as an enormous shock to some of the staff Rian who worked with when he studied here and it will be devastating to many of the friends he made at university.'

'Our thoughts are with his family at this very difficult time.'

Rian, a member of the Scottish Youth Parliament, was nominated for a Young Scot Award by the former First Minister of

Scotland, Jack McConnell, in 2006. Showing off his sense of humour, Rian said: 'I want to be an author, but if that doesn't work out I'll go into politics - so watch out Tony Blair.'

In 2011, Highlands and Islands MSP Mike MacKenzie invited Rian to be his local hero during the procession down Edinburgh's Royal Mile before the formal opening of the Scottish parliament.

Rian championed the use of technology to overcome disability and was a guest speaker at the Assistive Technology Advisers Network annual conference in 2013, when he talked about his experiences as an undergraduate.

Rian is survived by his parents, Scott and Karen, and his older sister, Rowan.

New chapter in cancer support for Oban

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

A WEEKLY service is to be set up by MacMillan Cancer Support for people in Oban who are affected by the disease.

The charity is to hold confidential, non-clinical drop-in sessions on Wednesdays from November this year at Oban library.

Users of the library were asked on August 5 what kind of seating, furnishings and lighting they would like to see in the area as part of a public consultation exercise.

Deirdre Henderson, service manager with the charity in Argyll and Bute, explained: 'We get a lot of people using the service, from holidaymakers, families of people getting treatment, and others looking for general information.'

'We provide emotional support and information about the conditions.'

'Our work here is about getting good quality information to people, rather than them going online and reading horror stories about cancer.'

'We are asking people what the service here should do, and what we can provide within our budget, hence the public consultation.'

'We'll use the money available so people feel comfortable, but will also bear in mind the area is used the rest of the time by other library users.'

Sue Nicholson, who is library supervisor, said: 'It's a nice light area, with artwork by local artist, Anna Twigg.'

'It's a popular part of the library for people as it's quiet and has WiFi, so people feel comfortable here.'



NOVEL IDEA: Library supervisor Sue Nicholson, left, with Deirdre Henderson of MacMillan Cancer Support

Deirdre added that while the open area will put many people wanting to chat at ease, a reading room in the library is always available for those wanting a private, one-to-one discussion.

Anyone who needs further information, support, or would like to volunteer with MacMillan Cancer Support in Argyll and Bute, is asked to telephone 01586 555 932 or email: macmillan@argyll-bute.gov.uk

The facts about epilepsy

EPILEPSY Scotland wants to talk to people about the illness at a question and answer session.

Workers from the charity will be at the North Argyll Carers centre in Albany Street, Oban, on Tuesday August, 18, from 1pm to 4.30pm. Epilepsy Scotland's staff will be there to answer questions and give out useful factsheets at the free event.

Meanwhile, at the Kilmore and Oban Church in Glencruitten Road, local health, social work,

teaching and voluntary sector workers can enjoy free epilepsy awareness training sessions. The certified CPD course will run between 1pm and 4pm.

The second session looks at the impact of sleep deprivation on mental health and learning for teenagers and is on from 5pm until 7.30pm.

To attend the awareness training or evening seminar call 0141 427 4911 or email IStewart@epilepsyscotland.org.uk

Abbey sleepwalks to 21st century

A MAJOR refurbishment of Iona Abbey will see the 'mediaeval' accommodation updated to meet the needs of 21st century demands.

Design papers are due to be lodged with Argyll and Bute council's planning department where it will consider the various changes required.

At one time known for its bunk beds and no unmarried couple's policy, Iona Abbey rooms are managed by the Christian organisation, The Iona Community.

Former Iona Community guests described how a double bed was once given to

two bishops by mistake. However by giving this to two men it did not contravene the unmarried rules.

A pipe bed was also used where one quarter of the bed was given over to a heated water pipe surrounded by lagging so as not to burn the pilgrims.

However, the company charged with overseeing the project, Roots Design Workshop Architects described the accommodation as looking 'tired and showing signs of age'. The plans include a new accessible entrance, a sculpture, and reorganisation of bedrooms and facilities.

Area set to lose out in ward shake-up

OBAN will lose a councillor in 2017 if planned Scottish government changes to ward boundaries go ahead, writes Steven Rae.

The proposed restructuring, part of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's electoral review, takes place every five years.

The Oban Lorn and the Isles (OLI) area is currently split into two wards - Oban South and the Isles and Oban North and Lorn, both of which have four councillors.

Oban North and Lorn will be reduced to three elected members if the changes are ratified, with a large part of the north east of the ward to become part of the Mid-Argyll ward.

Under the new proposals, Dalmally's sphere of influence would transfer from Oban to Lochgilhead. When the changes were announced in June, Argyll and Bute council said it was opposed in principle to the plan.

The public consultation stage started on July 30, and

will run until October 22 this year. Duncan MacIntyre was first elected as a councillor to the area in 1999. He said: 'I am totally against the current proposals, both technically and from community perspective. The proposal for a reduction from four to three members for Oban North and Lorn with the re-alignment and reduction of this geographic area misses the point with regard to population and economic growth.'

'Scottish government funding (TIF) for development is mainly on the North side of Oban, and requires maximum support and representation.'

'The Boundary Commission has had discussions with the council and has not accepted the council's counter-proposals and appeals for the preservation of natural communities, together with the remote and rural and island nature of the local authority area.'

'The carve-up of natural communities in essentially the same geographic area and a

reduction to three members is hardly proactive and is too focussed on a one-size agenda.'

Iain Stewart MacLean, is the shortest-serving councillor in the ward, having been elected in last October's by-election.

He said: 'This is not a good thing for Oban North and Lorn. The OLI area will see a weakening of the OLI committee, which inevitably lessens influence.'

'The over-riding principle in reviewing boundary changes is population numbers coupled with an increased councillor workload in areas of deprivation.'

'This approach of 'one size fits all' ignores two problems in geographically spread, rural communities, travel distances and different needs for sparser populations which can be equally time-demanding.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson, who was elected in 2003, said: 'I have grave concerns these proposed boundary changes will have on our established area and the local links of the communities within it.'

'Oban is the natural hub in North Lorn, for administration, local council services, and larger social activities and gatherings.'

'Furthermore, I do not feel the geographical spread of the proposed new boundaries has been fully considered. It is a long way from Lochgilhead to Glen Orchy.'

'I understand that these changes have been brought forward as it was felt that more councillors were required to meet the needs of communities in deprived areas and to achieve this, the commission has reduced councillors in some authorities.'

Councillor Robertson continued: 'When I was elected in 2003, there was one councillor per ward. North Lorn included Lismore, Appin, Ardchattan, Connel and part of Tainuill. Following the review prior to the 2007 elections, the ward was increased and became a four member ward.'

'Ward 5 included all of the North Lorn ward plus the north area of Oban, Ganavan,

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AUTOGLOSS SAILORS ARE CLEAR WINNERS AS OBAN RAFT RACE MAKES WAVES TO ADD £2000 TO LIONS' CLUB CHARITY TREASURE CHEST



INTERNATIONAL WATERS: two Swedes, a Frenchman and an Irishman make up the crew 15_133raftrace03



MEXICAN WAVES: the colourful crew of the Sea Esta 15_133raftrace06



NO FLAGGING SPIRITS: North Argyll Young Carers 15_133raftrace02

Raising the rafters as crews splash for cash

DAVID McPHEE
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A DOZEN rafts took to the less-than-warm-waters of Oban Bay on Saturday navigated by some colourful crews.

The vessels were making waves as part of the annual Oban Bay raft race and Oban and Lorn Lions Club, which organised the event, raised £2,000 on the day for charity.

This year's race had an international theme with one team entering a raft that people from eleven different countries had helped to build.

Four of the helpers navigated the raft, with two of them being from Sweden and the other two from France and Ireland.

The raft, which was sponsored by Backpackers Plus in Oban, won trophies for amazing performance and international family.

Hundreds of spectators lined up across the bay to cheer on participants.

The winners were Thunder-



COOLING OFF PERIOD: the Thunderbirds celebrate their raft race victory in style 15_133raftrace05

birds One, sponsored by Autoglass, the same crew and sponsor that won it last year.

Ian Hall, a crew member of Thunderbirds One, said: 'The team put in a fantastic effort.'

'The day itself is superb for the town and the real winners are the

charities that benefit from the money raised.' In second place was Mora Less sponsored by RNLI Oban lifeboat station and in third place was Davy Wren and his crew of two sponsored by Davy Wren Autos.

All 12 entries received at least one trophy, with Thunderbirds One soaking up an additional four, with trophies for best dressed crew, best crew effort, best sponsored raft and best constructed raft.

North Argyll Young Carers picked up the best junior raft and Border Hopper sponsored by Forbes Boat Service won best dressed raft.

Bill Coutts, president of Oban and Lorn Lions Club, said: 'The rafts were excellent. People really put their hearts and souls in to them.'

And event sponsor, John Stewart of George Street Fish and Chip Shop was delighted with how the day went and stated: 'These community events are wonderful for the town.'



MOREISH: less is more or is it the other way around? 15_133raftrace01



SOS: the Oban lifeboat raft in action 15_133raftrace10



PRIZE GUYS: the winning Autoglass Thunderbirds with their trophies are joined by members of Oban and Lorn Lions club, Brian Simmonds (far left) and Bill Coutts (far right), alongside event sponsor, John Stewart of George Street Fish and Chip Shop (centre) 15_133raftrace04

Fish lobby urges minister to gather the facts

THE Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF) is urging the Scottish government to delay a decision which they say will affect west coast fishing communities, writes Louise Glen.

In a letter to Richard Lochhead, cabinet secretary for rural affairs, Bertie Armstrong, chief executive of the SFF, is calling urgently for a socio-economic analysis of the government's new arrangements for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Mr Armstrong warned Holyrood about pushing through the measures without a proper assessment of how they would affect the fragile fishing economy.

The letter underlined that the SFF fully supports the concept of MPAs as an integral part of marine management, but argued that there needed to be a sensible balance between marine protection and minimising any impact

on the sustainable harvesting activities of the Scottish fishing fleet.

However, under the new proposed management measures, many west coast inshore fishermen are fearful that their operations will no longer be viable and that they will be forced to fish in more exposed and stormier offshore areas.

The letter stated: 'Among the logical objectives of deci-

sion-making on Marine Protected Areas, two stand out: proper protection of the environment and minimisation of negative effects on marine productivity.'

'They are by no means mutually exclusive and both feature in the vision for the marine environment laid out in the Scottish National Marine Plan and its supporting legislation.'

'When the SFF publicly praised the unfolding Scottish

government's MPA procedure, we thought that a fit-for-purpose process for the selection of MPAs had been defined.'

But given the very real fears now raised by fishermen, the letter urged a delay in the decision-making until a full study is carried out on their impact.

The SFF said it is prepared to work closely with the Scottish government in conducting such a study.

Mr Armstrong's letter continued: 'There already exists clear methodologies for carrying out socio-economic analysis of sustainable livelihoods in communities.'

'We reiterate our unwavering commitment to proper protection of the environment, via clearly understood processes, with proper account taken of the consequences of management actions.'

TIMESLINE

3G coverage is worst in the UK

A REPORT published last week has found that Scotland has the worst third generation (3G) coverage in the UK.

The report from the telecoms watchdog, Ofcom, found that a quarter of Scotland's landmass has no mobile coverage and that, at 97.1 per cent, Scotland has the lowest proportion of premises in the vicinity of which a 3G signal can be received.

This compares with 99.6 per cent in England and a UK-wide average of 99.3 per cent.

Back in 2014, Argyll and Bute was listed as the worst affected area in mainland Scotland for poor coverage, with 42.4 per cent of the area in a partial 'not-spot'.

'Not-spots' are areas where there is coverage from some, but not all, of the four main mobile networks.

In the coming months, Ofcom will publish maps enabling consumers to compare operators' mobile coverage throughout the UK. The maps will enable users to zoom to a specific location, or simply enter a place name or postcode, and receive data on coverage for each mobile network - down to 100 square metres.

Lifeboat tows a stricken inflatable

OBAN Lifeboat was called out just before noon on Saturday after being asked by Stornoway coastguard to assist a rigid inflatable boat (RIB) with five people on board that had broken down at the southern approaches to the Sound of Kerrera.

The stricken vessel had been taken under tow by a local creel boat when the rescue crew arrived on scene at 12.07pm.

The lifeboat then took over and took the RIB back to its launch site in the Sound of Kerrera. The lifeboat was made ready for service at 11.58 pm.

It won't rain on Appin parade

DOUGHTY VILLAGERS TURN TO 'PLAN B' TO SAVE 58th AGRICULTURAL SHOW

ANN HENDERSON
editor@obantimes.co.uk

FOR the first time ever, the Appin Show will move to a different venue... because of the weather.

The field at Stalker Croft has hosted the popular local agricultural show for many years, but the persistent rain over the past weeks has turned the ground into a quagmire.

Now the 58th show will be held in the field at Tynribbie Croft, which is adjacent to the car park opposite Appin Parish Church, on Saturday.

Torrential rain has given the organisers more than their fair share of headaches in the build-up to the event and, at one point, it was feared the show might have to be cancelled altogether.

Said Appin Agricultural Club secretary, Brenda MacLeod: 'It has been a very difficult time, but on Saturday night, we had to make the decision to move the event. We couldn't leave it any longer. The Stalker Croft field was completely waterlogged, but fortunately, the one at Tynribbie hasn't been too badly affected and we can move there.'

'We really feared we might have to cancel the show because the weather has been so bad.'

'We've only had to cancel one so far and that was in 2000 because of the foot and mouth outbreak,



SHOW MUST GO ON: Brenda MacLeod with her grandson, Ruari, four, beside the pens that have been put up in Tynribbie field in readiness for the Appin Show on Saturday

so it is great that this one can go ahead as planned.'

Brenda said the community has pulled together to get the Tynribbie field ready for the event.

'We managed to get most of the pens up over the weekend, as Alistair Colthart who uses the field, took out bales of silage to let us in. Tynribbie is the only other field suitable as the car park is so near.'

'The army cadets organise the parking for us, so as many vehicles as possible can be fitted in and there will be reserved parking at Appin Hall for the judges.

'We've been given permission to use the playground at Strath of Appin primary school too as the overflow car park, which is a big help.'

The Appin Show begins on Saturday at 10 a.m. with the livestock judging, with plenty to interest young and old alike in the afternoon with Highland dancing, a display of vintage engines, the ever-popular dog show and spinning demonstrations.

There will also be a variety of stalls, the produce tent including displays of home grown fruit and vegetables, flowers, floral art,

senior and junior handicrafts, home baking and jams, as well as tents for refreshments and teas.

There will also be a dance in the hall in the evening. And although Brenda will probably heave a sigh of relief when the show finally opens, it will also be the end of an era, as she has decided that this one will be her last as secretary.

'I've been the secretary for quite a long time now, so I feel it is time to hand over to someone else. We want to encourage more young people to join the club and get involved,' she added

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Hard-working students' exams delight

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

WITH the excitement and tension of exam results day now over, school leavers across Argyll are set to embark on the next part of their lives.

Oban high school pupil, Ellie MacNiven, is off to live her transatlantic dream after being accepted into St Andrew's University in North Carolina for a PE scholarship, and moves to the USA today (Thursday).

Allyson Boyd, who is Oban High's outgoing head girl, said: 'I got an unconditional offer for Law at Edinburgh University, but I had to ensure my grades remained at the same standard in sixth year. I also wanted to give it my full potential to ensure my studying routine stayed in place for the future in Edinburgh.'

Hannah Gillies received a conditional offer from Edinburgh University, on the basis of getting one 'A' at higher. She worked hard in sixth year to achieve this, and will now be heading off to study

Business and Law in September. At Lomond school in Helensburgh, S4 pupil, Alasdair Lannigan, received his results by text and gained eight 'A's at National 5.

He said: 'I was a bit nervous but had always set my aims at getting straight 'A's so I was really chuffed when I saw my results.'

'Taking the National 5 exams has been great preparation for Highers and now I'm excited about S5, where I've chosen to study Maths, English, Physics, Chemistry and History.'

Fellow Lomond pupil, Lucy Dunn, from S5 was shaking when she received her Higher results through the post.

Lucy said: 'When I saw that I had six 'A's I was over the moon and couldn't quite believe it. I worked hard and am absolutely delighted with my results but I had to do a double take at the certificate before I told my family!'

Lucy Metcalf, who gained three 'A' Band 1's at Advanced Higher at Lomond is going on to study



HIGH ACHIEVERS: Ellie MacNiven, Allyson Boyd and Hannah Gillies, with their exam certificates last week
17_t33exams01

Chemical Physics at the University of Glasgow this year.

She said: 'I wasn't too nervous as I had already got the results I needed to get into uni, but I still really wanted to do well. I was so delighted when I got the email. I really enjoyed the Advanced Higher coursework and feel well prepared for going on to study at uni.'

When asked for a breakdown of school performance in Argyll and Bute, a spokeswoman for the council said: 'I can advise that we are analysing the results of all our ten secondary schools, and we will detail that performance in the annual report to the community services committee later this year.'

COUNCILLORS PUT ON THE SPOT AS OBAN RESIDENTS HAVE THEIR SAY IN A NO-QUESTIONS-BARRED SESSION

'Having a meeting is better than all the words slung about on social media'

A SECOND face-to-face meeting with councillors in Oban attracted almost 60 people who put their elected members under the spotlight with a number of burning issues they feel need addressed.

Members of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee fielded questions on topics ranging from Oban's town centre bus services, Stafford Street and parking, during the 'no questions' barred session at

the Corran Halls last Wednesday.

Opened and closed by the chairman of the area committee, Councillor Roddy McCuish, he explained that he liked to discuss problems face-to-face

rather than on websites.

He said: 'I like to get things done. Having a meeting is better than all the words that are slung about on Facebook.'

Mr McCuish then introduced all the ward councillors, and

gave a warm welcome to Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, who returned to his duties at the beginning of August after a prolonged period of ill health.

Roddy McCuish said: 'Duncan must be feeling better as he

said to me on the way in "Your troubles have not yet started".'

Mr McCuish added: 'It is the case that we can't do everything, but everyone can do something.'

Some of the issues discussed are highlighted below.



Duncan is back in the spotlight

A WARM welcome was given to councillor Duncan MacIntyre (above) as he took a tentative step back into public life on Wednesday night at the Corran Halls.

He said he was pleased to be back after his recent illness: 'I hope to continue to be of assistance to the council and to the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee.'

'While I have been out of circulation, I have had the time to read everything and analyse all the papers that have been sent to me.'

Reinstate public access road plea

OBAN residents are demanding that a public access road along the top of the town to Glenshellach be reinstated.

Caravans and motorhomes are causing 'havoc' on the residential roads of Glenshellach and residents say it will not be long until a youngster is run over.

One woman said: 'Isn't it time that the council had a rethink? Using a housing estate to get people to the caravan park is just stupid.'



CASH FOR KIDS: Kevin Irvine (right) made a plea for money to build a skate park

Fund our skate park plea

YOUNG people were promised they would have a skate park by the chairman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee.

Speaking in response to a question by Kevin Irvine, a youth worker with Oban Youth Cafe, the chairman said 'You'll get your skate park.'

Kevin told Roddy McCuish that members of his youth group - all BMX users - 'were angry at some of the things the councillor had said in an article in the *Oban Times*.'

He said: 'While we understand that there are lots of things for young people to do in Oban, there is not a skate park.'

'We want a skate park, ideally indoors. People's interests change and that has happened here.'

In the article, Councillor McCuish hit out young people using the new Stafford Street pedestrian area as a skate park:

He said: 'I find it incredible that our own young citizens of Oban are abusing this brand new facility in this way.'

I would have expected more from our young people, most of whom are a great credit to our community. This group are certainly not that and should be ashamed of themselves

'I would plead with the youngsters to stop this at once before someone gets seriously hurt. Please have some civic pride in your town and consideration for others.'

The councillor told Mr Irvine: 'I did say those things in the *Oban Times*. To achieve the skate

park, you must work with the council. Rockfield worked with the council and we are achieving things. The play park is working with the council and we are achieving things.'

'I am glad my comments in the *Oban Times* have brought us to the stage we are at,' he added.

Community councillor Julie MacKenzie from Oban said: 'If we want young people to stay here, then we need to work with them.'

Later in the meeting when asked about the amount of cash being spent on the Stafford Street project, members of the BMX youth group said: 'Give us some of the money for our skate park.'

Councillor McCuish replied: 'You'll get your skate park.'

Parking is not the only issue needing to be fixed

A PARKING review should begin to 'sort out' problem areas in Oban, councillor Roddy McCuish told residents complaining about slow moving traffic through the town.

The review and consultation closed earlier this month, but the Oban councillor asked anyone with comments on the situation to come forward.

He said: 'The parking review is not only about charging for parking it is also about finding out how we best use our space in the town.'

He continued: 'We have tried to keep it quiet - but we have been without traffic wardens for two weeks. We didn't want to tell people at the time, but someone is starting again on Monday (August 10).'

Beatrice Keenan of Dungal-lan Road said: 'Parking in this road has got so much worse.

'All we need are double yellow lines to stop people parking there who are going on a CalMac ferry for a holiday.'

The Rev Ken Hunter, of the Congregational Church, said: 'Four years ago I was told someone would get back to me, and they haven't.'

'There is an ambulance bay outside the church - but no ambulance station. It is never, ever used for an ambulance and yet last week I got a ticket on it - while I was leading worship on a Sunday morning.'

'I was told it would be removed and it hasn't. When is it going to be fixed?'

Wheelchair user, councillor Mary-Jean Devon, said: 'There are many issues in the town that we need to deal with. At the moment anyone with mobility problems will have trouble crossing the road.'

Turning circle too small and buses can't use it

PARENTS and children from Cantalina Avenue in Oban want to catch a bus home to their 'hillside houses', but a turning circle is made to the wrong standard and doesn't allow vehicles to turn around.

Lillias Grant, of Glengallon, asked councillors to get the matter sorted out.

She said: 'Our new housing area is as high as you can get in Oban. But there are no buses as they cannot turn around at

the top of the road. The way along the top road was much easier for people to get along with buggies and shopping, but that has now been blocked off as well.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish said in explanation: 'The turning circle was required as part of planning. The turning circle has been built in hard core and it needs to be in Tarmac. Leave that one with me and I will speak to the contractors.'

Volunteers sought to high-vis spray paint town's dog dirt

AN OBAN dog fouling group is planning to spray dog dirt with fluorescent paint, in an aim to highlight its cause, writes Steven Rae.

Oban Community Action on Dog Fouling is organising a media launch with its partner agencies, with the painting of poo part of the agenda.

The launch will be on Monday, August 31, with a time and location still to be confirmed.

Oban community councillor, Julie MacKenzie, who is a founding member of the group, said: 'The aim is to cause a high visibility community presence that sends out a clear message in the local area that dog fouling is not acceptable and

we, as a community, are actively doing something about it.'

'The spray painting is a technique that has been used elsewhere and has worked very effectively in highlighting the issue.'

The community councillor added: 'The campaign has the full backing of our partner agencies, including Police Scotland and Argyll and Bute council.'

The group is looking for a team of volunteers to go out and spray paint any dog dirt they see in the week of the launch and, in particular, on the morning of the 31st.

More information about the campaign will be announced in the coming weeks.

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TIMESLINE

Call for support on mobile contracts

THE MP for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey has won crucial support for his campaign for a fairer deal for Highland mobile phone users who suffer from a lack of coverage.

Currently, those who sign up to a mobile phone contract are tied for 18-24 months, even when they have poor or no-signal at all.

Drew Hendry's campaign aims to allow users to get out of their contract at any time should they have issues with their signal, which industry regulator Ofcom is now supporting.

The SNP politician wrote to the regulator's chief executive, Sharon White, asking for support and also communications minister Ed Vaizey MP.

Health board look to appoint e-boss

AN 'E:DIRECTOR' is being considered by NHS Highland, members of the health board heard on Tuesday.

A clinical director will be in charge of the initiatives to work with all the electronic health support the authority is planning to put in place.

A report before the board heard that the amount of electronic and online support for people within the NHS Highland area is increasing and a clinical director is needed to oversee this work.

Lost runner found at Glencoe centre

A SEARCH and rescue helicopter and both Oban and Glencoe mountain rescue teams hunted for a runner who went missing in the hills during a race last Saturday, August 8.

The man was found an hour and a half after the emergency services had been alerted when he turned up at the Glencoe visitor centre.

Police find heroin following search

A MAN from North Shields, who was stopped and searched in the Soroba area of Oban, was found to be in possession of heroin, a Class A drug, and diazepam, a class C drug.

The incident happened shortly after 3.30pm last Sunday and has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

Works planned for repairs on the A83

ROADWORKS have got under way on two sections of the A83 this month.

Work on the first section, which lies 2.5km north of Ken-nacraig, has already started and is due to run for two weeks from 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday for two weeks. Work on the second section will begin on August 17 at Butterbridge, near the Rest and be Thankful, and will be carried out from 7am to 7pm for two weeks.

Island man to be reported to fiscal

AN ISLAY man found himself in trouble in Oban after vandalising a vehicle in a car park at 2pm on Wednesday, August 6.

The 46-year-old man has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

Islay and Jura

A CHARITY grants scheme covering Islay and Jura will promote its next round of funding at the Islay show today (Thursday).
The 'On Your Marks' scheme offers between £250 and £2,000 for projects which increase active participation, improve wellbeing, help people build connections and promote inclusion.
To be eligible for funding, groups must be constituted with charitable status.
On Your Marks is the latest part of the 'Islay and Jura Fourteen' funding scheme.
It was put in place after Islay and Jura was selected last year as one of 14 communities to benefit from £3.5million of grants from the charity, Spirit, established by the Big Lottery Fund as part of the Commonwealth Games.
The grants support a broad range of activity with a focus on grassroots sport and physical activity, arts and culture, youth development and volunteering.
The deadline for completed applications is August 31.
For more information, visit the Fourteen stand at the Islay show, or visit: www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/islay-jura-fourteen

Coll

THE FINAL school activity session for secondary school teenagers will be held tonight, Thursday, at An Cridhe.
The nights, which have run throughout the school holidays, run between 7pm and 9pm, starting with a team building exercise and then other activities. It also gives Coll's teens a chance to socialise with friends and make new ones.
While organised mainly for islanders, visitors are also welcome.
Meanwhile, children and adults alike are welcome to a children's theatre performance at the end of the month.
Told through the energetic mix of music, puppetry, clowning, movement and British sign language, The War of the Buttons' distinctive non-verbal vocabulary creates a show accessible to deaf, hearing and international audiences, performed by George and Bessie of Companie Animation.
The hour of entertainment is aimed at allowing people of all communication abilities to indulge and enjoy theatre that truly promotes inclusion and breaks down barriers.
For more information on these and other events, visit: www.ancriidhe.com, or telephone 01879 230 000.

Ceremony to name Poet's Seat on the Taynish Art Trail

LIZ Swan and her kayaking group had a lovely surprise when they landed on the shore at Taynish and were invited to join in with the naming ceremony of the Poet's Seat at the pier.
The group raised a cup of Elderflower bubbly to bless the seat and all who sit and read poetry upon it.
Liz gave a reading of the poem 'To A Bonny Birch Tree' ('Do Bheithe Boidheach') by the poet George Campbell Hay, whose centenary is being celebrated with poetry, art and music in his home village of Tarbert this year.
The Poet's Seat is part of the Taynish Art Trail, initiated by Caroline Anderson of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Lesley Burr from Artmap Argyll.
Gordon Campbell from SNH created the seat with the stones from the mill and he has also created a special box to house 'Into the Forest', an anthology of tree poems edited by Maggie Haggith and a little notebook for visitors to record their thoughts, feelings and observations about Taynish - a rare and special place.
Liz said: 'Everyone really enjoyed seeing the beautiful art work on the trail.
'I think they will all be back. I certainly will be,' she added.



POETRY PLEASE: Reading at the Poet's Seat after the naming ceremony. t31taynish1no

Dugald's inspiring slate art show

AN EXHIBITION of slate mosaics by artist, Dugald MacInnes, in the new Atlantic Islands Centre on the Isle of Luing in Argyll is proving highly popular with visitors and locals.
Dugald, from Kilsyth, sources most of his slate from disused quarries in Scotland, particularly on the islands of Seil and Luing.
And this made the centre the most appropriate setting for the opening exhibition.
Dugald has exhibited in Scotland, the USA, England, France and Italy, and has gained awards both domestic and international, but this is the first time his work has come home to a slate island.
He said: 'The materials that I use are employed to create texture and colour within, what I hope, are compositions that are interesting to the eye, led by the natural warmth of the stone.'
In creating his mosaics, he also uses stone from Cornwall and the Loire Valley, and shales from Tuscany in Italy and from near his home in Kilsyth.
Born in Glencoe and raised in Dalavich on Loch Awe side, Dugald trained in mural design under George Garson at Glasgow School of Art. Subsequently, he gained a degree in geology at the Open University as well as becoming an experienced archaeologist,



An example of Dugald's work, titled 'Disintegration' at the Luing centre

currently directing a major field survey in Perthshire.
Dugald added: 'I grew up in Dalavich and, on occasion, my family would visit Seil and Easdale where I spent time exploring the slate quarries. Years later, when at art school, my tutor, George Garson, introduced me to his small slate mosaics - Easdale slate no less - and the course of my life was changed.'
Images of an archaeological nature have been used in the Luing exhibition, for example, the standing stones at Duachy on Seil and at Kilmartin.
However, in recent years his work has focused on a geological context in which he attempts to convey an emotional response to the vast geological forces that continue to shape our planet and the precarious nature of our existence in the face of these titanic forces.
The landscape, geology and archaeology of Argyll have, and remain, the principal source of his artistic expression. Prehistoric standing stones, rock art and the evidence of the earth's geological past found, for example, on the coast of the slate islands in the form of igneous dykes, lava flows, and the evidence for faulting and folding in the slate, all contribute to Dugald's creativity.
The coast around the slate islands has been intrinsic to his art and he returns to this beautiful part of Scotland as often as he can.
A visit to this art exhibition in the Atlantic Islands Centre and to the slate shores of Luing make for a great day out and are highly recommended.
The exhibition is open over the summer from 10am - 5pm, Monday to Thursday and from 10am - 9pm on Fridays and Saturdays, and from 12 - 5pm on Sundays.



Dugald with one of his distinctive slate mosaics

New shed-load of joy for games

UISKEN Beach Games has become a firm favourite feature of Mull's summer and a new shed will see it go on for another 25 years.
But thanks to a legacy from Brendan Soane, a long-time camper, who passed away in 2013, and the generous help of many local contractors and people, the new Uisken Games storage shed was opened by Gordon Soane, in memory of his father.
Situated on the beach side croft of Ronald Campbell MBE, president of the RNLI Ross of Mull and Iona branch, the shed allows for storage of all the equipment needed on games day.
Mr Campbell said: 'We would like to thank Argyll Estates, Rutherford Plant, Mr Preban Andressan, Mull Building Supplies, D. Galbraith of McLaughlan Quarries, G. Hardy of Dalmailly and Mr R and Mrs S Campbell, for their generosity and goodwill in allowing or contributing to the erection of the shed.'



The Uisken Games Shed opening ceremony. Included in the photo are Gordon Soane, who cut the tape, Ronnie Campbell MBE, RNLI branch chairman, Sheila Campbell, Branch Secretary RNLI and Tim Capper, Press Secretary RNLI.

Morven's MS fundraising day

KIND-HEARTED people from Morvern raised £1,500 in aid of multiple sclerosis (MS).
The fundraiser was inspired by Lucy Olsen, who lives with the condition. She and her friend, Megan Whyte, organised an afternoon of activities and an evening of partying in Lochaline social club.
The pair hosted a massive tombola that proved to be popular among fundraisers.
Local residents and visitors also enjoyed having fun in a photo booth and browsing stalls which featured jams, crafts, cushions, cheese, home baking and bric-a-brac.
Scottish sea farms donated salmon for the 'raffle and salmon barbeque'.
Ally Nudds took charge of the lively auction, which included prizes from the Whitehouse restaurant and Oban Phoenix cinema. The crowd frantically bid to secure their prizes well into the early hours of the next morning.
Megan Whyte and Lucy Olsen have said a special thank you to people who supported their cause and donated prizes.
They said they were 'overwhelmed by the generosity shown' by people in the community and by those from further afield.



From left: Megan Whyte, Katrina MacLean and Lucy Olsen (front) f32ms02no

£400,000 for local 'gem'

KILMARTIN Museum is one step closer to a multi-million pound refurbishment, following an endorsement for two grants worth £3.5million.
The Heritage Lottery fund (HLF) has announced a first-round pass of £400,000 towards the multi-million pound cash boost.
The museum, located around 12 miles south of Lochgilphead, is in the Kilmartin Glen.
The glen is regarded as one of Scotland's most important prehistoric landscapes and the artefacts in the museum are some of the UK's oldest,

dating as far back as 3,500 BC.
The museum - which opened in 1997 - collects and curates almost all of the archaeology in Argyll, but it requires a major upgrade.
The announcement of the first-round pass means the museum is a step closer to the £3.1m grant. This will allow redevelopment of the museum and increase the number of visitors, with a redesign and expansion of the museum plans including a new exhibition gallery displaying never-before-seen prehistoric objects and an additional gallery for use by local artists and to showcase temporary exhibitions.
The museum hopes to have the new facilities in place by 2020.
Gordon Gray Stephens, chair of Kilmartin Museum Trust, said: 'We're really pleased to have the support of HLF for our proposals.'
'The Kilmartin Glen landscape is a gem that more people from Scotland and further afield will now be able to discover. We believe that the redevelopment will also create cultural and economic opportunities for Argyll.'

Mull

Two call-outs in 48 hours for Mull lifeboat

THE local RNLI's volunteer crew didn't have to go very far to respond to two 'shouts' in 48 hours in Tobermory Bay.
With many of Tobermory RNLI's 'shouts' averaging in duration of around four to six hours, two launches in the last few days saw the volunteer crew respond to two incidents very close at hand.
In the first, last Thursday, August 6, the RNLI's all-weather lifeboat, Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey, launched to go to the aid of a yacht at the entrance to Tobermory Bay with engine failure.
With very light winds, the yacht was unable to make way under sail. A local fishing boat, Crimson Arrow IV, had already gone to the aid of the yacht and had it under tow.
The lifeboat took the yacht under an alongside tow and took it to the casualty mooring in Tobermory Bay as the pontoons were full due to the West Highland Week yachting regatta.
On Saturday afternoon, the volunteer crew were requested to launch by Stornoway Coastguard following reports that a Hobie Cat small catamaran had capsized with one person aboard again at the mouth of Tobermory Bay.
Two volunteer crew members took the station's boarding boat (a former D Class lifeboat) to assist the catamaran. On arriving at the scene, the lifeboat crew found that Staffa Tours' vessel, Islander, and a number of other boats in the area were giving assistance to the teenage sailor and the crew of the Islander had managed to help to re-right the catamaran.
Having established that the teenager in the catamaran was content to carry on sailing and that he was being accompanied by his father in a small dinghy, the lifeboat crew returned to station.
Lifeboat spokesman, Dr Sam Jones, said: 'These were two very straightforward shouts very close at hand.
'We are very grateful to the boats which responded to both incidents, particularly Crimson Arrow IV and Islander for rendering assistance.'

MORVERN lines

Glenfinnan : 200th anniversary of a world-famous monument

THERE are very few man-made objects in Scotland which are instantly recognised the world over. The Glenfinnan Monument, standing at the head of Loch Shiel is one of them. It was built by Alexander MacDonald, who, when he died in 1815 aged 28, left debts amounting to millions of pounds in today's money.
The now famous 65-foot tall round tower first appeared in the early 1800s and was built as an elevated shooting platform and accommodation block. From here MacDonald and his friends caroused, 'cried for madder music and for stronger wine' and killed the local deer and wildfowl.
MacDonald, whose family had entertained Prince Charles Edward Stuart, was a passionate Jacobite. He belonged to a coterie of romantics who worshipped the exiled Stuart monarchy hoping they would reclaim the British throne from the Hanoverians.
In 1815, Alexander - despite his mounting debts - rashly engaged a fashionable and costly Edinburgh architect, James Gillespie Graham, to give his shooting lodge a make-over and transform it into a romantic, tartan totem pole. Fair play to him; perhaps he saw it as a means of paying off his debts. Alas, euphoria was short-lived. Alexander died that year, was buried in Edinburgh and the monument, less its accommodation block, became his memorial. Enter the spin-doctors!
A figure of a kilted and bonneted Highlander, suggestive of Bonnie Prince Charlie, was hoisted onto the top of the round tower and several panels appeared in an octagonal perimeter wall extolling the virtues of Alexander MacDonald and the Jacobite movement.
In 1931, the National Trust for Scotland was established and, two years later, the monument was offered to them. Keen to build on its mission statement as 'a cabinet into which it can put some of its valuable things, where they will be perfectly safe for all time and enjoyed by everyone' the trust accepted and the dancing round the totem pole continued.
However, in the mid 1950s, two highly-respected historians, Seton Gordon from Skye and Donald B MacCulloch, Fort William, author of Romantic Lochaber, questioned the statement the trust had started to put out that the monument marked the exact site where the Jacobite Standard was raised on the 19th of August 1745. They issued some convincing evidence through 'The Oban Times' based on eye witness accounts and other contemporary records, that the standard was raised elsewhere in Glenfinnan. But the trust was adamant that the words, 'On this spot', to be found on one of the panels by the monument, meant just that.
In the 1980s, a moorland fire burnt through a thick layer of peat on the summit of a knoll about 500 yards north west of the monument, revealing a large horizontal rock on which a Latin inscription had been cut. It read: MDCCXLV IN NOMINE DOMINI VEXILLA TANDEM TRIUMPHANTES CAROLI EDUARDI STUART ERRECTA 1745 [In the name of the Lord the standards of Charles Edward Stuart triumphing at last were set up, 1745].
It has been suggested this was the work of the Rev Donald MacDonald (1814-1895), one of Alexander's relatives, who wanted to ensure that the true site of the unfurling would not be lost. Despite this seemingly rock-solid proof that Alexander MacDonald did not build his shooting lodge on the spot where his hero raised his standard, the trust remained sceptical.
This year is the 200th anniversary of the building of the Glenfinnan Monument as we know it. Is it not time for the trust to accept that they may be wrong and initiate an independent enquiry to examine all the evidence and present the outcome to the public?
No one is saying that the monument is in the 'wrong' place - how can it be when it is a war memorial to those who lost their lives at the Battle of Culloden and in the aftermath when the Hanoverian army went on the rampage throughout the Highlands? Nevertheless, the National Trust, if it wants to remain true to its principals, has a duty to layout its full story not only to its members, but the tens of thousands of visitors who come to Glenfinnan each year to enjoy and learn more about one of the most famous landmarks in the world.
Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

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'Weather could be a factor' as three hill walkers die in a week

AMANDA CRAWFORD
fort@obantimes.co.uk

THREE men have died in just one week on the hills of Lochaber, a record for the area in the summer months.

On the morning of Friday August 7, Lochaber mountain rescue team (LMRT) were alerted to an incident at Carn Mor Dearg Arête, Fort William.

Steven Fogg, 56, from Aboyne, had been walking with two friends when he plummeted around 400ft. He was airlifted to Belford hospital where he later died.

The following morning a search was launched by police, LMRT, and Glencoe mountain rescue team after a 60-year-old man from Berkshire failed to return from a walk in the Grey Corries on Friday evening.

The hill walker was found dead in a river around 3pm on Saturday having apparently slipped and fallen in the Coire Choimlidh area. His family have been informed.

The two make the number of fatal accidents on the hills up to three last week.

The Oban Times reported last week that the body of 60-year-old Ian Bell was recovered during a search last Monday.

Team leader, John Stevenson, responded to the call-out on Friday, but was off duty on Saturday morning.

He said: 'We have had three

in a week. Although it is not a regular occurrence, it is sad. We still have two men missing and we have put in a lot of man hours this season to look for them.

'There have been an increased number of calls from people who are in a bit of trouble. There have been a lot of sprained ankles and general slips and trips. Many people have had navigational errors. These were a big contributing factor in the winter and usually happen when the clouds are low and the weather is poor.

'It can result in people losing their way and the weather has been bad lately.'

Lochaber area inspector, Donald Campbell, has issued a statement to people in the area and to those visiting who wish to walk or climb in the hills around Fort William.

He said: 'Three fatalities in one week is unique and unfortunate, but there have been no similarities in the three cases. I think the weather could be a factor as the summer tends to be better for climbing, but we have had a poor summer this year.

'Never underestimate the task you are undertaking. Make sure you are prepared with efficient equipment and climbing wear when you are taking to the hills. They are daunting.'

LMRT has seen 93 deployments this year already, a figure that the team has never reached in the first eight months of a year.



The Grey Corries where a man slipped and died at the weekend f33greycorries01no

TIMESLINE

Young people want to stay in the Highlands

MORE young people are choosing to stay in the Highlands. A report commissioned by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) said an increasing number of former students are choosing to stay in the north as it offers them 'opportunity, quality of life and strong community links'.

Of the 4,409 people aged between 15 and 30 surveyed, 43 per cent said they were committed to staying in the Highlands and Islands long-term and 50 per cent currently living outside the region said they are interested in living here in the future.

Community spirit is a strong lure to the north, as 78 per cent of people surveyed expressed pride in their community.

According to the report, 57 per cent of people said they would be happy to attend college or university here, while 56 per cent said the region has a good 'educational offering'.

Highland youth convenor, Shaun Finlayson, said: 'It's fantastic to see that the Highlands is capable of retaining a large amount of its young people and even drawing in young people from elsewhere.'

But work to keep young people in the area is not over, said Carroll Buxton, HIE director for regional development.

She added: 'This report is very encouraging, but we need to continue to create more opportunities in both education and employment. We are working with universities to expand the provision of undergraduate courses linked to regional career opportunities in sectors such as life sciences, creative industries, energy and food and drink.'

'Developing infrastructure, transport links and access to digital technology is helping to make the region a more attractive option for young people.'

Six brave shavers raise lots of cash

HAIR is a prized possession of many women who go to great lengths to keep it looking good. But six brave Lochaber ladies gave it all up at the weekend to raise money for charities close to their hearts.

The women raised £800 at a rally in Fort William's Cameron Square at the weekend, in aid of Lochaber

food bank, Lochaber Hope and the Lindsay Jarrett foundation, as part of a wider protest against benefit cuts.

Caly Moore, 18, from Ballachulish, was the first to brave the shave at the hands of barber, Neil MacNeil, but she wasn't sad to see the hair go.

She said: 'I was a bit nervous but

it's a great opportunity to raise money so it's worth it.'

Event organiser, Marie MacPherson, said the day was a success, despite some guest speakers being unable to attend. She added: 'A lot of people turned out and, in total, around £800 was raised for local charities. Some of our guest speakers didn't make

it, including Tommy Sheridan, who couldn't get here because of a crash on the road which was a shame, but we got some local activists to speak instead.'

NERVOUS: Caly Moore from Ballachulish waits to have her head shaved by barber Neil MacNeil 16_f33shave01



GONE: Caly Moore gave up her long hair to raise money for Lochaber charities 16_f33shave02



Money Matters
with Iain Cairns

Helping you get to grips with auto-enrolment

Workplace pensions are undergoing a revolution. Automatic enrolment has not only changed the UK pensions landscape, it has also placed new obligations on employers. If you run a company with one or more employees, auto-enrolment will affect you and you should be aware of these changes. So what do you need to do?

Under the new legislation, every employee will be entitled to save into a qualifying workplace pension. As their employer, you will be responsible for organising a suitable scheme that meets certain key criteria.

It is important to allow plenty of time to prepare for auto-enrolment. The Pensions Regulator suggests employers allow at least 12 months before their "staging date".

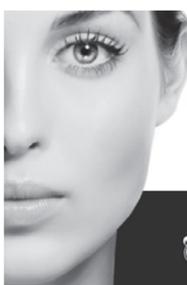
You can find out your company's staging date by entering your PAYE reference into the staging date tool on the Pensions Regulator's website at <http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/>.

Auto-enrolment presents new challenges for British companies. You need to make the right decisions, not only for your employees, but also for your business. Argyll Financial Services can help you to understand your company's move to auto-enrolment, ensuring a smooth transition and a positive outcome for you and your employees.

If you have any questions on auto-enrolment or would like to know more about how we can assist you and your employees, please do get in touch.



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Rockfield centre sitting pretty as landscaping project takes shape

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE ROCKFIELD Centre in Oban is now sitting pretty after receiving benches and tables for a picnic area.

Fusion Marine, based at Barcaldine, supplied the garden furniture and generously donated one of the benches to Oban Communities Trust, the organisation that owns the former primary school building.

Caroline Boswell, who is leading the grounds group for the centre, said: 'We are very grateful to Fusion Marine for this donation and already the benches and tables are enjoying good use, when the weather is clement.'

'Being made of recycled plastic, they will not be as affected by the weather and we hope they will be in use for many years by both visitors and the local community.'

Funding for the benches was part of the grant award from the Holyrood-sponsored project, Stalled Spaces, and Argyll and Bute Community Partnership's



Sean Gordon and Michael Cameron of Fusion Marine deliver the picnic tables and benches as Caroline Boswell looks on

Health and Wellbeing Fund. Fusion Marine is one of leading suppliers of fish farming equipment and, in recent years, has diversified its range of operations which include bespoke outdoor solutions for the leisure industry including garden furniture.

Alan Forsyth of Fusion Marine said: 'We are delighted to be able to help Oban Communities Trust and The Rockfield Centre and hope the picnic bench will be well used by everyone.'

Meanwhile, good progress is being made clearing the grounds at the centre, with a work party hard at it every Thursday evening at 6pm. Volunteers are always welcome.

Anyone wishing to be involved in the grounds and garden project, either at the ideas or development stage, should email membership@obancommunitrust.org.uk

Shot in the arm as golfers drive funds for Dalmally charity

OBAN Rotary Club has just swung into action for a very worthy cause.

The club has given Mary's Meals the proceeds from the raffle at its popular annual charity fundraiser, the AM-AM golf tournament.

Representatives from the world-renowned Dalmally-based charity, Mary's Meals, received a cheque for £549 from the rotarians.

The AM-AM tournament was played at Oban's Glencluiten golf club in June and is now in its 30th year.

The tournament has raised approximately £145,000 for charity over the past 30 years.

Pictured from left to right are Ken Moncrieff, the Rotary club president, Christina Lisiter and Marie Rowan from Mary's Meals and Iain MacIntyre, the Am-Am convenor.



Autumn Breaks

AS THE countryside blazes shades of reds, golds and oranges, autumn is the most colourful season in which to visit the Highlands and Islands. Falling between the busy summer and festive seasons, fall breaks tender exceptional value for money, with many accommodation providers offering special deals. An autumn holiday promises tranquillity and uncrowded attractions, along with spells of lovely, crisp weather perfect for fun activities.

AVOID THE CROWDS

Cycling and hiking is a great way to be immersed in autumn's palette, especially for those who want to avoid the crowds of summer. Trails can be jammed with masses of people during the high season, but often the weather is just as nice in the fall, allowing one to enjoy nature's own slide show in peace and quiet.

Photography buffs love fall in the Highlands and Islands. The vibrant leaves make an already fairytale landscape even more ethereal.

Postcard perfect photo opportunities abound. This is a wonderful background for family or couples portraits.

Wildlife watching is also prime at this time of year, as the red squirrels, deer, otters and foxes busily ready themselves for the long winter season ahead. Birds are migrating at this time as well. All one needs is a pair of binoculars to enjoy the show.

MIDGIE FREE

Camping with the family is a great activity for the fall. Imagine drinking hot chocolate and toasting marshmallows as the family shares stories around the campfire. And thankfully, in the autumn, those dastardly midgies won't ruin the trip!

Sightseeing in autumn is easy as the crowds of summer have long gone. No waiting all night for a seat at restaurants, or getting on the waiting list for that must-see attraction. National Trust for Scotland gardens abound here, and the fall colour is spectacular.

Oban and the surrounding areas are some

of the world's top holiday destinations for vacationers from all over the globe, but those lucky enough to live here can take advantage of special deals and quieter attractions in the autumn, too. The 'staycation' is the hottest trend in holidays, when budgets and/or time are tight- or just for exploring one's own backyard. Heading out to a rural lodge, island cottage, city hotel or campsite just a few miles from home can provide all the benefits and fun of a holiday abroad- for less.

HIGHLAND HOSPITALITY

Many top rate accommodations in the area offer uniquely Scottish experiences, from weekend jaunts to longer holidays. Rustic inns, touring parks or chic hotels- whatever one's taste, Highland hospitality assures a memorable getaway. Imagine spending the day strolling through an enchanted autumnal forest, then the evening sitting around a blazing fireplace enjoying world class food and a dram of the globe's finest whisky- perfect!

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Local rugby player accused of assaulting nurse in pub brawl

AMANDA CRAWFORD
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A JURY has heard how a nurse had to have a metal plate fitted under his eye socket after a bar brawl broke out in a Fort William pub.

This week, local man, Conor Taylor, 20, stood before a jury in Fort William sheriff court accused of assaulting a 33-year-old psychiatric nurse, while the man was visiting Lochaber.

Taylor, of Lanark Place, Fort William, was charged with repeatedly punching him in the face causing him severe injury and impairment in the Crofter bar on High Street on February 28, 2014 at around 11pm.

On Monday and Tuesday this week, a jury heard evidence from three crown witnesses, including the complainer, and one defence witness.

The court heard that the complainer and three friends had arrived in Fort William on Friday, February 28, to begin a social weekend of 'pub and pool'.

After arriving at around 1pm the foursome checked into a hotel and headed out on a 'low key' afternoon in the pubs.

Around 11pm, three of the friends headed to the pub where the alleged incident took place soon after. The jury heard that Taylor had approached two of the party and repeatedly asked one of the alleged victim's friends: 'What are you looking at?'

The court heard that a fight broke out between the complainer and the accused, after the complainer pushed Taylor. The grapple led to Taylor being ejected from the pub.

It was what occurred after the initial confrontation that led to the nurse's face being punched and left him suffering from a broken cheekbone, it was alleged.

The jury heard that moments after the initial brawl, the complainer thought Taylor had cornered his friend in the toilet and went over to make sure he was okay. This is when Taylor is alleged to have punched the complainer, breaking his cheekbone, which caused him to lose feeling in the left side of his face for three months and have a metal plate fitted.

But a series of inconsistencies in evidence given by two witnesses, led defence solicitor Gerard Sweeney to question whether his client had been 'sandwiched' by the two gentlemen and provoked by the complainer punching Taylor on the back of the head.

The only defence witness in the case was a friend of Taylor's, who had been out on the same evening, but with a separate group.

He supported Mr Sweeney's explanation and said he saw the complainer follow Taylor into the toilet and punch him on the back of the head as he stood facing away from the complainer.

Taylor, apprentice welder and rugby player denies the charge and lodged a special plea of self-defence ahead of his trial.

On Tuesday evening, all evidence in the case had been heard and the trial was due to continue on Wednesday afternoon. A verdict was due to be heard as the *Oban Times* went to press.

Police plea over injured woman



POLICE in Fort William are appealing for witnesses after a woman was found with serious injuries yesterday morning (Wednesday). The 27-year-old woman was discovered in the early hours down an embankment near steps between Fassifern road and Union road and was taken to the Belford hospital for treatment. She is of slim build and was wearing a black hooded top and blue jeans. A police spokesman said: 'If anyone was in the area between 11pm on Tuesday night (August 11) and 6am the next morning, or may have any information about the incident, they are urged to contact police on 101.'

16_f33hub01

TIMESLINE

Damage to cars and properties

POLICE are appealing for information from the public after a number of vehicles and properties were damaged.

Between 3.30pm on Sunday August 2 and 9.55am the following day, a vehicle parked in the layby on the A82 at Letterfinlay Straights had its rear doors tampered with.

An Audi A6 was damaged while parked on Fassifern road, Fort William, between 6pm on Thursday August 6 and 5.15am the following morning.

A red Audi Quattro was taken from the Railway club car park, Inverlochy, between 12.30 am and 8.05am and was later found at Claggan park.

The door of the old post office in Glen Etive was damaged between lunchtime on Wednesday August 5 and 3pm on Sunday August 9.

Between 5pm on Wednesday July 29 and 7pm on Monday August 3, a window frame of a house on old Banavie road was damaged.

Police are appealing for anyone who has information, or witnessed anyone acting suspiciously in these areas, to come forward by calling 101.

Information can also be given anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800555111 or going online at crimestoppers-uk.org.

Help to clean-up mountain plea

CLIMBERS, outdoor enthusiasts and engineers are being sought for a major mountain clean-up on Rannoch Moor.

Old fencing, rusting steel and cables are to be removed from Meall a' Bhruiridh this weekend and organisers, Glencoe mountain resort, are looking for as many people to help as possible on both Saturday and Sunday.

Anyone fit enough to walk up and down the steep slopes can volunteer, but engineers are required to cut large pieces of cable and experienced climbers can help by accessing the steep ravines and gullies.

The junk will be collected in helicopter bags to be airlifted from the mountain later in the week. All volunteers will meet at the mountain resort's base cafe at 9am on both days to be sorted into teams. For more information contact Andy Meldrum on 07977553901.



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Big-hearted donors stock uniform bank

KIND-HEARTED Lochaber women have come together in an effort to provide school uniforms to children in need.

In just four days trousers, shirts, shoes and jackets have been collected by Lochaber Women for Independence for what they have dubbed the 'back to school bank'.

The clothes will be donated to Lochaber Women's Aid then sent on to those in need. In what started as a last

minute collection, the ladies are now considering making the collection year-round.

Donna Darnbrough, one of the organisers, said: 'We only started the collection at the weekend so it's gone really well to get as much as we have. Everyone's feeling the pinch just now, so it's nice that people are still thinking of others and donating rather than selling.'

Another volunteer, Carol

Anne Campbell, added: 'We've got about 30 items of clothing already, but the schools go back on Tuesday so there's not much time left.'

'We've also had some donations so if there's anything needed that we don't have we can buy it.'

Donations of school uniform, lunch boxes, bags and stationery in good condition can be donated to Loco Motif body art in Coil.



Carol Anne Campbell, left, and Donna Darnbrough, have collected school uniforms to be donated to Lochaber Women's Aid 16_f33schoo01

'Incredible' help for youngsters

PARENTS of 'difficult' pre-school children in Lochaber have been invited to a support programme by Highland council and NHS Highland.

The 'incredible years' project aims to help parents of youngsters aged between three and five who are more demanding than others, with the support of trained staff.

Topics in the programme, to be held in Fort William from September, include setting limits, reducing conflict and improving social skills.

Alan Richards, Highland psychology of parenting project co-ordinator, said: 'For the parents who qualify this is important because they will receive support to attend, for example with child care, and there is a proven benefit arising out of getting involved with these groups when children are young and before they start school. Reaching the parents of three to five year-old children is important because it is at this young age when children can be supported effectively to grow and be successful.'

For more information contact the health team on 01397 709859 or Mr Richards on 01463 711176.

Expert's talk at Gaelic College

A LANGUAGE expert will be giving a talk at Skye's Gaelic College today (Thursday). Dr Thomas Bak, who specialises in the effect of bilingualism on the brain, will be at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) from 1pm.

He will also speak on the impact bilingualism has on Alzheimer's disease.



LOCHABER schools pipe band joined hundreds from all over the world in a march down Edinburgh's historic Royal Mile at the weekend. A group of 17 travelled to the capital on Sunday for the Marie Curie Cancer Care fundraiser, held only once every five years, and donated £250 to the charity

f33band10

Taxis for Highlanders could cost more after fare tariff rise agreed

TAXI drivers in the Highlands will be able to charge more for journeys from next month, following a council decision made on Tuesday.

Under the new tariffs, customers can now be charged £3 for the first 785 yards, up 50p on the current cost, and 10p for every additional 130 yards, bringing a one-mile journey from £3.30 to £3.90.

The higher fare, charged on weekends and after 9pm on week nights, will now cost £3.30 for the first 560 yards and 10p for every additional 92 yards.

Despite controversy from the public about the raise, members of Highland council's licensing committee agreed the decision at its meeting on Tuesday, and increased the planned rise even further, from 20p to 50p.

Councillor Maxine Smith warned fellow members if the tariff didn't go up taxi companies could go out of business due to increasing wages and costs.

She said: 'If we don't put this up by a substantial amount we are going to lose taxi businesses.'

This is the maximum tariff set by the council. Taxi companies can choose whether to implement the rise.

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Viewpoint

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

Established 1861 No 8216

It's a chronic problem that seems as intractable as it does incurable: over-stretched hospital staff; under-resourced facilities; out-of-touch management issuing unhelpful targets and banal platitudes.

The spotlight this week falls on Lorn and Islands district general hospital in Oban; but, in reality, it could be anywhere in the Highlands - the Belford in Fort William or Raigmore in Inverness.

The letters pages of our family of newspapers, which cover all of Argyll and Lochaber, is often full of the heartfelt gratitude that many patients and their relatives feel about the way they have been treated by the dedicated and skilled staff at these hospitals.

However, it equally clear that the NHS is near to breaking point and that former hospital consultant Brian Mackay's 'horror' at the over-worked staff he saw at the Oban hospital will strike a chord with people who have more than a passing acquaintance with such institutions.

Yet the breathtaking complacency of some NHS managers beggars belief. Take the head of Human Resources at NHS Highland, who told board members this week that there 'seemed to be a bit of an issue with supply and demand of staff'. It is about time that government and NHS bureaucrats listened more intently to people like Brian Mackay - they may learn something.



Buying tweed on St Kilda

George Herbert Strutt of Kingairloch (in white boater and patterned stockings) negotiating the purchase of tweed on St Kilda in 1914 prior to the outbreak of WW1. Each year the Strutt family would sail to St Kilda in their 150 ton steam yacht, the *Sanda*, to purchase tweed for themselves and the estate shepherds and stalkers. Photograph supplied by Iain Thornber

'Shotgun wedding' of Mull creative groups

Sir, Residents on Mull were rightly angry at the insensitive redundancy notices issued to two of the islands most talented and internationally famous artists, Gordon Maclean and Alasdair McCrone, both of whom had many years' service behind them.

Your excellent article headlined 'Sack the board and give us back our culture' about the public meeting to protest against the dismissals reflected the mood exactly.

Two very interesting points came out at the meeting.

First it was revealed that Creative Scotland had forced the 'shotgun wedding' of Mull Little Theatre and arts group, An Tobar, into the new group Comar, by threatening to withdraw all funding if they did not merge.

Second, Creative Scotland asked Comar to draw up a business plan, which Creative Scotland accepted, then reduced Comar's funding by one third. So Comar was stuck with a business plan and only two thirds of the budget to pay for it and it was this that led to the redundancy notices being issued.

In the light of this, it seems to me that Creative Scotland should be renamed Destructive Scotland, having destroyed two excellent organisations and replaced them with something dysfunctional.

However, the meeting left the board of Comar and its funding bodies, in no doubt about the mistakes that had been made and they all appeared to take on board that some major corrections were needed.

Let us hope they do so speedily.

David Pollard,
Salen, Isle of Mull.

Please listen to constituents' views

Sir, Reading your article regarding Mike MacKenzie's opinion on onshore wind subsidies was probably not the best thing to do on a full stomach.

Mr MacKenzie is my own MSP and he knows full well that many of his constituents are delighted that Westminster has announced they will be ending the onshore wind subsidies, yet he chooses to ignore it. For a member of a party that professes to speak for all of Scotland, why does he promote something that enriches wealthy multinationals and complicates landowners at the expense of us all, including those who cannot afford the 'green' levies on energy bills that fund it? Mr MacKenzie merely parrots, as do his SNP colleagues and WWF's Lang Banks, the wind industry's own figures without any independent verification.

The lost revenue quoted may well not have stayed in Scotland and the jobs lost are speculation whereas the 700+ jobs lost in one steel company because of high 'green' charges and cheap imports are very real and puts the wind industry's wild figures into perspective.

Westminster has made it abundantly clear that the subsidy pot has been used up prematurely and to continue will mean more costs on energy bills.

I have not heard one SNP politician even acknowledge there could be a problem siting turbines near homes or in unwilling communities. The arrogance of their dismissal and reluctance to listen to anyone other than those with vested interests is breathtaking. My own MP, Ian Blackford, took over from the late Charles Kennedy. Mr Kennedy admitted that opposition to onshore wind was the subject that filled his

inbox more than anything else - something Mr Blackford would do well to remember.

Having had an email exchange with Mr MacKenzie where he said he would not support communities in Scotland being given the same veto over any wind developments as their counterparts south of the border, I have to wonder what his motivation is because it is not serving his constituents, who oppose onshore wind, that he is paid to represent.

Lyndsey Ward,
Beauly.

Gaelic language must be promoted

Sir, The recent letter from Aonghas Eoghain Mhòir caught my eye.

I would agree to a large extent with him, but I would phrase my opinion this way. Some 'academics' - so called - are killing the Gaelic language. After all, Professor Donald Meek is an academic and is not to be blamed surely. I would call myself an academic (at least a late developer from the west coast of Scotland) but in all honesty "bha mise an còmhnuidh a buidheann Gaidhlig".

I will be more specific than Aonghas. I blame top broadcasters (not those who read the news and give us weather news) but men and women long past their sell-by date who promote English songs, Country/Western pop etc in the middle of Gaelic talking! How ridiculous is that? Get rid of those broadcasters who are not promoting the Gaelic language.

Le speis,
Aileen Dòmhnallach.

Glasgow Letter

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

Piping Live!

This weekend, Glasgow Green will once again stage the annual World Pipe Band Championships. Starting on Friday, all the best pipe bands in the world will do battle in the most prestigious competition of the year.

It brings an end to the Piping Live festival which has been going on all week in Glasgow. Every year the festival transforms the city - and this year is no different. Fringe events include Festival Club Friday with Lorne MacDougall, Patrick Molard and Yves Berthou in the National Piping Centre; The After Worlds Shindig on Saturday night in The Art School with Flook and Fred Morrison; and a concert on Sunday from the Tannahill Weavers - celebrating 40 years of the band.

What's On

Friday August 14: Festival Club Friday with Lorne MacDougall, Patrick Molard and Yves Berthou in the National Piping Centre at 10pm.

Friday August 14: Scott Wood Band Upsurge Album Launch in The Art School at 7.30pm.

Saturday August 15: The After Worlds Shindig in The Art School with Flook and Fred Morrison at 7.30pm.

Sunday August 16: 40 years of the Tannahill Weavers - including past members of the band, in the National Piping Centre at 7.30pm.

Pub Scene

Islay Inn: Friday August 14: Gunna Sound. Saturday August 15: Twist of Fate. Wednesday August 19: Quiz Night.

Park Bar: Thursday August 6: Session. Friday August 14: Nicky McMichan. Saturday August 15: Gunna Sound.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

THA CEARCALL STÀILINN, a' chuimhneachan a' samhhlachadh na siorraidheachd, an crochadh ann measg nan craobhan air eilean beag Utoya far chladach Nirribhidh le ainm agus aois seasad 's a h-aon den t-seasgadh 's a naodh a mhurt Anders Behring Breivik an sin ceithir bliadhna air ais. Tha pàrantan ochdnar de na chaidh a mharbhadh fhathast cho goirt is nach deach aca air aontachadh ainmean an cuid cloinne a chlàradh air a' chuimhneachan. Gu lèir chail seachdadh 's a seachd am beatha air an dàrna latha fichead den Iuchar 2011 ann an uabhas nach do dh'fhuing Nirribhidh a lethidh bho am àin Darna Cogaidh. Aig an deuchainn cùrtach a lean bha Breivik ag argamaid gun robh na h-òganaich, a bha a' frithealadh campa samhraidh Lìog Òg Luchd-obrach Partaidh Làbarach Nirribhidh, nan luchd-brathaidh. Bha e a' creidsinn gun robh an ionnsaigh aige fhèin a' dìon na dùthcha bho in-ìmhich Mhuslamach agus ioma-chultarachd. Chodhùin bhrìtheamhan nach robh dìth cèile na leigseal dha Breivik agus chaidh binn de suas gu bliadhna air fhichead prìosair ann ann 2012.

Debut album release

This Friday, as part of Piping Live, one of the most exciting acts on the trad music scene are launching their debut album, *Upsurge*, in The Art School, Scott Street, at Friday Night Folk.

The Scott Wood Band (which started out as a trio with Scott on pipes and whistles, Mhairi Mackinnon on Fiddle, and Ron Jappy on Acoustic Guitar) are just back from Switzerland and Scott himself has toured all over the world with the Red Hot Chillies Pipers. Before their slot at Skerryvore Decade in May, Stuart Cassells (without hint of bias for his fellow chilli piper!) referred to Scott in front of the 6,000 strong crowd as the best piper in the world - a dangerous statement considering all the other pipers from other bands lurking backstage at the time!

On Friday, the band will be performing as a special 11 piece line-up including: virtuoso electric guitarist, Davie Dunsmuir, producer Calum MacCrimmon, and the

same string quartet who laid it down on the record. Also on the bill are the Armagh Pipers-Club and Mary Jane Lamond and Wendy MacIsaac.

Released on Oak Ridge Records, *Upsurge* was recorded in February 2015 during five days at Castle-sound Studios in Penciland near Edinburgh. Containing primarily their own Scottish styled compositions, influences of Jazz, Pop, Rock and World can be heard throughout - creating a unique and fresh sound for the bagpipes.

Producer Calum (Breabach and Man's Ruin), insisted on recording the album in a live setting, to capture the raw performance energy of the band. No stone has been left unturned in the production of this album. Scott even travelled to Michigan to witness the record being mixed by one of his biggest idols and sonic mastermind, Tyler Duncan (the oillan, Ella Riot). I, for one, am very excited to hear it!



The launch of the debut album from The Scott Wood Band is one of many exciting Piping Live events this weekend. t33glasgow1no

Aileen Caimbeul



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

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

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

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Your letters

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

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

postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a

contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

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20				21	22
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Across

- Announce (6)
- One who peruses (6)
- Assortment (4)
- Comfort (8)
- Circle to keep openers together (3,4)
- File (5)
- Run at Epsom Downs (5)
- Interfere (7)
- Mark where wintery weather starts (4,4)
- Buttonhole (4)
- Idle (6)
- Pongy (6)

Down

- Actual (4)
- Work (6)
- Like fans (7)
- Livestock enclosure (5)
- Type of cab (6)
- Pendant gem shape (8)
- Forever (8)
- Smoothness (7)
- Child's dog name (3-3)
- Bacon serving (6)
- Presented (5)
- Surrounded by water (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

S	D	I	A	R	P
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A	M	E	S	C	A
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Inspiring Bert's Ben legacy

A MAN who climbed Ben Nevis more than 100 times has been celebrated in the town 70 years after his first expedition.

In 1945, Bert Bissell MBE, from Dudley in the West Midlands, constructed the peace cairn that remains at the summit of the Ben and walked up the mountain every year until the age of 91.

Mr Bissell also founded Dudley's Vicar Street young men's bible class.

Years later, his friend, Astley Blake, took over the class and, when the Vicar Street Methodist Church closed, he donated the stained glass windows to the Duncansburgh (now Duncansburgh Mackintosh) church in Fort William.

Last week, a group of councillors, MP Ian Austin and mayor of Dudley, Steve Waltho, joined Mr Blake in walking Ben Nevis on the 70th anniversary before visiting the town church to admire the stained glass, accompanied by Highland council's Lochaber area leader, Thomas MacLennan.

Mr Austin, MP for Dudley North, said: "The climb was just

“The climb was just as tough this year and the weather was just as bad, but it was all worth it”

Ian Austin

as tough this year and the weather was just as bad, but it was all worth it when we saw Bert's memorial at the summit and planted the Black Country flag.

"It's inspiring to think that Bert made the climb 107 times up until the age of 91, and the support we've received goes to show his enduring legacy."



Visitors to the Duncansburgh Mackintosh church admire stained glass windows donated in memory of peace campaigner and mountain climber, Bert Bissell. Back: Ian Austin MP, left, and Highland councillor, Thomas MacLennan. Front from left: Dudley councillor, Mohammed Hanif, Astley Blake and mayor of Dudley, Steve Waltho 16_f33dudley01

'Quality not quantity' in council plans

HIGHLAND council will outline plans for the next two years in a special meeting, scheduled for today (Thursday).

A new programme will be announced by Margaret Davidson, leader of the local authority, highlighting 62 commitments, based on three main themes for a 'community-led, well-served and fairer Highland.'

Speaking ahead of the meeting, due to be held at the Inverness headquarters this morning, councillor Davidson said her administration will focus on improving connectivity, localising decision-making and improving roads and public transport.

She said: "This programme sets out ambitions for an action

focused 20 months ahead and this is about quality not quantity. "It is about choosing the top priorities and working in partnership to achieve what the best we can for Highland.

"We will be ensuring Highland's voice is heard when national policies are being made.

"Better infrastructure, transport, affordable warmth and economic growth and investment are all crucial to the Highlands.

"But we can't do all this on our own.

"We need to work with partners and with the Scottish and UK governments to secure better outcomes for the region and we are committed to that task," councillor Davidson added.

Island pupils' exam success is praised

HIGH school pupils in the islands have been congratulated on their exam success by MSP Alasdair Allan.

Young people in the Western Isles, along with those in the rest of the country, received their results last week and figures show the number achieving Highers has increased.

This year 88.6 per cent of the

students were awarded A-C passes, compared to 86.6 per cent in 2014.

Mr Allan, Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP and Scottish minister for learning, said: "I would like to congratulate every student in the islands who has been successful in their Higher exams.

"I am sure all of their hard work has been rewarded."

Entries up at the busy Sunart Show

NOW IN its 65th year, the Sunart and district agricultural show continues to improve, with increased entries in produce, poultry and blackface sheep reported by organisers.

The Sunart show, held in Strontian, also boasts a predominantly female committee, with women taking on the roles of president, convenor, secretary and treasurer. And the ladies were 'delighted' with the success of the show, after being short of volunteers due to a family bereavement.

Persistent rain had beleaguered Lochaber for the week leading up to the show leaving the field wet and boggy, but stayed away until mid afternoon on Saturday. The rain's delayed appearance meant the main attraction, James Dylan stunt world, could only demonstrate once and the field was too muddy by the time of the second scheduled performance.

Elaine Jackson, secretary of the Sunart and district agricultural society, said: "It was another really successful show.

"We were quite busy all day and entries were up in a number of

categories compared to last year. The main attraction could only demonstrate once because of the rain which was a shame, but it was a great day regardless. We're really happy with how it went."

In the stockjudging, it was neck and neck for two crofters as David Wright of Woodend in Ardgour and John Nudds of Torr-Na-Faire in Lochaline battled it out for the biggest share of the trophies.

Mr Nudds' blackface tup shearling was named champion of champions in its first show outing and the crofter picked up another five trophies for the sheep and other livestock.

Although Mr Wright's Belgian blue heifer calf missed out on the top prize, the beast earned his owner eight prizes, including best in the beef cattle class.

Fergus Berardelli cleared the table in the poultry competitions, taking home five prizes in the section, while Kerrie MacGillivray from Mull returned with her thoroughbred, Rio Sueno, who won champion horse the previous weekend.



A stunt motorcyclist demonstrates his skill. Unfortunately, there could only be one performance as the ground was too muddy.



A female Belgian blue heifer calf from Woodend, Ardgour, was named cattle champion, shown by David Wright 16_f33sunart04



Champion Highland cattle was the Forestry Commission's three-year-old female heifer, shown by Derek Ferguson 16_f33sunart06



An enthralled audience watched the main entertainment, James Dylan stunt world 16_f33sunart05



Luca McCormick's springer spaniel, Zola, won best dog in show



The luck of the draw didn't work in favour of three-year-old Dylan Callander when he tried out Deal or No Deal with mum, Laura Wilson, and Lisa Gascoigne, right 16_f33sunart01



Kerrie MacGillivray from Mull proudly shows her male thoroughbred, Rio Sueno, who took first place in the horse-judging competition 16_f33sunart03



A blackface tup shearling from Torr-Na-Faire in Lochaline was this year's champion of champions in its first show outing 16_f33sunart07

Results

Open Competition

J A Cameron Cup Champion of Champion: John Nudds; Cooper MacDougall and Robertson Cup for Best Animal in Beef Cattle Class - David Wright; C Walton Carnoch Cup for Reserve Champion in Beef Cattle Classes - David Wright; Glenborrodale Perpetual Cup for Best Cross Shorthorn Animal - Ardnornish Estate; Edith Madden Cup for Best Calf at Show - David Wright; Alex Jackson Memorial Cup for Best Cow in Show for Dairy or Beef, in calf or in milk - David Wright; John Raven Trophy for Best Highland Animal - Forestry Commission; Laidlaw Cup for Best Spring born Calf - David Wright; Peter Gatherer and Son Cup for Best Blackface Sheep - John Nudds; Simon Tongue Memorial Cup for Best any other breed sheep - Robert MacDougall; D and J MacGillivray Cup for Best Female Blackface Sheep - Norman MacPhail; Forrest Challenge Cup for best Blackface Ewe with Lamb bred by exhibitor - John Nudds; Woolgrowers Cup for Best Fleeced Blackface sheep at show - Angus J MacColl; Alice Horsman Cup for Reserve Champion Blackface Sheep - Norman MacPhail; Alisdair M MacKenzie Cup for best Blackface Aged Ram - Tom Nelson; Dunbeg Cup for Champion - John Nudds; The Inversanda Cup - Young handler under 25s - Sheep - Lee Gallacher; The Gowan Brae Cup - Best animal in Crofter's Cattle Classes - David Wright; The Ardery Rosebowl presented by Mr A Ritchie - Best Female Blackface Sheep - Norman MacPhail; West Ardnarnachan Cup - Best Blackface Sheep - John Nudds; The Camuschorr Cup - presented by Mr & Mrs D Macpherson - Best Sheep any breed except Blackface - Robert MacDougall; The Alan MacLachlan Memorial Quach - Best Shealing Lamb - John Nudds; The Laudale Prize - Best Cow or Heifer any breed or cross - David Wright; Iain Cameron Young Handler under 25s Cattle - David Wright; The Mrs Colin Palmer Prize - Runner up - Anne MacPherson and Mairi MacDonald.

£10 Prize Best Cloutie Dumpling - Mairi MacDonald; £5 Prize for Flower Class - Ann MacPherson; Marjorie Jones Cup for Best Knitted Garment - Mairi MacDonald; Harry Gill Cup for Best Cromag - Cameron MacLeod; Sunart Cup presented by AJ and D Anderson for Best Junior Baking - Nicholas Tait; Craig Stuart Trophy Presented by Mrs L Bannerman for Best Junior Crafts - Aaron MacDonald; Cup for High School Baking - Alastair Tait.

Poultry: Finlayson Cup for Poultry Champion - Fergus Berardelli; Mrs John Dewar Prize - Best Cockerel - Fergus Berardelli; £5 Best Heavy Breed - Ewan MacDonald; £5 Best Light Breed - Fergus Berardelli; £5 Best Bantam - Fergus Berardelli.

Horses: Mrs Raven Trophy Young Handler - Not presented this year; Mrs C Bailey Cup for Best Highland Pony 4 years and under - Kirsty Mann - Ruby of Sunnynuek; Mrs Torrie Shield Champion Pony - Katie Cameron - Jimbob; Mrs Kerr Trophy Best Highland Mare - Kirsty Mann - Ruby of Sunnynuek; The Whitaker Young Riders Trophy (under 12) - Kerrie MacGillivray - Rio Sueno; Ristol Champion in Hand M&M - Anna Berardelli - Mayfly; Champion - Kerrie MacGillivray - Rio Sueno.



WITH a gorgeous natural backdrop and a surfeit of fairytale venues, the West Highlands is a renowned wedding destination for local couples, as well as those coming from around the world.

A wedding may be the biggest event a couple will ever organise, so nothing should be left to chance. The Autumn Wedding Guide can help the bride and groom plan their perfect day, and a few tips will help make the process even smoother. With that in mind, here is The Oban Times' six-point plan to help organise the big day with a minimum of stress.

1. Decide on a date. Speak to the celebrant first, whether a minister or a member of the council office, and get the date inked in before making any other plans. Then the venue can be booked and invitations printed.
2. Compromise is an essential part of the wedding planning. This may be bride's day, but the groom can be

involved as well. He may not be interested in choosing colours, the cake or the bridesmaids' dresses, and, in fact, he may not even be concerned about the details- all he is thinking about is how happy his blushing bride will make him. But by asking him to make some important decisions, such as setting a budget, choosing groomsmen's outfits, sourcing rings and organising the honeymoon, he gets to put in his two pence-worth. Our advertisers can help make decisions as well, taking some of the strain off the couple.

3. Set a realistic budget. Weddings can be expensive, so make a priority list and be ready to compromise. And remember, years from now, everyone will remember the love and the fun, not whether they ate the most costly cake or drank the finest champagne. If the couple can find ways to cut some costs, they can afford to splurge on the items most important to them, whether it is the music, the food or the venue.

4. Make a plan. By keeping a to-

do list- even a binder- and planning well ahead, the busy bride can stay organised and keep on top of tasks. Keep records and receipts of everything, from discussions with the venue manager and caterer to fabric swatches.

5. Divide and conquer. Think about the skills of people in the wedding party and family and ask them to be involved. Does Aunt Mary have mad calligraphy skills? Have her address the invitations. Is the bridesmaid a keen baker? Ask if she can make the cake. And for everything else, the friendly and knowledgeable Oban Times advertisers have all the bases covered- it's what they do.

Enjoy the day. After months of stressful planning, by the time the wedding day arrives, the bride and groom can be at the end of their tether. But if they let the professionals do their jobs and allow family and friends to pamper and assist in the details, the stressed out couple can transform into the happy couple. Just relax, smile and enjoy!

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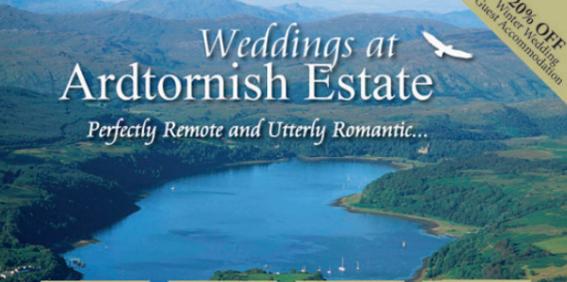


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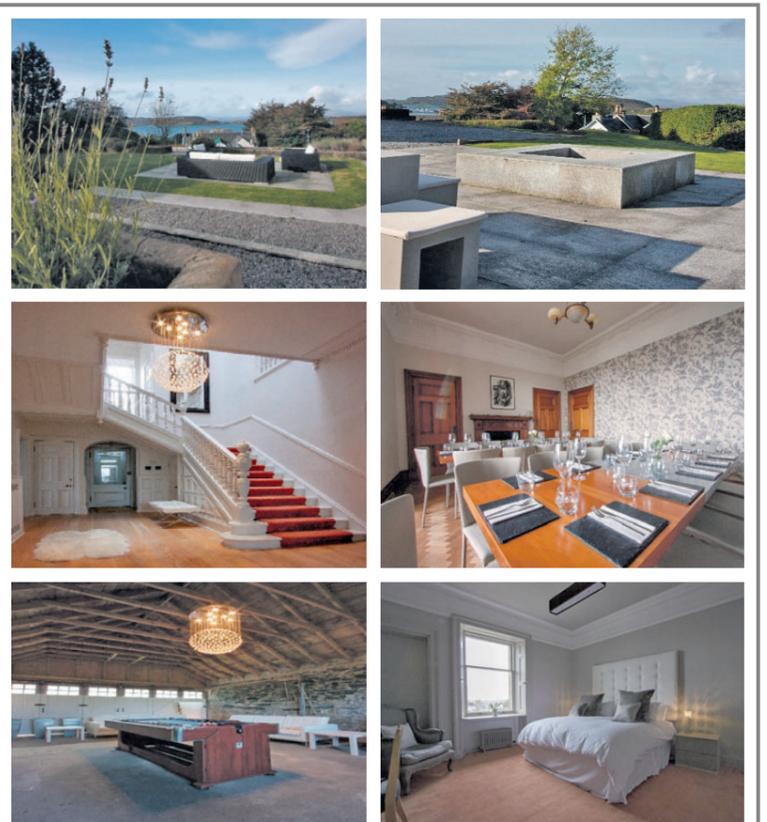
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Scott Ryder from Dartford, Kent took the lead in the heavyweights 21_f33skye03

Lorne Colthart, from Blair Atholl competed in the heavyweights 21_f33skye04

David Colthart from Blair Atholl took part in men's races, high jump, long jump and heavyweight competitions 21_f33skye05

Tony Daffurn, 28, from Coatbridge won the over 16s high jump competition 21_f33skye02

Daibhidh McDonnell, 19, competed in the high jump challenge 21_f32skye01

Lorna MacRae, from Portree won the ladies two-lap race 21_f33skye08

Iain MacGillivray, from Tain, won the men's two-lap race 21_f33skye07

ISLE OF SKYE Highland Games

ADRIZZLY day in Portree couldn't dampen the spirits of the locals and tourists who turned out for the 188th Skye Highland games last week. Thousands of people

arrived at the outdoor event venue, the Lump, for a fun-filled day of heavies, piping and athletics. Scott Ryder from London stole the show in the heavy competitions, taking first place in putting the stone, weight for distance, and

tossing the caber while Christina Rankin from Uig won the ladies eight lap race and hill race and was second in the ladies two-lap race and open eight-lap race. But it was not only on games day that prizes could be won, as

musicians from Edinburgh, Lochaber and Inveraray joined the islanders for the piping competition, held on Tuesday. Competitors then took to the water for the yacht and dinghy races on Friday, organised by Skye sailing club.



Isle of Skye pipe band performed to crowds in the arena 21_f33skye06

Results

Trophies: Piping

Dunvegan Medal - Cameron Drummond, Edinburgh. Col. Jock MacDonald Clasp - Cameron Drummond, Edinburgh. Dr Allan MacDonald Challenge Cup for best all round open piper - Cameron Drummond, Edinburgh. Peter MacFarquhar Challenge Star for Open strathspey and reel - Stuart Liddell, Inverary. Capt. Kemble Star for open march - Cameron Drummond, Edinburgh. MacBeath Parr Associates Cup for jig - Andrew Carlisle, USA. Alan Torrance Associates Cup for 6/8 March - Roddy MacLeod. Clan Donald Quich for under 18 Piobaireachd - Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge. Col. Jock MacDonald Viewfield Cup for local piobaireachd - Brighde Chaimbeul, Connor Kellet, Kyle of Lochalsh. Donnie MacKenzie Cup for local march - over 16 - Rona Nicolson, Kilmuir. Toronto Cup for best all round local piper - Martin MacRae, Conchra. Dougie MacLeod Cup for best all round local piping (under 18) - Martin MacRae, Conchra. Nicol Campbell Memorial Trophy overall winner

(local) light music strathspey, reel and jig - Rona Nicolson, Torvaig. Highland Society of London (£250 cash prize) - Cameron Drummond, Edinburgh. Peter Beaton Memorial Cup for highest scoring pipe band member in local competitions on the field - Kevin MacGillivray, Portree. Harlosh Trophy - most impressive young (under 18) Piobaireachd player - Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge. **Trophies: Field and athletic** Isle of Skye Estate Agency Trophy for best competitor in open heavy events - Scott Ryder, London. Rosemary Nicolson Trophy for best competitor in local heavy events - Martin Munsie, Bernisdale and David Cumming, Skeabost. Ronnie Maclean Memorial Challenge Cup - best all round local jumper - Ewen Bradley, Staffin. Robertson Memorial Challenge Cup for best all round local athlete - Ewen Bradley, Staffin. MacDonald of Seafield Cup - for winner of local eight lap race - Ewen Bradley, Staffin. Devlin Cup for men's Tug-of-War - Kilmuir. Emergency Services Cup for women's Tug-of-War - Staffin. Talisker Quich for first local in hill race - Niall Till, Struan. Margaret Anne Hairstylist Sheild for first local lady in hill race - Christina Rankin, Uig. Jamie

Hillery Cup for Hill Race winner - Luke Taylor. **Trophies: Dancing** Caledonian MacBrayne Trophy for best all round dancer (open) 13 years and under - Molly Smith, Cairnie. Woodman Family Trophy for best all round dancer (open) 15 years and under - Stephanie Treadwell, Australia. Hugh Gillies Trophy for best all round dancer (open) 16 years and over - Laura Smith, Cairnie. Rosemary and Alex McGuire Challenge Trophy - best overall open Highland Dancer - Molly Smith and Laura Smith, Cairnie. **Trophies: Sailing** Vice Admiral Sir Roderick MacDonald KBE Memorial Cup Sandy Rankine Trophy - Best under 16 dinghy crew - Chris Whatley and Kenneth Nicolson - Scorrybreac Trophy - Chris Whatley and Kenneth Nicolson. Open piping Dunvegan Medal - Cameron Drummond, Edinburgh. Clasp Competition - Cameron Drummond, Edinburgh. 6/8 Marches - Roddy MacLeod, Glasgow. Jig - Andrew Carlisle, USA. Open March - Stuart Liddell, Inverary. Open Strathspey and Reel - Stuart

Liddell, Inverary. Under 18 Open Piobaireachd - Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge. Under 18 Open March Strathspey and Reel - Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge. Local piping. Local Marches Under 16 years - Eoghainn Beaton, Kilmuir. Local Strathspey and Reel Under 16 years - Martin MacRae, Conchra. Local Jigs Under 16 years - Martin MacRae, Conchra. Local Piobaireachd Under 16 years - 1 Martin MacRae, Conchra. Local Marches 16 years and over - Rona Nicolson, Torvaig. Local Strathspey and Reel 16 years and over - Rona Nicolson, Torvaig. Local Jigs 16 years and over - Rona Nicolson, Torvaig. Local Piobaireachd 16 years and over - Connor Kellet, Kyle of Lochalsh. Open Highland Dancing Highland Fling (13 years and under) - Georgina Andrews, Huntly. Gillie Callum (13 years and under) - Isla MacKenzie, Fearn. Seann Triubhas (13 years and under) - Molly Smith, Cairnie. Reels (13 years and under) - Molly Smith, Cairnie. Hornpipe (in costume - 13 years and under) - Molly Smith, Cairnie. Irish Jig (in costume - 15 years and under) - Molly Smith, Cairnie. Highland Fling (15 years and under) - Stephanie Treadwell, Australia. Gillie Callum (15 years and under)

- Jemma Hogan, Dingwall. Seann Triubhas (15 years and under) - Fiona MacGowan, Huntly. Reels (15 years and under) - Jemma Hogan, Dingwall. Hornpipe (in costume - 15 years and under) - Stephanie Treadwell, Australia. Irish Jig (in costume - 15 years and under) - Fiona MacGowan, Huntly. Highland Fling (16 years and over) - Darra Wood, Tain and Laura Smith, Cairnie. Gillie Callum (16 years and over) - Melissa Fife, Inverness. Seann Triubhas (16 years and over) - Laura Smith, Cairnie. Reels (16 years and over) - Laura Smith, Cairnie. Hornpipe (in costume - 16 years and over) - Laura Smith, Cairnie. Irish Jig (in costume - 16 years and over) - Darra Wood, Tain. Caledonian MacBrayne Trophy (13 years and under) - Molly Smith, Cairnie. Woodman Family Trophy (15 years and under) - Stephanie Treadwell, Australia. Hugh Gillies Trophy (16 years and under) - Laura Smith, Cairnie. Rosemary & Alex McGuire Challenge Trophy - Molly Smith and Laura Smith, Cairnie. Open field and athletic Putting the Stone - (light) - Lucasz Went, Poland. Tossing the Caber - Scott Ryder, London and Lucasz Went, Poland. Putting the Stone (heavy) - Scott Ryder, London. Throwing the Hammer - Lorne

Colthart, Blair Atholl. Throwing 28lb Weight 56lb Weight (distance) - Scott Ryder, London. Throwing 56lb Weight (over bar) - Lucasz Went, Poland and Sebastian Went, Poland. Two Lap Race - Men - Iain MacGillivray, Calrossie. Two Lap Race - Ladies Lorna MacRae, Portree. Eight Lap Race - Men - Euan Gilchrist, Manchester. Eight Lap Race - Ladies - Christina Rankin, Uig. Long Jump - Antony Daffurn, Coatbridge. Four Lap Race - Euan Gilchrist, Manchester. Hop, Step, Leap - Antony Daffurn, Coatbridge. Hill Race - Men - Luke Taylor, Inverness. Hill Race - Ladies - Christina Rankin, Uig. High Jump - Antony Daffurn, Coatbridge. Tug-of-war - Men - Nine bottles of Whisky to winning team - Kilmuir. Nine half bottles of Whisky to second team - Sligobost. Tug-of-war - Women - Nine bottles of Whisky to winning team - Staffin. Local field and athletic Putting the Stone - Martin Munsie, Bernisdale. High Jump - Ewen Bradley, Staffin. Throwing the Hammer - David Cumming, Skeabost. Two Lap Race - Ewen Bradley, Staffin. Ladies Two Lap Race - Lorna MacRae, Portree. 56lb Weight Over Bar - Martin Munsie, Bernisdale. Eight Lap Race - Ewen Bradley, Staffin. Long Jump - Ewen Bradley, Staffin.



Jamie MacLean from Knock with his three shear ewe of a Darchirla lamb champion



Cross bred champion - a homebred gimmer from Fanmore, Torloisk



Confined open ewe champion from Fidgin



Jamie Laurie, Ardnacross, with his homebred three shear by a homebred sire.



Champion blackface gimmer



Andy Johnstone, Lee, with Bramble champion dog



Bertie - the wonderful Bert Leitch's final calf before he passed away only last week. Shown by Rhona Munroe. He was named Champion of Champions



How do you choose from this brood?



Looking cute on his first Bunessan show day



Jazz from the resident band



Mull rangers Rachel French and Emily Watkins

It was a day to remember on Mull at the Bunessan Show last Friday.

Not only were there activities, events and displays galore - but two sons of the island, recently lost, were remembered in the animals and good husbandry they promoted throughout their lives.

The family of Lachlan MacLean, of Knock who passed away suddenly last month, was remembered for his outstanding breeding of stock. His son, Jamie, was the champion as he showed off his Blackface hill lambs to the crowd.

Winning for him was also for his family and the respect for

Lachlan, and for his brother at Knock who continues to run one of many exceptional farms on the island. Special mention should be made of Iain MacKay and Claire Simonetta for their ewe lamb from Torloisk and to Angus MacColl of Fanmore for his champion cross.

There was not a dry eye on the field when a bull from Bert Leitch shown by Rhona Munroe won the Champion of Champions. The calm and charming two-month old calf was the last born while the legendary farmer and community champion was still alive. Named in his memory, little Bertie has much to live up to.



Terry Hegarty was promoting electric cars



School kids show off their raffle



Grace Corbett



Kerry MacGillivray



Anne Kirkpatrick from Iona



Going



going



gone!



Kalista Knight and Orla MacLennan



Olivia Sexton



Debs, Chris and Chris were all enjoying the sunshine.

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 Tuesday 25th & Thursday 27th August from 10 - 11.30am
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Rest and Be Thankful project gets Sir Jackie's backing

AMBITIOUS plans to create a visitor attraction overlooking the old Military Road at the Rest and Be Thankful have received the backing of motor racing legend, Sir Jackie Stewart.

The Rest and Be Thankful Heritage Project will consist of retail, cafe and arts spaces within a contemporary building which will also celebrate the road's link to Scotland's rich motoring history.

The project was designed by Douglas Anderson, the man responsible for the return of the Monte Carlo Classic Rally to Scotland, back in 2011.

It has also received support from former world champion, Sir Jackie, who raced the famous hill climb events which were staged by the Royal Scottish Automobile Club at the Glen Croe site.

Renowned for its 400 feet gradient and hairpin bends, the military road below the current A83 attracted leading international drivers including the late Jim Clark until its condition meant only select events could be staged after 1970.

Project directors hope the sympathetic building, set within the picturesque Argyll hillside, will breathe new life into the popular stopping place and bring tourism cash and jobs to local communities.

Mr Anderson said: 'The Rest and Be Thankful has great significance in motor sport terms because of the famous hill climb races. It was seen as the ultimate test for drivers in many ways because of the steepness and conditions and many greats like Jackie Stewart raced there. 'The idea is to mark that connection

within a permanent exhibition space, but the project itself is more. The building will be a multi-use facility which could be used by the local community for film, business and cultural events and there will also be retail and a restaurant area.'

The proposed building, nestling within the contours of the mountainside, has been designed by Kennedy Twaddle Architectural Design to utilise the stunning vista at the summit of the glen - already a favourite stopping place.

Meetings with officials from Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, VisitScotland and Transport Scotland have been positive, with tourism chiefs aware the attraction will bring something unique to the area.

Sir Jackie Stewart, who raced the 1400 yard course in a Ford in 1961, believes Scotland is missing such a landmark to commemorate its proud place in global motorsport.

He said: 'The top of the Rest and Be Thankful is a beautiful setting with breathtaking scenery. It would be a tourist attraction to have such a facility as is being proposed and it would provide an opportunity to bolster Scotland's great motor racing heritage and successes around the world which have been going on for a very long time. In Scotland, we don't do enough of this.'

'It would also be a nice place for people to stop and have a meal while they driving.'

'I am sure it would be excellent for tourism as well as for the Scots.'



BREATHTAKING SCENERY: Designer Gary Kennedy (left) and Project Director, Douglas Anderson (right) show off the Rest and Be Thankful plan.

Social scene

FUNTIME at a ceilidh in Aros hall, Tobermory, saw visitors join islanders for a great night out for all the family.

Youngsters were not afraid to get up and take part in the ceilidh giving some superb renditions of their best Gaelic songs.

This was a night to be enjoyed and everyone seemed to be very happy, apart from some of the losers in the musical arms game.

The event happens most Wednesday nights in the summer at the Aros hall. The convenor of the event was Mary-Jean Devon who helped everyone up onto their feet to take part in the fun.



Compere Mary-Jean Devon with her helper, Jack, 15.



The Aros hall was packed. 15_t31aros6



Little Miss Kathryn Dugdale gives a wonderful performance to the packed hall at Aros. 15_t31aros1

Young eagle flies the nest

MULL sea eagle in flight.

MULL Eagle Watch (MEW) partnership is celebrating the successful fledging of this year's youngster from the nest.

Proud parents, Iona and Fingal, have spent 12 weeks raising the young white-tailed eagle before it took its first flight off the huge nest.

MEW rangers, Rachel French and John Clare, both watched the first flight of the young eagle which is thought to be a female.

Rachel said: 'The youngster did extremely well, bearing in mind that this can be a scary time for a young bird. 'However, a little time after the first flight, we saw her return to the safety of the nest. 'Since then, there have been many more flights, some getting much longer. We've also seen a spectacular crash landing but, the youngster dusted herself off and was fine. It's all part of the learning process. 'Both the adults and the youngster will remain in the territory and will now spend time near the hunting area as the chick learns how to survive. Now is a good time to book visits to see the eagles although visitors should be prepared to walk one or two miles to view them,' Rachel added.

Mull Eagle Watch is a partnership between Forest Enterprise Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Mull and Iona Community Trust, Police Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.

To book a guided tour, call Craignure Visitor Information Centre on 01680 812556 or check the Mull Eagle Watch webpage for more information.

Wildlife photography: could you be breaking the law?

By Charles Everitt, National Wildlife Crime Unit

Do you know the laws about photographing wildlife? Recent allegations of photographers disturbing otters, capercaillie, osprey and seals around Scotland during the last 12 months have raised quite a bit of interest in this topic.

While police investigation still continues into these incidents - three of which occurred in the spring and summer of 2015 - the desire to take a picture at an animal's expense is the root cause and is a timely reminder that much of Scotland's, and the rest of the UK's, flora and fauna is protected by law.

This often means that licences are required to protect wildlife photographers from committing offences.

The Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) Scotland is concerned that ignorance of the regulations is putting animals at risk and photographers in danger of attracting fines and criminal records.

In 2011, two photographers were convicted of disturbing a white-tailed sea eagle's nest on Mull, receiving fines totalling £1100. A similar case in 2005 concerning an osprey nest near Lake of Monteith in Stirlingshire saw a photographer fined £300.

According to the RSPB's Birderime report, there were 14 reported incidents of photography and disturbance of Schedule 1 species (birds afforded additional legal protection) in 2013 across the UK, with an average of 34 incidents per year between 2008 and 2012.

In 2013, two shellfish collectors were given community orders and fined a total of £200 for disturbing Roseate Terns on Coquet Island off the Northumberland coast.

Many photographers from around the UK visit Scotland to photograph its more rare wildlife. While wider causes of animal disturbance remain a concern, it's important that the recent upsurge in wildlife photography doesn't contribute to greater numbers of incidents.

In wildlife photography, the welfare of the animal should always come first and the photographer should avoid disturbing it. Photographers should know their subject and be able to recognise the impact that they are having on it.

The most common offence that wildlife photographers risk is one of 'intentional or reckless' disturbance of certain protected species.

Detailed guidance on wildlife photography and licensing in Scotland can be found on the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) website.

Similar information for England and Wales can be found on Natural England's website.

While no offence is committed if an animal remains undisturbed, the majority of photographers have no control over how that animal may react - therefore, they risk committing offences.

Photographers can apply for a licence from SNH or Natural England to provide permission to disturb the animal for the purposes of photography but, understandably, licences are site specific and granted only to photographers who can display a level of competence.

Family ceilidh, Aros hall, Tobermory



Family fun as everyone tries out a new dance. 15_t31aros3



ack who organised children's events. 15_t31aros5

A Dashing White Sergeant gets underway. 15_t31aros8



ld onto an arm when the music stops to t round. 15_t31aros4

A fantastic performance from this youngster who will soon appear in the Royal National Mod. 15_t31aros9

Spark-ling future on the cards for Joy and friends

BASED around Scottish stepdance and Irish sean-nós dancing, Las, meaning a spark or to ignite, explores the cultural links between the two countries through dance, music, language and song. Bringing together five of Scotland and Ireland's brightest young tradition-bearers, they use trilingual songs (Gàidhlig, Gaeilge, English) and Scottish and Irish traditional and contemporary music as a base for exciting dance collaborations. Their musical and vocal prowess, combined with an innate understanding of the traditionally rooted core of the music that they perform, makes them a new force worth experiencing. Las members are Joy Dunlop a multi-award winning Gaelic singer and Scottish step-dancer. Originally from Connel, she has performed throughout the UK, Europe, Canada, New Zealand and the USA. A fluent Gaelic speaker and Mòd Gold Medallist, Joy was nominated as Gaelic Singer of the Year at the Scots Trad Music Awards 2010 and 2011 and won the Fatea Tradition Award in 2010. She was also crowned the 2015 Pan Celtic Traditional Singer of the Year and the 2015 Pan Celtic Traditional Dancer of the Year - the first

to ever win both competitions. Edel Ní Churraoin grew up immersed in the vibrant Connemara music and dance tradition. She plays the tin whistle, button accordion and piano and is also a vocalist and sean-nós dancer. Edel has won various dancing and music competitions and is a regular performer all over Ireland. Dancer and fiddle/viola player, Clíodhna Begley, comes from the Gaeltacht area west of Dingle in Co. Kerry. Having grown up in a musical family, Clíodhna was hugely influenced by her family, and is a regular performer at venues and festivals all over Ireland and further afield. Suzanne Houston is a Glasgow-based pianist, whistle player and singer. She graduated with a 1st class honours in Scottish Music from RSAMD in 2011 and attended the National Centre Of Excellence In Traditional Music at Plockton High School for three years. Catherine Sullivan from Rath Cairn, a Gaeltacht area in Co. Meath known for its rich local heritage, is a guitarist and singer. From a well-known local musical family, Catherine is also a champion Sean Nós dancer and has performed throughout Ireland and America to great acclaim.

Living Well on Luing

THE sun shone on the Living Well on Luing events at the weekend as islanders and visitors enjoyed a series of talks and walks based at the new Atlantic Islands Centre. On Thursday night, after a seafood cookery demonstration by centre chef, Vilas Roberts, featuring locally caught lobsters, prawns, scallops and crabs, everyone tucked into a splendid seafood platter. This was followed by a lively music and words session by Luing singers, Kirsty MacLachlan and Fiona Cruickshanks, accordionist, Rachel Cruickshanks and writer, Norman Bissell. On Friday, there was great interest in the illustrated talk, The Rocks of Luing - A Tale of Two Oceans by Luing scientist, Alastair Fleming, which outlined the movement of the Earth's continents over millions of years and the way that slate was formed. After lunch, his guided walk along the Cullipool shore pointed out basalt dykes that came from the Mull volcano and the quarries where felsite and basalt intrusions could be seen in high slate cliffs.

On Saturday, botanist and conservationist, James Fenton, from nearby Seil took a large group of islanders and visitors around Cullipool to identify a huge variety of different types of sedges, rushes, grasses and wildflowers. He also pointed out how these species were changing over time and the need to manage some of the land to avoid bracken taking over. Later that afternoon Norman Bissell explained the characteristics of short poems known as haiku using examples from Japan and Scotland, and led other writers on a walk through Cullipool village and along the shore which encouraged them to write their own. Centre manager, Laura McIntyre, commented: 'The Living Well on Luing events at the Atlantic Islands Centre were a great success and showed that we can put on an attractive and varied programme of activities which islanders and visitors can learn from and enjoy. 'There are lots more to come this year and everyone is welcome to join in.'



Fiona Cruickshanks, of Luing, shares music with fellow participants on the Living Well festival on the island.

Stirring up a new treat - porridge ice cream - at Highland Folk Museum

WITH Scottish summers being notoriously unpredictable, the team at the Highland Folk Museum had an idea. Why not create a dish for all temperaments? They imagined combining our nation's favourite breakfast dish, renowned for its warmth-giving properties, with everyone's summer favourite - ice cream - and came up with porridge ice cream. Partnering with Simpsons of Buckie to tackle this seemingly impossible task, they have

managed to produce a triumph which has already been trialed, with great success, on over 800 American Exchange Students. The ice cream is available in three fantastic flavours - fruity porridge & raspberry, sticky sweet porridge & butterscotch and of course good old plain porridge. The new flavours were launched at the Highland Folk museum, Newtonmore, last month, and will be on sale from the Museum's classic ice cream bike over the rest of the summer.



Aon Teanga: Un Çhengey - a Gaelic nations tour

THREE voices from the Gaelic nations - Scottish, Irish and Manx - have come together to celebrate linguistic, musical and cultural connections in a distinctive Argyll tour. Mary Ann Kennedy, co-owner of Watercolour Music studios and one of Scotland's most influential musicians and broadcasters, Ruth Keggan, the leading vocalist of the Manx Gaelic revival, and Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin, acclaimed sean-nós singer from a Connemara musical dynasty, are united by a common passion. Aon Teanga or Un Çhengey - whichever way you spell it, it sounds and means the same: 'One Tongue'.

Comar and Watercolour Music have teamed up with Belfast's Gaelic arts centre, Cúltúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich, and Culture Yannin to enable Ruth, Mary Ann and Eoghan to develop an album and live tour of traditional and newly-composed songs. The ocean is never far from the music, whether it be classic sailor's ballads, tragic drowning laments, magical songs of sea creatures or wry commentary on human exploitation of the marine environment. The singers will be joined by Argyll guitarist, Finlay Wells, Clare fiddler Ultan O'Brien and Gordon MacLean on bass. The tour begins on August 18 in Bunessan Hall, Mull.

Entertainment Guide

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14 AUGUST 2015 - 20 AUGUST 2015

- FANTASTIC FOUR (12A)**
Fri, Sun, Tue, Thu: 17:30, 20:45; Sat: 14:45, 17:30
Mon, Wed: 13:30, 17:30
- FANTASTIC FOUR 3D (12A)**
Fri, Sun, Tue, Thu: 16:00; Sat: 19:45; Mon, Wed: 18:30
- HOT PURSUIT (12A)**
Fri, Wed, Thu: 15:15; Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue: 15:10
- INSIDE OUT (U)**
Fri, Sat, Wed, Thu: 13:00; Sun, Mon, Tue: 12:35
- INSIDE OUT 3D (U)**
Daily Except Sat: 11:00; Sat: 12:15
- PIXELS (12A)**
Fri, Thu: 10:45, 13:30; Sat: 10:30
Sun, Tue: 10:15, 13:30; Mon: 10:15, 21:00; Wed: 10:45, 21:00
- PIXELS 3D (12A)**
Fri, Sun, Tue, Thu: 18:20; Sat: 17:15; Mon, Wed: 16:00
- SONG OF THE SEA (KIDS CLUB) (PG)**
Sat: 10:00
- TERMINATOR GENISYS (12A)**
Fri, Wed, Thu: 19:45; Sat: 20:00; Sun, Mon, Tue: 20:10

COMING SOON

- PIPES AND STICKS ON ROUTE 66 (MATINEE) (U)**
25/08/2015
Five "rock stars" of the bagpiping world get their kicks on Route 66 as they play an unforgettable concert tour down the Mother Road of America. Scottish pipers Willie McCallum, Stuart Liddell, Angus MacColl and drummer Jim Kilpatrick
- RSC: OTHELLO (12A)**
26/08/2015
Othello is broadcast live to cinemas on 26 August 2015
Othello is the greatest general of his age. A fearsome warrior, loving husband and revered defender of Venice against its enemies.

FILM SYNOPSIS

PIXELS: 12A
126mins - As kids in the 1980s, Sam Brenner (Adam Sandler), Will Cooper (Kevin James), Ludlow Lamsonoff (Josh Gad), and Eddie "The Fire Blaster" Plant (Peter Dinklage) saved the world thousands of times - at 25 cents a game in the video arcades. Now, they're going

HOT PURSUIT: 12A
107mins - An inept police officer must protect the widow of a drug dealer from criminals and dirty policemen.

FANTASTIC FOUR: 12A
120mins - FANTASTIC FOUR, a contemporary re-imagining of Marvel's original and longest-running superhero team, centers on four young outsiders who teleport to an alternate and dangerous universe, which alters their physical form in shocking ways.

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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 McCluckie'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 Lawn
- SATURDAY:**
0900 Maggie's Swingin' Sixties, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowsher, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis
- SUNDAY:**
0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Allan, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott

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BUSINESSpeople



SUPER SUPPERS: Lilian and George MacDonald mark 100 years between them serving the nation's staple diet

Rick's 'best fish supper' shop is nominated for a tasty top award

A CHIP shop serving fish suppers described as 'the best I've ever tasted' by celebrity chef, Rick Stein, has been nominated for a prestigious national award.

Rick made the comments about Oban Fish and Chip Shop during filming for his show, Food Heroes, back in 2002.

Now, owners Lilian and George MacDonald, who own the George Street restaurant, have been nominated for north west takeaway of the year in the Food Awards Scotland.

The pair have an impressive century of experience in the hospitality

industry between them, with Lilian, 56, having worked in all aspects of hospitality for the past 40 years, and 76-year-old George working in, and running, restaurants and hotels for 60 years.

The couple are now passing down their expertise to son Lewis, 26, who works in the chip shop and manages the front of house area of the takeaway.

When the restaurant's frying range stopped functioning last year, the family used it as an opportunity to revamp their entire shop, rather than just replacing the faulty range.

Lilian said the new look had generated a lot of business.

She added: 'A lot of people don't know this, but we actually sell seafood platters and four different sauces for our mussels.'

'We are a casual restaurant, but our use of local produce makes us a proper seafood restaurant.'

'We get all of our meat from Grants Butchers in Taynuilt, who make us, exclusively, award-winning haggis. We also get all of our vegetables from J M Breckenridge in Oban, and our seafood is supplied by D Watt and Son in Oban.'

Flavours of Argyll on menu at tourism event in the town

FOOD and drink producers from across Scotland are set to team up at an event in Oban this year, designed to highlight Argyll and the rest of Scotland as a top food destination.

The Taste for Tourism event, with the tagline 'Has Scotland got what it takes to be a global food tourism destination?' will take place in Oban between November 3 and 5, this year.

The event is being organised by Food from Argyll and Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative.

Sponsors include Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Argyll and Bute council, CalMac and VisitScotland - alongside support from Scotland Food and Drink and Scottish Tourism Alliance.

Calum Ross, director of Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative Ltd, said: 'Food and drink already accounts for one in every five pounds spent by visitors to Scotland, and that could be even higher if more tourism providers work together with produc-

ers of real food and drink experiences embodying our wonderful traditions. By building Scotland's reputation as a food destination, we can also enhance the value of an already thriving food sector.'

Behind-the-scenes flavour tours will take place on November 3, the main conference on the November 4, and an optional trip to Mull on November 5 will round the weekend off.

Anna Allan, head of business events at Highlands and Islands Enterprise, said: 'Tourism and food and drink are already two of Scotland's most successful industries and, by bringing businesses, agencies and other players together, we can help both sectors grow even faster by tapping in to the huge and valuable market for food tourism.'

'We are delighted to support such a major event in Oban and the surrounding Argyll area during the Year of Food and Drink. This conference will help ensure Scotland secures a

lasting legacy from this themed year by ensuring we all work together to maximise the huge potential Scotland has to strengthen its profile as a food and drink destination.'

Virginia Sumsion, Co-ordinator for Food for Argyll and one of the organisers of Taste for Tourism, said: 'The international food and drink tourism market is worth hundreds of millions of pounds and Scotland already has a share of it, which will undoubtedly rise as a result of the Year of Food and Drink.'

'But we can do even better if we build ourselves into a place not just where great produce is made among beautiful scenery, but somewhere that has the destinations and tourist attractions to bring in visitors whose primary purpose is to enjoy food and drink and the heritage surrounding it.'

For more information on Taste for Tourism, and to book tickets for the event, visit the website: www.tastefortourism.scot

Magnificent seven seagliders send back live data to scientists

ROBOTIC underwater seagliders used by the Oban-based Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) have now gathered the equivalent of five years of oceanographic data, most of which was collected in the past 18 months.

This milestone, which was reached last month, highlights a major change in how marine scientists collect information such as sea temperature, salinity, pressure and oxygen, as the six-foot-long seagliders can spend months at sea collecting data which contributes to our understanding of climate change.

To date, the seven SAMS seagliders have spent the equivalent of five years at sea, travelling more than 33,000 kilometres.

One of the seagliders, Ardbeg, has this week broken a SAMS distance record by completing a return trip of more than 3,400km along the Extend-

ed Ellett Line, a route from Scotland to Iceland that has been surveyed by scientists for 40 years.

Dr Stefan Gary, a research associate in physical oceanography at SAMS, said: 'Seagliders allow oceanographers to make cost-effective, long-term, and long-distance observations, often in hard-to-access regions that ships rarely frequent and other ocean robots rarely go.'

'Because of their durability we often deploy them in the winter, as they have been known to withstand extreme storm-force conditions.'

'Seagliders also allow for very dense sampling of the ocean, collecting a profile every three kilometres, while a survey vessel usually samples every 10 to 30 kilometres.'

Seagliders collect data down to 1,000m as they slowly submerge towards the seabed and then rise to the surface, using fixed wings and

a hydrodynamic shape to create a forward movement.

To submerge, a battery-powered pump moves oil into a pressurised container, increasing the density of the glider in the water and causing it to sink.

To bring the glider to the surface, oil is pumped back into a bladder to increase buoyancy.

Live data is sent by the gliders via satellite to the pilots at SAMS, who can control and re-direct them remotely in near real-time.

Currently, the SAMS Seagliders are contributing to three major projects, monitoring the evolution of the waters flowing between Scotland and Iceland; the physical exchange processes between the deep ocean and shelf seas; and an international project, which will monitor the oceanographic circulation across the subpolar North Atlantic until 2018.

Local project's golden streak of profitability

TYNDRUM firm, Scotgold Resources, has said its gold and silver mine is viable even if the price of gold tumbles to 700 dollars an ounce.

The group has published its promised 'bankable feasibility study', based on the company's mineral resource and ore reserve estimates produced during 2015.

At the current gold price of \$1100, the peak funding requirement for the Cononish mine would be £18.5million, with total life of mine capital of £24m.

That selling price would translate into net pre-tax cashflow of £43m, an internal rate of return on investment of 45per cent, and a payback period of 19 months.

It assumes average annual production of 72,000 tonnes, at a grade of 11.8 grammes per tonne, and an eight-year life of the mine in the Trossachs National Park.

Richard Gray, chief executive of Scotgold Resources, said: 'The study illustrates the robustness of the Cononish Project with the mine profitable down to \$700 per ounce, and provides a very solid base for our ongoing discussions with potential project finance providers. Once concluded, we look forward to putting this fully permitted project into development and pursuing its strong upside potential, which includes a possible mineral resource extension and the likely price premium for gold with proven Scottish provenance.'

The study says the mined gold will be sold to third party processors, with a process plant housed in a single, multi-use building with a workshop and office area. This is designed to have minimal visual and noise impact on the surrounding area.

Hop on for a spectacular wildlife tour

THE SCOTTISH Sea Life Sanctuary in Oban has teamed up with Sea Explorer to offer customers a chance to explore the amazing natural beauty of the area and its wildlife.

Running daily from the sanctuary in Barcaldine, the Sea Explorer boat trips range from a half hour 'Hop Around The Loch' to a two-hour spectacular, taking in the stunning Castle Stalker or Falls of Lora. Central to all the trips is a focus on the beautiful, natural surroundings and wildlife that can be found there. Customers can expect to see creatures such as seals, porpoise, otters, eagles, deer, wild goats and a variety of sea birds.

Guided by Sea Explorer's fully qualified - and by their own admission very amusing - skippers, customers will receive a full interactive tour with information on history, folklore and wildlife.

'We're really excited to be working with Sea Explorer,' said the Sanctuary's general manager, Kathryn Angel.

'Conservation is a major part of what we do here at the Sanctuary. We hope that by seeing marine wildlife in its natural environment we can further educate the public on the importance of protecting these creatures.'

Full details of the boat trips can be found on the Sanctuary website at visitsealife.co.uk/oban.

Salty success is excellent news for Skye

SKYE business was picked from more than 200 entries to win a national accolade.

The Isle of Skye Sea Salt Company won the soup, preserves and accompaniments category at the Scottish food and drink excellence awards recently.

The prize was announced by broadcaster, Kaye Adams at a ceremony in Edinburgh's National Museum of Scotland with a record-breaking 239 entries.

Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said: 'This victory is particularly impressive when we consider the vast array of skill and passions which make up the diverse and successful food and drink sector in Scotland.'



TASTY: Ruth Martin and her trusted 'tasters' with a selection of treats

Ruth's dog-g idea goes down

ADOG-lover who wanted to feed her three dogs healthy snacks has set up her own business selling homemade treats and biscuits.

Ruth Martin, 47, from Barcaldine founded Lulu Likes earlier this year with support from Argyll and Bute council's Business Gateway service.

Lulu Likes, named after one of Ruth's dogs, specialises in dog biscuits and treats made fully from natural ingredients with no additives, preservatives or chemicals.

After the response from her own dogs to her creations, Ruth began to make some for her friends' pet pooches and they just lapped them up so much that she realised there was a gap in the market.

Ruth and her husband invested in a Portacabin, so Ruth could have a separate kitchen for her business and since then she has been steadily selling to dog lovers throughout Oban and beyond.

Ruth said: 'I changed my dogs' diets to a raw one and wanted to give them treats and biscuits that fitted in with this and were completely natural. I use good quality meat, suitable for human consumption, and vegetables.'

'When I knew my dogs were enjoying them I made some for the dogs at our local agility class and soon people were

I knew that other dog owners wanted affordable but healthy natural products

Ruth Martin

telling me that their dogs were doing anything for one of the treats, which was fantastic feedback.

'I knew other dog owners wanted affordable but healthy natural products for their dogs, so after discussing it with my husband we decided to take a chance and set up Lulu Likes. The response has been great so far and we are making a name for ourselves, mostly through word of mouth and Facebook.'

Ruth regularly sells her products at far south as Essex.

Now, with stalls at trade shows this

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one business n a real treat

summer already secured, Ruth is hoping to grow Lulu Likes and increase her customer base. She added: 'Facebook has worked really well as it allows me to have a quick and personable link with customers and reach dog owners all over the country. Our location doesn't matter as we can post to anywhere in the UK and this is appealing not only to us, but potential customers. We also benefited from having a stand at a major dog agility show and we are doing more agricultural and dog shows this year. Business Gateway is an excellent source of information and I approached them as soon as we decided to give the business a go. My adviser, Angela, is always very enthusiastic and

encouraging, which made me realise it's never too late to pursue a new venture. As well as Angela's support, I attended workshops which gave me a real insight into what was needed to start and run a successful business.' Angela Vernel, Business Adviser, Business Gateway said: 'Ruth had a great idea and, with our support, is now running a business that is not only doing well, but has the potential to grow. As well as our one-to-one advice, Ruth took advantage of our free workshop programme. These are specially designed to cover the topics that local business people are most interested in and give them the knowledge and skills needed to ensure they get off to the best possible start.'

'Tremendous opportunity' for residential grand designs

PEOPLE across Argyll and Bute who have completed residential developments in the past three years, could be in line for a prestigious design award. Recognising, promoting and celebrating examples of exceptional design quality, these are the third design awards organised by Argyll and Bute council.

It gives developers the opportunity to have their work endorsed and lauded by the region's planning professionals. Policy lead for Argyll and Bute council's planning and regulatory services, councillor David Kinniburgh, encouraged designers across the region to enter, saying: 'These awards give people a tremendous opportunity to have their work professionally endorsed by the council's planning team. Our planning service works to support sustainable economic growth, making things happen and encouraging exceptional developments.'

'These awards will celebrate great design and really raise awareness of what is exceptional. This is a wonderful chance to showcase the very best in sustainable design in Argyll and Bute.'

Open to anyone from within the region, from community groups to professional developers, the deadline for entries for the development awards is Wednesday, September 30.

A shortlist will be drawn up in October, with site visits from the judging panel expected later that month.

Winners and honourable mentions are set to be announced at an awards ceremony in January 2016.

There are four categories: small scale residential developments; larger scale housing projects; commercial, community, industrial (called non-residential) buildings; and refurbishments of existing buildings.

The 2015 awards will consider completed projects that have a Building (Scotland) Act 2003 Completion Certificate dated between January 1, 2012 and June 30, 2015.

Previous awards have highlighted high quality developments which combine innovative design with superb environmental performance, and have included projects across the area, from small islands to large mainland towns.



DECADE OF DEDICATION: Alastair Redman and his colleague, Alice Black, holding the plaque

10 years of service recognised

AN ISLAY man who became the youngest postmaster in the UK when he took over the reins of Portnahaven Post Office as a teenager, has been awarded a plaque marking ten years of service.

Alastair Redman, 27, began running the office in 2005 at the tender age of 17.

He was presented with the plaque marking his decade of duty by chief executive of Post Office Ltd, Paula

Vennells, and Alice Perkins, who is the organisation's chairwoman.

Since taking over at the island office, Alastair has sent more than 4,000 parcels to the armed forces in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Aileen stirs up a new venture

ACATERING company boss is looking to cook up an experiment of her own after taking over the Ocean Explorer Centre café at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS).

Aileen MacPhail, owner of Dalrannoch Foods, based near Barcaldine, has taken on the lease of Café Scientifique and will sell home-made ready meals, platters, sandwiches, soup and home baking from the Dunstaffnage base.

She said: 'I am really looking forward to our new venture at Café Scientifique, where we will be serving a similar menu to the one that has become so popular at our tearoom near Barcaldine.'

Dalrannoch Foods was only established three years ago.

'But thanks mainly to our ready

meals, we feel ready to expand the business further.'

Aileen admits to being inspired by SAMS' work on seaweed cultivation and now the former support worker is looking to experiment with the superfood.

Aileen, who lives at Inverawe, near Taynuilt, said she would love to re-create some Scottish recipes using the traditional ingredient of seaweed.

'I ate seaweed when I was a child and so did a lot of the generation before mine,' she said.

Since starting the business, Aileen has been joined by business partners, Steven Greener, and childhood friend, Aileen MacCartney.

Steven continued: 'The move out to SAMS seemed like the next logical step for us and will allow us to get our products out via another outlet.'

'We have a strong potential customer base with students and staff, people living in the Dunbeg area and visitors to the Ocean Explorer Centre,' he added.

As well as welcoming Dalrannoch to the Ocean Explorer Centre, SAMS has removed the entry fee for the interactive visitor attraction, inviting donations instead.

Dr Anuschka Miller, Ocean Explorer Centre director, said: 'We were thrilled to have Dalrannoch take on the running of the café, as their commitment to healthy food made from organic and fair trade products fits in with our own values.'

'We have made a few changes at the centre which are designed to improve the running of the facility for visitors and encourage more local people to come and see what we do.'

Six of the best businesses win chance to showcase their wares

SIX local businesses are preparing to showcase their products at this year's Best of the West Festival after winning a competition run by Argyll and Bute council's Business Gateway service.

Business Gateway encouraged pitches from a host of companies in the council area, which were then put in front of three judges, including the Duchess of Argyll, who picked the winners.

Skinny Sketcher, Hiya Pal, A Touch of Glass, Sea Tree, Moine Mhor Jewellery and Fyne Silver, will all sell their products in the Business Gateway-sponsored craft tent for one day over the festival weekend which takes place on Saturday, September 12 and Sunday, September 13 at Inveraray Castle.

Gillian Logan, founder of Skinny Sketcher, based in Helensburgh, will be exhibiting her drawing kits for children, aimed at budding young architects.

Gillian said: 'I was delighted to be selected for Best of The West Festival, a fantastic event in the stunning setting of Inveraray Castle. It's espe-

cially exciting as Inveraray Castle is featured in our 'Capture The Castle' Drawing Kit and I'm looking forward to seeing busy sketchers capturing the castle on the day.'

Gillian will be joined in the Craft Tent by Niki Sammon of Hiya Pal. The Helensburgh designer creates a range of greetings cards, handmade with real tartan. Also on show will be glass art made by mid-Argyll based Kirsty Brady of A Touch of Glass studio as well as ceramics and decorative items made by Michaela Goan of Sea Tree in Dunoon.

Festival-goers will also have the opportunity to get their hands on unique jewellery by Margaret Ker of Moine Mhor Jewellery and Lynne Girdwood of Fyne Silver.

To win a place in the craft tent companies were asked to pitch in 250 words why their products represent the best of the west.

The winners were based on the quality and appeal of their products, the strength of their sales pitch and their fit with the craft tent and the festival overall.

The three judges, event host The

Duchess of Argyll, Fergus Murray, the council's head of economic development and strategic transportation and councillor, Aileen Morton, Argyll and Bute council's policy lead for sustainable economic growth, selected the eventual winners.

The Duchess of Argyll said: 'Best of the West celebrates all things great about the west of Scotland and this year we are bigger than ever, with a huge buzz around our famous crafts tent. Working with Argyll and Bute council and Business Gateway, I was privileged to be asked to judge the recent competition to find standout stalls to sell their merchandise at this year's festival.'

'We saw some incredible entrants and it was certainly a difficult decision, but we look forward to welcoming these six winners to this year's Best of the West to show off their truly fantastic creations.'

The Best of the West festival will see over 120 musicians performing, with Skerryvore, Skipinnish and the Peatbog Faeries already confirmed to headline this year, alongside an eclectic mix of modern and tradition-

al bands and Gaelic singers. Against the backdrop of Inveraray Castle, the festival will have a strong food and drink theme with fresh, local produce available including Mull cheddars and Loch Fyne oysters, while over 20 whisky distilleries will be represented.

Children can have fun on the climbing wall, face painting, laser blast and art area.

For more information on the festival and to buy tickets, visit www.bowfest.co.uk

The council's Business Gateway team will also be at the event, where they will be on hand to explain more about the business support on offer to entrepreneurs in Argyll and Bute.

Any business across the region, whether new or existing and looking for support to grow can contact Business Gateway and access help from business advisers with the skills, experience and local knowledge to help their business plan for the future.

To find out more about how Business Gateway can help you set up and develop your own business, call 01546 604 555 or visit www.bgateway.com/argyll-and-bute.

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 All types of good quality 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4 x 4 pickups, must be good condition and reasonable mileage. Older 4 x 4's and non runners/MOT failures etc considered. Will collect.
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WEEKENDER

 21' LOA, 7' 6" beam
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 All types of 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Toyotas, Nissan, any 4x4 considered non-runners, failures, single or double cab and accident damaged, MOT failure, genuine people to deal with.
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 4 x 4's, all makes and models, Toyota, Landrover, Mitsubishi, high miles no problem, MOT or not, instant decision, same day payment. Also light commercials, vans and pick-ups bought.
Contact William 07730 130284 or 07716 200394 or email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com

WANTED
 Wanted all 4 x 4s, old or new Toyota Hilux, land cruiser, all pickups single or double cabs, any condition, runner or not, high miles no problem.
Telephone: 07703490572 ask for Robert

Orkney Spinner

 16ft with slated floor. Oars, rollax, anchor.
£1400
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WANTED
 Motor homes, caravanettes and camper vans, all makes or models considered. Also touring caravans and statics, instant decision, same day payment.
Contact William 07730 130284 or 07716 200394 or email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com

WANTED
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West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

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Advocate's Close in Edinburgh receives national accolade at RICS Awards 2015

The regeneration of Advocate's Close in Edinburgh has received the coveted Project of the Year Award at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Scotland Awards 2015.

Occupying an historic part of Edinburgh's Old Town, the Advocate's Close development has created a vibrant new quarter and added a new lease of life to the heart of the World Heritage site.

Held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel and Spa in Edinburgh on Thursday, April 23, this was the first ceremony in the annual RICS Awards, which celebrate inspirational initiatives across the built environment. Advocate's Close also won the Regeneration award, which honours exceptional improvements to urban, rural or coastal areas that has contributed to the viability of the area.

Retaining and regenerating all of the existing buildings and restoring historical building forms resulted in a development which fits well within its impressive surroundings, whilst the contemporary additions are sensitive to the historical elements. It has brought a previously derelict area of Edinburgh back in to use for both tourism and leisure.

Colin Smith MRICS, Chair of RICS Scotland judging panel

Eight additional category winners were selected from the 28 shortlisted entries to the awards. Other winners included the Glasgow School of Art, which took the Design through Innovation award, and The Battle of Bannockburn Project, Stirling which received the Tourism and Leisure accolade.

Four category winners (building conservation, community benefit, design through innovation and regeneration) will now automatically be entered in to the UK RICS Awards Grand Final, to be held at The Dorchester, London in October 2015, where they will compete against projects from across the rest of the UK.

RICS Awards in Scotland have continued to grow in quality, volume and stature. This year it achieved the highest number of entries since the Awards were launched over 11 years ago, with 42 individual project entries in Scotland and over 423 entries in the UK.

I would like to congratulate all category winners and our Project of Year, which is a fine example of how city regeneration can help restore Scottish heritage and provide for the local and wider community.

Sarah Speirs, Director RICS in Scotland

Labour shortages in Scottish construction intensify on back of firm workloads

RICS UK Construction Market Survey Q1 2015

While workloads remain positive in Scotland across all sectors, the private sector remains the principal driver of growth, with 33 per cent of respondents reporting a rise in private commercial workload activity and private industry seeing the strongest rise in workloads in Q1.

Yet, as workloads continue to expand, labour shortages are becoming increasingly visible in all divisions, with bricklayers and construction professionals (including quantity surveyors) being in short supply with 53 per cent and 59 per cent of respondents retrospectively reporting difficulties sourcing these skills in Scotland.

Despite the outward optimism, there are some very real unknowns which are impacting on industry, including the general election, the UK's relationship with Europe and skills shortages.

Now that material shortages are becoming less of an issue, the practical challenges are now in providing the skilled labour the industry needs and in alleviating the financial constraints, which saw nine months of decreased lending in 2014.

Sarah Speirs, Director RICS in Scotland

Despite all the anecdotal evidence that a degree of uncertainty was entering the market in the count down to the general election, outward confidence for growth in the Scottish market is strong, with 63 per cent of respondents expecting their workloads to rise over the next 12 months and 3.75 per cent growth in 2015.

Increasing workloads are resulting in labour shortages becoming more widespread and not just restricted to specialist contractors.

Rod Shaw MRICS, Thomson Gray, Edinburgh

House purchase lending up 22% in June



House purchase lending in the UK in June saw a substantial month-on-month increase in activity with over 20 per cent more loans being advanced to purchase a house compared to May. However, the number of loans and value for home-owner house purchase remained relatively steady compared to June last year, with the number of loans decreasing slightly but the amount borrowed increasing. There was a relatively similar trend in activity for home-owner house purchase in the second quarter overall.

The rise in the number of loans for house purchase in June was driven by both first-time buyers and home-movers. The increase in the two areas was broadly the same in value and volume terms.

As previously reported, gross lending in June totalled £20.1bn, up 25 per cent on May and 13

per cent up on June last year. This meant in the second quarter, gross lending came to £52.2bn, up 17 per cent on the previous quarter and a two per cent rise on the second quarter 2014.

Overall in June, the value of home-owner loans for house purchase accounted for 54 per cent of gross lending, while remortgage activity accounted for 25 per cent. Buy-to-let as a proportion of total lending remained at around 17 per cent but still makes up a larger portion of total lending compared to the same time last year.

Competitive mortgage rates mean first-time buyers are paying a record low proportion of their monthly household income in June to service the capital and interest rate payments of their mortgage. This is the lowest level since the CML began tracking it in 2005.

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FOR SALE



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west coast recruitment



BUYER

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You will work with the Purchasing and Materials Manager, primarily in our Oban office, to provide a purchasing and logistics service to all TSL sites across West, Central and Highland Scotland and the Islands, liaising regularly with all Site Managers / Supervisors to ensure that materials are purchased timeously and delivered to site when needed, and to receive incoming goods and arrange re-delivery to sites. This is a central role within our business and knowledge of materials, tools and plant used within building and civils work would be advantageous. Good computer skills are necessary, and experience in purchasing, stock management and material handling would be preferred. A current full driving licence is essential.

If you are interested in this position and you believe you have the necessary skills and experience, please send your CV, quoting the reference TSLN/01/0815 either by email to d.feeney@tslcontractors.co.uk or by post to: D. Feeney, TSL Contractors Limited, Unit 6, McLeod Buildings, Lochavullin Road, Oban, PA34 4PL.

Closing date for application is 28th of August 2015.



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Tha Gàidhlig riatanach.
Mus tèid dreuchd a dhearbhadh, feumaidh tagraichean soirbheachail ballrachd a ghabhail ann an Sgeama Diona nam Buidhnean So-leònte. Tha pasgan ath-shuidheachaidh cuimseach aig a' Chomhairle agus dh'fhaodte gum bi seo ri fhaotainn dhan tagraiche shoirbheachail.
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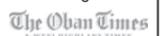
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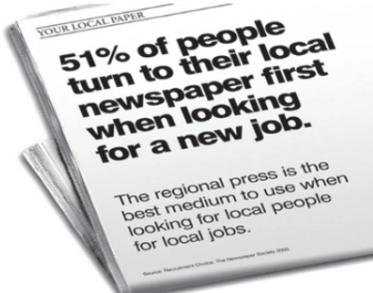
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Email address: donald@damacdonald.co.uk



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LORN SHOW 2015 RESULTS

BLACKFACE RESULTS 2015 Judge Mr Quintin Dunlop, Elmscleugh Farm, Dunbar, East Lothian
AGED TUPS Class 1: Top 3 Shear (Confined) No entries Class 2: Top 3 Shear (Open) No entries Class 3: Top 2 Shear (Confined) 1st T. Nelson, Glengorm, Tobermory Class 4: Top 2 Shear (Open) 1st J. Jackson & Son Pole Farm Lochgoilhead SHEARLING Class 5: Shearling Tup (Confined) 1st Norman MacPhail, Woodside Croft, Salen, Aros, Isle of Mull Class 6: Shearling bred by Exhibitor (Confined) 1st - Norman MacPhail, Woodside Croft, Salen, Aros, Isle of Mull Class 7: Shearling (Open) 1st - Messrs. J & J MacPherson, Balliemaneoch Farm, Dalmally Class 8: Shearling bred by Exhibitor (Open) 1st - Andrew Campbell Drimsny, Lochgoilhead TUP LAMBS Class 9: Top Lamb (Confined) 1st - Robert MacKay, Millpark, Oban Class 10: Top Lamb (Open) 1st Messrs. J & J MacPherson, Balliemaneoch Farm, Dalmally AGED EWES Class 11: Ewe in milk, 3 year old and upwards (Confined) 1st Robert MacKay, Millpark, Oban Class 12: Ewe in milk 3 years old and upwards (Open) 1st Messrs. J & J MacPherson, Balliemaneoch Farm, Dalmally 2 SHEAR EWES Class 13: Two Shear Ewe in milk (Confined) 1st - Stuart McGregor, Burnbank, Oban Class 14: Two Shear Ewe in milk (Open) 1st - John Nudds, Torr-na-faire, Lochaline, Morvern GIMMERS Class 15: Gimmer (Confined) 1st - Mr T. Nelson, Glengorm, Tobermory, Isle of Mull Class 16: Gimmer (Open) 1st - J. Jackson & Son, Pole Farm Lochgoilhead
EWE LAMBS Class 17: Ewe Lamb (Confined) 1st - Fulton Ronald, Saulmore Farm, Connel West Highland Crofters & Farmers Ltd for best pair of Ewe Lambs Fulton Ronald, Saulmore Farm, Connel Class 18: Ewe Lamb (Open) 1st - Messrs. J & J MacPherson, Balliemaneoch Farm, Dalmally Sponsorship Prize of £10 from Reid & Robertson for Open Ewe Lamb Class Messrs. J & J MacPherson, Balliemaneoch Farm, Dalmally Class 19: Ewe shown with her own lamb (Confined) 1st Fulton Ronald, Saulmore Farm, Connel Robert Love Memorial Trophy for Home bred Ewe with own lamb at Foot Fulton Ronald, Saulmore Farm, Connel Class 20: Ewe shown with her own lamb (Open) 1st - Fulton Ronald, Saulmore Farm, Connel Wilsons Garage (Argyll) Ltd Perpetual Challenge Cup for Ewe with own lamb at foot (Open) Fulton Ronald, Saulmore Farm, Connel
BLACKFACE SHEEP - SPECIAL PRIZES Blair Cup represented by Mr Robin Marshall, Barguilean for Best Pair of Blackface Sheep 1 Male, 1 Female. (Open) Messrs. J & J MacPherson, Balliemaneoch Farm, Dalmally Perpetual Challenge Cup for Best Group of Blackface Sheep comprising 1 ram (any age), ewe in milk, gimmer and ewe lamb. (Confined) presented by Oban Transport and Trading Co Ltd. Robert MacKay, Millpark, Oban Dykes Cup - Jean MacLachlan, C/O Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown
TEXEL Prizes - 1st (E5) 2nd (E3) 3rd (E2) Class 30: Ram (excluding lambs) E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine Class 31: Ewe 1st - E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine Class 32: Gimmer 1st Greg Gillespie, Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown Class 33: Ram Lamb 1st E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine Class 34: Ewe Lamb 1st - E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine The Keyline Perpetual Trophy for Champion Sheep E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine Special prize of £10 by Reid and Robertson for Champion Texel Sheep E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine Special prize of £5 by Wilson MacIntyre, Haulage Contractor for Reserve Champion Texel Shear Greg Gillespie, Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown

by Reid and Robertson Messrs. J & J MacPherson, Balliemaneoch Farm, Dalmally - Ewe Reserve - £ 5.00 sponsored D G MacKay Messrs. J & J MacPherson, Balliemaneoch Farm, Dalmally - Ewe Lamb MacLeod Cup for Best Blackface Sheep in Show to be won five years in all with a different animal each year. Messrs. J & J MacPherson, Balliemaneoch Farm, Dalmally - Ewe The Kilmore Cup represented by Mr Robin Marshall, Barguilean for Best Blackface Sheep. (Open). Messrs. J & J MacPherson, Balliemaneoch Farm, Dalmally - Ewe Oromecy Shield for Champion of Opposite Sex to Champion. (Open) Messrs. J & J MacPherson, Balliemaneoch Farm, Dalmally - Tup Lamb United Auctions Sponsorship Prize of £ 20.00 for Supreme Sheep at Show, between Blackface, Suffolk, Texel, Blueface Leicester and Cross Bred Sheep Messrs. J & J MacPherson, Balliemaneoch Farm, Dalmally - Ewe Reserve Supreme Sheep at Show sponsored by Harbro, E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine
YOUNG FARMERS SECTION Class 21: Ram other than Ram Lamb No entries Class 22: Female (other than Lamb) No entries Class 23: Gimmer 1st - Lee Gallagher, C/O Woodside Croft, Salen, Aros, Isle of Mull Class 24: Lamb 1st - Hayley Ronald, Saulmore Farm, Connel Ardchattan Cup presented by Mr and Mrs A. Cameron, North Connel for the Young Farmers Section Yvonne Ronald, Saulmore Farm, Connel
YOUNG HANDLERS ALL SHEEP SECTIONS Sponsored by Agrimony Ltd HR Keate Trophy represented by the family of the Late Mr. MacLean for Overall Young Handler in Primary School in All Sheep Sections Zoe Prentice, Kilmichael Glassary Netherlorn Trophy represented by the family of the Late Mr. MacLean for Overall Young Handler 12 - 18 years in All Sheep Sections 1st - Asha Nelson, Glengorm, Isle of Mull Judge: Mr Archie Cameron, Ashdon, North Connel Class 25: Ram (excluding lambs) No entries Class 26: Ewe 1st - Craig Taylor, Barsloisnach Farm, Kilmartin Class 27: Gimmer 1st - Jean McLachlan, C/O Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown Class 28: Ram Lamb 1st - Jean McLachlan, C/O Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown Class 29: Ewe Lamb 1st - Craig Taylor, Barsloisnach Farm, Kilmartin Rosebowl for overall Suffolk Champion presented by United Auctions, Oban. Craig Taylor, Barsloisnach Farm, Kilmartin Special prize of £10 by Clan Cottages, Kilmore for Champion Sheep Craig Taylor, Barsloisnach Farm, Kilmartin Special Prize of £5 by Clan Cottages, Kilmore for Reserve Champion Sheep Jean McLachlan, C/O Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown The Ferguson Perpetual Shield for Best Suffolk Sheep (bred by exhibitor) presented by the late Mr Donald Ferguson MRCVS Oban. Jean MacLachlan, C/O Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown
TEXEL Prizes - 1st (E5) 2nd (E3) 3rd (E2) Class 30: Ram (excluding lambs) E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine Class 31: Ewe 1st - E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine Class 32: Gimmer 1st Greg Gillespie, Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown Class 33: Ram Lamb 1st E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine Class 34: Ewe Lamb 1st - E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine The Keyline Perpetual Trophy for Champion Sheep E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine Special prize of £10 by Reid and Robertson for Champion Texel Sheep E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine Special prize of £5 by Wilson MacIntyre, Haulage Contractor for Reserve Champion Texel Shear Greg Gillespie, Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown

BELEX Prizes - 1st (E5) 2nd (E3) 3rd (E2) Class 35: Ram (excluding lambs) 1st - Rosslyn Smith, Balliemore Farm, Kilmichael Glassary Class 36: Ewe 1st - Rosslyn Smith, Balliemore Farm, Kilmichael Glassary Class 37: Gimmer 1st Rosslyn Smith, Balliemore Farm, Kilmichael Glassary Class 38: Ram Lamb 1st Rosslyn Smith, Balliemore Farm, Kilmichael Glassary Class 39: Ewe Lamb 1st - Rosslyn Smith, Balliemore Farm, Kilmichael Glassary Simmers & Co Perpetual Trophy for Champion Sheep R. Smith, Balliemore Farm, Kilmichael Glassary Sponsorship prize of £ 10 by Lorn Agricultural Society for Champion Beltex R. Smith, Balliemore Farm, Kilmichael Glassary Sponsorship prize of £ 5 by Lorn Agricultural Society for Reserve Champion Beltex R. Smith, Balliemore Farm, Kilmichael Glassary BLUEFACE LEICESTER Class 40: Ram (excluding lambs) 1st - J & M Turner, Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown Class 41: Ewe 1st - Jean McLachlan, C/O Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown Class 42: Gimmer 1st - Jean McLachlan, C/O Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown Class 43: Ram Lamb 1st - Jean McLachlan, C/O Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown Class 44: Ewe Lamb 1st - J & M Turner, Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown Special Prize of £10 by Agrimony, Connel for Champion Blueface Leicester Sheep Jean McLachlan, C/O Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown - Ewe Special Prize of £5 by Agrimony, Connel for Reserve Champion Blueface Leicester Sheep J & M Turner, Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown - Ewe Lamb ANY OTHER PURE BRED SHEEP Prizes 1st (E5) 2nd (E3) 3rd (E2) Class 45: Ram (excluding lambs) No entries Class 46: Ewe No Entries Class 47: Gimmer 1st - Emma Smith, Goitreae Beag Croft, Brolas, Taynuilt Class 48: Ram Lamb 1st - Emma Smith, Goitreae Beag Croft, Brolas, Taynuilt Class 49: Ewe Lamb No Entries SPECIAL PRIZES Sponsorship Prize of £ 10 Harbo Voucher for Any Other Pure Breed Emma Smith, Goitreae Beag Croft, Brolas, Taynuilt - Ram Lamb Sponsorship Prize of £ 5 for Reserve Any Other Pure Breed Emma Smith, Goitreae Beag Croft, Brolas, Taynuilt - Gimmer CROSSBRED SHEEP Class 50: Ewe 1st - J & M Turner, Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown Class 51: Gimmer 1st J & M Turner, Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown RA Clement Associates Perpetual Trophy for Champion, in Pure and Cross Bred Sheep. (Other than Suffolk, Texel and Beltex). Special Prize of £10 by Clan Cottages, Kilmore for Champion, in Cross Bred Section J & M Turner, Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown Special Prize of £5 by Clan Cottages, Kilmore for Reserve Champion Sheep (other than Blackface) E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine - Texel Shearling Tup Special Prize of £ 5.00 sponsored by Donald G MacKay Livestock and General Haulage, Moleigh OBAN, for Reserve Champion Sheep (other than Blackface) Jean McLachlan, C/O Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown - Suffolk Gimmer UNITED AUCTIONS PERPETUAL TROPHY AND SPONSORSHIP PRIZE OF £20 FOR OVERALL CHAMPION SHEEP AT SHOW Messrs. J & J MacPherson, Balliemaneoch Farm, Dalmally - Blackface Gimmer HARBRO LIMITED SPONSORSHIP PRIZE OF £ 10 FOR RESERVE CHAMPION OVER-

ALL SHEEP AT SHOW E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine - Texel Shearling Tup CATTLE SECTION HIGHLAND CATTLE Judge: Mr. Dexter Logan, Greenhead Farm, Alva, Clackmannanshire Class 53: Bull over 2 years 1st Duncan Buchanan, Shenaville, Benderloch Class 54: Bull under 2 years 1st R. MacMillan & E. Lawrence, Little Grenach Farm, Rothsay Class 55: Heifer with calf at foot 1st Stuart Mackay, Glenstraee Farm, Dalmally Class 56: Heifer born in 2012 1st - Michael Poland, West Ferlochan Farm, Benderloch Class 57: Heifer born in 2013 1st - Lady Lithgow, Ormsary Farm, Lochgilphead Class 58: Heifer born in 2014 1st - R. MacMillan & E. Lawrence, Little Grenach Farm, Rothsay Class 59: Pair any age 1st - Lady Lithgow, Ormsary Farm Lochgilphead Class 60: Calf born in 2015 1st - Stuart Mackay, Glenstraee, Dalmally Class 61: Group of 3 animals (must have competed in classes 53 to 60 and not more than 1 animal from each class may be entered in the group) 1st - R. MacMillan & E. Lawrence, Little Grenach Farm, Rothsay. Females entered in the appendix register of our Herd Book, either Appendix B or Appendix A, are eligible for entry and are identified by the letter 'B' or 'A' tattooed in the ear or written in waterproof ink on an ear tag Highland Cattle Special Prizes The Dun na Mara Perpetual Trophy for Highland Cow with Highland Calf at foot presented by the late E T F Spence, Benderloch. Stuart Mackay, Glenstraee Farm, Rothsay. Group of 3 animals, which have competed in the 7 classes of the section, Not more than 1 animal from a class may be entered in the group, presented by the late Miss Mary MacLean, Balure, Benderloch. R. MacMillan & E. Lawrence, Little Grenach Farm, Rothsay Mary MacLean Cup for Highland Heifer, to be won 3 years in succession or 5 years in all, presented by the late Miss Mary MacLean, Balure, Benderloch. Michael Poland, West Ferlochan Farm, Benderloch Perpetual Cup for Highland Bull presented by Columbia Hotel, Oban. R. MacMillan & E. Lawrence, Little Grenach Farm, Rothsay Balure Cup for Overall Animal, to be won for four years in succession or six years in all presented by the late Miss Mary MacLean, Balure, Benderloch. Michael Poland, West Ferlochan Farm, Benderloch Rosette for Best Champion, presented by the Highland Cattle Society, and sponsorship prize of £ 10 from Reid and Robertson, Agricultural and Equestrian Merchants, Oban Michael Poland, West Ferlochan Farm, Benderloch Munro of Benderloch Trophy for Reserve Champion Highlander to be won four years in succession or six years in all. Lady Lithgow, Ormsary Farm Lochgilphead PURE BRED BEEF CATTLE Judge: Mr. Craig Malone, Pitcairn Farm, Cardenden, Fife GALLOWAY Class 62: Bull, one year old and over Class 63: Cow in calf or milk Class 64: 3 year old Heifer in calf 1st W MacLean, Invergleng, Barcaldine Class 65: Yearling Heifer Class 66: 2 year old Heifer Class 67: Calf born in 2015 Ashfield Cup for Best Pure Bred Galloway female (cattle) presented by Hugh MacColl and Mrs Mary McKeerchar, Benderloch. Douglas MacDonal, Tyree, Benderloch Sponsorship prize of £10 by Reid and Robertson, Agricultural & Equestrian Merchants, Oban for Champion Calf in Show (Pure Bred or Cross Calves) Ewan Campbell, Steall, Fort William The Perpetual Challenge Cup for the Best Animal in the Beef Section of the Show, presented by West Highland Estates Office. United Auctions Sponsorship Prize £20.00 FOR overall best animal in Cattle Sections E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine Sponsorship prize of £ 10 Harbo Voucher for reserve overall cattle animal Michael Poland, Ferlochan, Benderloch Perpetual Challenge Cup for the Cattle

77: Calf - under 1 year old 1st Ewen Campbell, Steall, Fort William SPECIAL PRIZES AND TROPHIES FOR PURE BRED BEEF CATTLE CLASSES Perpetual Trophy for Pure Bred Beef Animal in the Show (Classes 62 to 70n) presented by McTavish's Kitchen Ltd, Oban E & L MacGillivray, Barcaldine Home Farm, Barcaldine PERPETUAL Challenge Cup for the Beef Bull presented by the Columba Hotel, (Classes 62, 68 and 73) George Reid, Taynuilt CROSS BRED BEEF CATTLE - ANY CROSS Judge: Mr Craig Malone, Pitcairn Farm, Cardenden, Fife Class 78: Cross Cow for Beef Production (in calf or in milk) 1st - Douglas MacDonal, Tyree, Benderloch Class 79: Cross Heifer in Calf 1st - E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine Class 80: Cross Bred Yield Heifer suitable for breeding (under 2 years old) 1st - Douglas MacDonal, Tyree, Benderloch Class 81: Fat Cross Bred Bullock or Heifer Note: Heifer entries for Class 80 are not eligible for entry in Class 81 No entries CROSS BRED CALVES Class 82: Autumn born Bullock Calf born after 1st August 2014 - any breed 1st - Douglas MacDonal, Tyree, Benderloch Class 83: Autumn born Heifer Calf born after 1st August 2014 - any Breed 1st - Douglas MacDonal, Tyree, Benderloch Class 84: Limousin Cross Male Calf born after 1st February 2015 1st - E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine Class 85: Limousin Cross Female Calf born after 1st February 2015 1st - Douglas MacDonal, Tyree, Benderloch Class 86: Male Calf born after 1st February 2015 - any other continental breed No entries Class 87: Female Calf born after 1st February 2015 - any other continental breed 1st - David Wright, Woodend, Ardgour Class 88: Male Calf by Native Sire born after 1st February 2015 No entries Class 89: Female Calf by Native Sire born after 1st February 2015 No entries CROSS BRED CALVES SPECIAL PRIZES The Fred MacPherson Cup for Cross Calf in Beef Cattle Section presented by Fred MacPherson, Blarcreen, to be won 4 years in succession or 6 years in all won outright by and re-presented by Ewen MacPherson, Barcaldine, (Classes 82- 89) Douglas MacDonal, Tyree, Benderloch The Dunach Cup won outright by Fred MacPherson, Blarcreen and represented by Fred MacPherson, for cross bred calf of opposite sex to Champion Calf, (Classes 82 to 89) Douglas MacDonal, Tyree, Benderloch CATTLE SPECIAL PRIZES (all Sections). The Archie Cameron Memorial Perpetual Trophy for the Best in Calf Beef Heifer in the Show, presented by the late Mrs M H Cameron, Inion Farm, Ardchattan Michael Poland, Ferlochan, Benderloch The MacColl Rosebowl for the pair of breeding females (cattle) presented by Hugh MacColl and Mrs Mary McKeerchar, Benderloch. Douglas MacDonal, Tyree, Benderloch Sponsorship prize of £10 by Reid and Robertson, Agricultural & Equestrian Merchants, Oban for Champion Calf in Show (Pure Bred or Cross Calves) Ewan Campbell, Steall, Fort William The Perpetual Challenge Cup for the Best Animal in the Beef Section of the Show, presented by West Highland Estates Office. United Auctions Sponsorship Prize £20.00 FOR overall best animal in Cattle Sections E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine Sponsorship prize of £ 10 Harbo Voucher for reserve overall cattle animal Michael Poland, Ferlochan, Benderloch Perpetual Challenge Cup for the Cattle

Beast in the Show, Bred by Exhibitor, in memory of the late Ewen and Mollie Cameron, Gallanachbeg, represented by Hydro Electric plc. Sponsorship prize of £10 by D J Campbell, Livestock and General haulage for the Best Home Bred Animal in the Cattle Classes. E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine YOUNG HANDLERS Garraron Cup for Champion Young Handler in Primary School Section. Jayden MacLachlan, Little Grenoch, Bute Ceran Marine Cup for Champion Young Handler in 12 - 18 years Section 1st - Lynne MacLean, Invergleng, Barcaldine SPECIAL PRIZES The Donald Livingstone Memorial Perpetual Trophy for Winner of most points in Open Sections (Sheep and Cattle). E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine The Donald Bremner Cup for the Best Animal in Show, presented by Donald Bremner M.R.C.V.S. Ledgia to be won 3 years in succession or four years in all re-presented by Chalmers Property Investment Co. Ltd, and Sponsorship Prize of £40 by Davidson Animal Feeds, for Champion. E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine Reserve - Sponsorship Prize of £20 by Reid and Robertson, Agricultural & Equestrian Merchants, Oban J & J MacPherson, Balliemaneoch Farm, Dalmally The David Band Perpetual Trophy, presented to the Lorn Agricultural Society for Home Bred Breeding Animal in Sheep and Cattle Classes. E & L MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine DOGS JUDGE - Ms Lesley Atchion, Oban Class 90: Collies 1 Max - Jean Campbell, Darachbeag, North Connel Class 91: Gun Dogs - All Breeds 1 Tia - Sue Miller, North Connel Class 92: Hounds and Terriers 1 Bramble - Caroline Morgan, Shelling, Isle of Seil Class 93: Any other breed 1 Nuala - William Reid, 3d Longsdale, Oban Class 94: Child Handler 1 Tyne - Ellis Anderson, Musselburgh Seaton Trophy for Overall Champion Dog Max - Jean Campbell, Darachbeag, North Connel Overall Champion Dog Sponsored by Reid and Robertson Tia - Sue Miller, North Connel Sponsorship prize from D. J. MacKay for Reserve Champion Dog Nuala - William Reid, 3d Longsdale, Oban POULTRY Judge - Mr. Robert MacDougall, Woodcroft, Tobermory Class 95: Waterfowl, any variety - drake 1st Julie Liddell, Forest Lodge, Kilmichael Class 96: Waterfowl, any variety - duck 1st Julie Liddell, Forest Lodge, Kilmichael Class 97: Large or Bantam Fowl, any breed - male 1st J & M Turner, Campbeltown Class 98: Large Fowl, any breed - Female 1st Eilidh Reid, Brough Croft, Taynuilt Class 99: Bantam Fowl, any breed - Female 1st Julie Liddell, Forest Lodge, Kilmichael Sponsorship Prize of £ 10.00 by Reid & Robertson, for Champion Poultry Bird J & M Turner, Campbeltown Lorn Agricultural Prize of £ 5.00 for Reserve Champion Poultry Bird Julie Liddell, Forest Lodge, Kilmichael Special Child's Cup Emily Reid, Brough Croft, Taynuilt HOME INDUSTRIES Judge - Mrs Catherine Smith, Balliemore Farm, Kilmichael Lochgilphead ALL CHILDREN'S CLASSES SPONSORED BY AGRIMONY CHILDREN'S CLASSES - PRE SCHOOL CLASS 100: Decorated Stone 1 Alice MacDonal Class 101: 3 Decorated Rich Tea Biscuits decorated as 'Happy Faces' 1 Alice MacDonal CHILDREN'S CLASSES - 8 YEARS AND UNDER Class 102: 3 Decorated Digestive Biscuits as different 'Farm Animals' 1 Megan Carre Class 103: 4 Peppermint Creams - Plain 1 Finn MacKechnie Class 104: 4 Panakes 1 Duncan Cameron Class 105: Garden on a plate maximum

size 9" diameter 1 Alexander MacDonald Class 106: Painting of an 'Agricultural Show' 1 Charlie MacDonal Mrs. Jean McEwan Perpetual Cup for most points in Junior Baking, Flora Art, and Handicrafts Finn MacKechnie, North Connel CHILDRENS CLASSES 9 - 11 YEAR CLASS 107: 4 Fruit Scones 1 Mairi MacCorquodale Class 108: 4 Squares of Flapjacks 1 Freya MacKechnie Class 109: 4 Peppermint Creams, coloured 1 Freya MacKechnie Class 110: A Book Mark - any craft 1 Freya MacKechnie Class 111: Painting of an 'Agricultural Show' 1 Isla Buchanan Mrs. M. MacNeil Perpetual Cup for winner in Junior Baking, Floral Art, and Handicrafts Mairi MacCorquodale and Freya MacKechnie, North Connel CHILDREN'S CLASSES 12 - 16 YEARS Class 112: 4 Empire Biscuits 1 Lauren MacDonal Class 113: Banana Loaf 1 Lauren MacDonal Class 114: 4 Squares of Coconut Ice 1 Lauren MacDonal Class 115: Knitted Draught Excluder 1 Lauren MacDonal Class 116: Painting of an 'Agricultural Show' 1 Lauren MacDonal The Lindsay Semple Perpetual Cup for winner in Junior Baking, Floral Art, and Handicrafts Lauren MacDonal, Tyree, Benderloch Musdale Perpetual Challenge Trophy, Lauren MacDonal, Tyree, Benderloch HOME INDUSTRIES Class 117: 4 Treacle Scones 1 Karen MacKay Class 118: Victoria Sponge Sandwich - filled with jam only 1 Fiona Dickie Class 119: 4 Squares of Millionaire's Shortbread 1 Karen MacKay Class 120: 4 Bakedwell Tarts - Shortcrust Pastry 1 Fiona Dickie Class 121: Chocolate and Walnut Loaf 1 Fiona Dickie Class 122: 4 Squares of Tablet 1 Hazel MacLean-Cowan Class 123: Jar of Orange Curd 1 Fiona Dickie Class 124: Jar of Raspberry Jam 1 Ann Ferguson Class 125: Jar of Chutney 1 Karen MacKay Class 126: 3 Hen's Eggs 1 Duncan & Charlie Cameron Class 127: 3 Duck's Eggs No Entries Nelson Perpetual Trophy for Most Points in Baking Section Fiona Dickie, Kilmore HANDICRAFTS Class 128: Knitted Child's Patterned Jumper - Double Knitting 1 Fiona Dickie Class 129: Machine Sewn Article for use in the Kitchen No Entries Class 130: Crocheted Book Mark 1 Rhoda Thomas Class 131: Un-mounted Photograph - Sunset (no larger than 6" x 8") 1 Diane MacLean Class 132: Un-mounted Photograph - Farm Workers (no larger than 6" x 8") 1 Fiona Dickie Class 133: Flower Arrangement in a Teacup 1 Ann Ferguson Sutherland Perpetual Challenge Trophy for most points in Handicrafts Section Fiona Dickie, Kilmore Baby Show Under 1 yr 1 Peri Gillies, Fanan Beag, Taynuilt Mrs. Shaw Show 1 - 2 years 1 Eilidh Anne McGill, Brisbane, Australia HIGHLAND DANCING Judge - Teresa Kelly Beginners: Highland trophy - Dunfermline building society trophy - Mairi Morrison, USA National keeper - Daniel Craik, Oban & Olivia Veitch, Lochgilphead Novice: Highland trophy - Lorn Agricultural Society trophy and national keeper - Erin Binnie, Campbeltown Intermediate: Highland trophy - Anne Aitken trophy - Lauren Struthers, Paisley National keepers - Anna Hendrie, Kilmarnock & Lauren Struthers, Paisley Premier: Highland trophy - Kings Knoll Quach and national keeper - Lisa McGillivray, Dunoon

public notices

Sea Cadets ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Thursday 20th August Seven pm The Cadet Centre Tweedale Street, Oban Please come along

PUBLIC NOTICES First Registration of a Croft Ewen J Morrison has registered their croft 11 Treslaig, Ardgour on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by March 15, 2016. Details of registration can be found at www.crofts.rso.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is A0134

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www.highland.gov.uk TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined 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 15/02157/FUL Laga Farm, Laga, Acharacle Installation of a micro hydro electricity scheme including a weir, pen-stock & power house 15/02336/FUL 6 Seafield Gardens, Achintore, Fort William Installation of an air source heat pump unit 15/02639/PIP Dogha Cottage, Annat View, Corpach, Fort William Erection of an insulated chalet 15/02929/S42 The Bungalow at Strathaysynt, Loan Fern, Ballachulish Section 42 application for the variation of Condition 1 of Planning Permission 99/00128/FULL0 to use the property as a self catering holiday unit 15/02964/FUL Gealach Mor, Morar, Mallaig Conversion and extension of garage to form a residential/holiday letting cottage (amended design) 15/02966/FUL The Royal Bank of Scotland, Leven Road, Kinlochleven Change of Use from commercial to residential use 15/02970/LBC The Royal Bank of Scotland, Leven Road, Kinlochleven Change of Use of former bank and offices to residential including internal alterations Time period for comments is 14 days (15/02970/LBC is 21 days) ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenquharth Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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PLANNING

Table with 4 columns: Ref, Proposal, Site Address, Location of Plans. Contains planning application details for various sites in Argyll and Bute.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Table with 4 columns: Ref, Proposal, Site Address, Location of Plans. Contains planning application details for Duart Castle, Lochdon.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Table with 4 columns: Ref, Proposal, Site Address, Location of Plans. Contains planning application details for various sites in Argyll and Bute.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Table with 4 columns: Ref, Proposal, Site Address, Location of Plans. Contains planning application details for various sites in Argyll and Bute.

Argyll & 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 Marise Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD. A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries. Any letter or representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

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Loch Awe blackface tops successful Mid Argyll Show

The rain held off, and the sun even made an occasional appearance, for the 118th Mid Argyll Show.

AFTER one of the wettest summers on record, the organisers were grateful for a dry show day. Though still wet underfoot, the showfield held up surprisingly well, despite the odd tow being needed for bogged vehicles. And the crowds turned out. Organisers estimate that over 2,000 people came along to Kilmory to enjoy the big day.

There was plenty for all the family to see, do and taste. Aside from the usual top quality livestock on display, spectators could take in musical entertainment by Mid Argyll Pipe Band, a daring display of horsemanship by young riders from Susan Doe's Daltote Equestrian Centre, a parade of lovingly maintained vintage tractors and much more besides.

The home industries tent produced some deserved winners, while a huge variety of stalls offered something for everyone. For the first time ever, this year's show featured a supreme championship, across all species of creature - from hens to Clydesdale horses and dogs to Highland cattle. Show umpire, Bob Cunningham of Neriby Farm on the Isle of Islay, had the unenviable task of choosing the winner.

Coming away with the inaugural supreme championship, in just her third outing of the season, was a two-shear blackface ewe from J&J MacPherson, Balliemeanoch, Loch Awe. Off a £6,000 Connachan sire and out of a Lurg-bred ewe, the blackface champion also won at the previous weekend's Lorn Show and came home with a fourth place rosette from June's Royal Highland Show.

Reserve open champion was the supreme winner at the previous day's Kintyre Show, Clydesdale mare, Gar-Cal-Fra Sweet Chloe, from David and Calum McPhail, Campbeltown.

Not too far behind was the Highland cattle champion, three-year-old heifer, Iona 1st of Cnoc, from M & S O'Hara, Cnoc Fold, Appin, and shown by stockman

Iain MacKay. The Highland cattle champion, described by judge, Mrs Moyra Porter, as 'just a sweet wee heifer' is daughter of Chieftain 5th of Glengorm and dam Iona 1st of Bein Esk.

“The whole event has gone really well considering the summer we've had. We have got a really good, strong committee behind the show, and it wouldn't work without them pulling together as a team”

Bruce Dixon

Judging the dog show was Mrs Victoria Miller from Inverawe - drafted in the day before to

judge Mid Argyll for the second time after the original judge was unable to attend. She had no easy task deciding the winner across 16 different competitions, but the supreme championship was particularly difficult.

'The quality at the show has been great,' said Mrs Miller. 'What I look for is a dog that is fit for function, and I think our champion fits the bill.'

Selected as champion was a two-year-old white-coated retriever called Bailey, owned by Jan Burgess of Minard. Asked what had tipped the balance in Bailey's favour, Mrs Miller replied: 'It was a tough decision, but he's just really lovely, and you can see the character.'

Bailey's owner Jan said that she had taken him on as a scrawny four-month-old puppy from Northamptonshire. 'He was just so thin. He was starving,' Jan explained.

Jan, who has another four retrievers at home, has taken Bailey from the edge of starvation to the supreme championship at Mid Argyll Show.

An excited Jan continued: 'It just feels fantastic. Bailey is a big personality and to come here and win this... I just can't explain it.'

Among the light horses and ponies, Oban's Rebecca Scott in the riding ponies (under saddle) competition, was the open champion on Silent Whisper II. The local champion from the mountain and moorland (in hand) contest was Ashleigh Kilgour from Lochgilphead, riding Dafydd, and this combination went on to the supreme championship where they were awarded the reserve confined champion title. Speaking afterwards, show president, Bruce Dixon, commented: 'The whole event has gone really well considering the summer we've had. We have got a really good, strong committee behind the show, and it wouldn't work without them pulling together as a team. I want to thank everybody involved, including all the competitors and sponsors.'



Blackface and supreme show champion, a two-crop blackface ewe from Messrs J&J MacPherson, Balliemeanoch. DSC_0813



The blackface champion and supreme show champion with (l-r) Malky MacDonald, Grant MacPherson, Iain MacPherson and Alec MacPherson. DSC_0910



Kayla Willan, aged 7, with her 11 month old puppy, Rosie, winner of the puppy class. DSC_0725



Nine-year-old Mirren Angus from Kilmichael reaches 14 crates to lead the competition at that point. DSC_0744



Brodie and Libby Peaton have a go at driving a vintage Fordson tractor. a33MAS01



Rebecca Scott from Oban on Silent Whisper, winner of the Championship Cup for the best horse or pony in the show. 33MAS02



Three-year-old heifer, Iona 1st of Cnoc, Highland Cattle champion, with handler, Iain MacKay. DSC_0767



Campbeltown vintage tractor enthusiast, Willie Reid, with his David Brown 990 'Implematic'. DSC_0826



Dog show champion (and confined champion) Bailey (right) with the reserve champion and reserve confined champion in the dog show. Judge Victoria Miller is centre. DSC_0783



The creative skills of Rose MacCallum (left) and Anya Gritten made them joint winners of the MAAS Cup for ages 8-12 in the handicrafts tent. DSC_0870

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With farming margins under increasing pressure, now is a good time to check out the latest information and advice on managing suckler cow herds.

As part of a Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) funded project, with support from the Scottish Government as part of its Public Good Veterinary and Advisory Services Programme, SAC Consulting (part of Scotland's Rural College) has organised a practical and informative day on Suckler Cow and Bull Management in the Fort William area on Wednesday 19th August from 11am to 3.30pm. The workshop will be held at Strone Farm, Banavie, courtesy of Mr Malcolm Cameron. Malcolm has a good commercial herd of Limousin cows and the meeting will be held in his new cattle shed built within the last few months.

Topics being covered include suckler cow nutrition, bull management, cattle health issues and genetics. But there will also be plenty of time for general discussions on issues that are of direct concern to those who attend. 'We have put together an excellent range of speakers from SAC Beef and Nutrition Specialists, QMS and the local Crown Vets,' said Niall Campbell of SAC Consulting in Oban. 'I think this will be a really valuable workshop for all farmers and crofters in the area who are trying to manage cattle on a tight budget.'

The event is open to all and is free, but anyone interested in attending the workshop should contact the Oban SAC office on 01631 563093 or email FRBSOban@sac.co.uk as numbers are needed for catering purposes.

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PERSONAL NOTICES

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Love
Ella & Lennan
xxx

BIRTHS

STEELE - Alan and Diane (née McKiernan) are delighted to announce the birth of Ian James on July 25, 2015 at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow. A wee brother for Abbie. A grandson for Pauline and the late Jim McKiernan and the late Ian and Margaret Steele.

ENGAGEMENTS

DUNLOP - MACLEAN - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Nathan, son of James and Debbie Dunlop, to Lora, eldest daughter of Willie and Christine MacLean.

DEATHS

BENNETT - Peacefully at home surrounded by his family Duncan (Dochie) Bennett, Lochdon, Isle of Mull. Beloved husband of Agnes, loving father of David and Linda, father-in-law of Jacqueline and Dave. Much loved Grampa of David, Calum, Rory, Ewan, Becky and Lorne. Funeral service to be held at Torosay Parish Church on Friday, August 14, 2015 thereafter to Kilpatrick Duart cemetery.

LEITCH - Robert Alexander ('Bert') Leitch, Lagganulva Farm, Isle of Mull, aged 74. Passed away peacefully on July 31, 2015 in the Beatson Hospital, Glasgow, with his family by his side. Funeral service was held at Salen parish church on Wednesday, August 12, 2015.

MACAFFER - At Gortanvogie Care Home, Islay on August 6, 2015, aged 76 years, Angus, dear brother of Betty and Morag, a dear uncle, great uncle and cousin.

MACALLISTER - It is with great sorrow that Scott and Karen announce the devastating loss of their son Rian Malcolm, brother to Rowan, who died at his home on Sunday August 9, 2015. Funeral in Oban - date to be advised by window cards.

MACEACHAN - Peacefully at Moss Park Care Home, Caol with her family by her side, on Tuesday, August 5, 2015, Margaret aged 78 years, beloved wife of the late Alistair, loving mum to Michael, mother-in-law to Pauline, devoted nana to Craig and Scott, great nana to Casey and Liam, a dear sister, sister-in-law and auntie. Requiem Mass took place on Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at St Johns, Caol followed by interment at Kilmallie Cemetery, Corpach. R.I.P.

MACINTYRE - John (Teak), formerly of Inveraray passed away suddenly on July 28, 2015. At his request a private cremation has taken place.

REED - Peacefully at the Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on Sunday, August 2, 2015 in her 95th year, Kathleen Marguerite Reed, lovingly remembered by her daughter Susan, granddaughter Sarah and her sisters Marguerite and Christine. Funeral will be held in Bristol and a celebration of Kathleen's life will be held in Bunnassan at a date to be arranged.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

COUTTS - Margaret and family wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and support following the sad loss of David. Rev John Ross for his comforting service and John MacDonald and his assistants for their care and efficiency. Thanks to all who contributed to a collection of £800 for CCU Raigmore Hospital and local surgery.

FENTON - The family of the late Jean would like to thank everyone who attended her service and graveside. Thanks also to Donald MacKinnon, The Royal Hotel and Ian MacInnes. Grateful thanks to everyone at Eadar Glinn, who received the retil collection of £140.90.

LAMONT - The family of the late Calum would like to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy extending to them personally and by cards and flowers following the loss of their dear father, father-in-law and grandfather. Special thanks to Reverend Roddie Rankin for conducting a most comforting service, Angus Peter Campbell for his spiritual Gaelic prayer, Donnie MacLeod of M & D MacLeod for his truly respectful and dignified funeral arrangements and members of RNLI, Kyle. Collections of £900 were raised for RNLI, Kyle from funeral services held in Kyleakin and Glasgow.

MACKINNON - The family of the late Effie MacKinnon would like to thank relatives, friends, neighbours and their wider community for their overwhelming support and kindness. They wish to offer their heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Angus MacTaggart and all staff at Islay Hospital for their dedicated care and compassion. Special thanks to District Nurses, Grace and Helen Rhind who together enabled Effie to remain in her own home for so long. Our thanks to the staff at Gortanvogie Residential Home for the care Effie received during her short stay there, to Rev. Valerie Watson for her comforting service, Jean and Craig MacAffer for efficient funeral arrangements, Seamus for piping, Ballygrant Inn for excellent purvey and to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside. A donation of £322 was donated to Islay Hospital.

MEMORIAMS

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of a dear auntie, Tootsie (Sarah), who died August 16, 1989. Silent thoughts of times together.

Hold memories that will last forever.
- Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.

CHISHOLM - Sarah "Rae" King MacMillan - August 11, 2008
Tender memories of a much loved mother, sorely missed every day.
- Mairi and Tony, Allanbreck, Lettermore, Ballachulish.

DIGNAN - Grace. We think of you in silence. We often speak your name. But all we have are memories. And your picture in a frame. Your resting place we visit. And put flowers there with care. But no-one knows the heartache. As we turn and leave you there - Andrew and your loving family.

DOCHERTY - In loving memory of a dear mother Mae, who died on August 16, 2002. Always in our thoughts.
- Love Mary, Peter and family.

LAIRD - In loving memory of Davy, a much loved dad and gaga, who died August 17 2011. Loved and remembered always.
- The Laird family

MACGILLIVRAY - Katherine. Mum on 1st anniversary. No words can describe how much I miss you. Love you always Mum.
- Paul

MACINNES - In loving memory of a dear dad and papa Tommy, passed away August 11, 1997.
Loved and remembered always.
- Mairi, Donald and Sarah. xxx

MACKECHNIE - In loving memory of Angus a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle, who passed away at Killin on August 11, 2005. Sadly missed.
- MacKechnie Family, Balfour, Kilmalie, Oban and Fort William.

NICHOLSON - In loving memory of Malcolm, who died August 11, 2001.
Loved and remembered every day.
- The Nicholson families

POTTER - Treasured memories of a very dear husband, father and Danda, Thomas, who died at An Airigh, Dalmally on August 15, 1980. Loved and remembered always.

SCOTT - In loving memory of Donald Scott, who passed away on August 15, 2011. Never more than a thought away.
Loved and remembered every day.

- Mum, Archie, Fiona, Calum and families

WEIR - Treasured memories of Elsie, a dearly loved mum, gran and great-gran, who died August 12, 2003. A smile we shall always remember. A voice we shall always recall. A love we shall cherish forever. Of a mum who was dear to us all.

- Love Jean, Margaret, Liz and families

WELLS - In loving memory of Gary, who died August 19, 2014.

You never said I'm leaving. You never said goodbye. You were gone before we knew it and only you knew why. Forever in our thoughts.

- Love from Mum, Dad, Sharon, Dawn, John and Aine.

WELLS - You're in the arms of the angels.
May you find some comfort there.
- Lewis, Robert, Jack and Niamh. xxx

Francis Keith Drake - beloved father

OBITUARY

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Francis Keith Drake

LIFE is full of little ironies. They often escape observation. One such irony is that Francis Keith Drake, a direct descendant of Sir Francis Drake, should have spent so much of his life in Tobermory, on the Hebridean Island of Mull. Tobermory, it will be remembered, was the final resting place of one of the Spanish galleons of the Great Armada, which was forced to circumnavigate the British Isles to try to escape, only to fall victim to winter storms and the treacherous rocks and reefs off Scotland's west coast.

Despite his illustrious ancestry, 'Keith' always preferred to be known by his middle name, and if anyone brought up such a connection, he quickly changed the conversation.

Born into a naval family in Weymouth, his father, Francis Derek Drake, was in the Royal Navy following a centuries-long, Drake family tradition. Keith's first schooling was in Malta, then, following a spell in the home counties of England, he was given his first experience of the West Highlands as the family lived for a spell in Lochgilphead.

No one actually remembers Keith being taught to sail; rather the art of sailing seems to have been in his genes.

As his DNA would dictate, he enlisted in the Royal Navy at age 16, becoming a sailing master on the sail training ship Royalist by 19, teaching others the sailing skills and discipline so necessary for a life at sea. Despite

Keith's father being the ship's captain, such was the professionalism of the duo that no one who sailed with them was aware of their relationship.

Following a five-year spell with the navy in India, Keith returned to England and gained a professional diving qualification and started his own business in underwater construction as well as hand diving for scallops and other seafood.

This brought him to Tobermory, where he met his wife-to-be, and life-long fellow crewmember, Rhoda MacLeod of the well-known Tobermory family of that name. Together, they founded the famous Tobermory Chocolate Factory. From then on, one of Keith's many passions was as the firm's master chocolatier.

Keith was a crewmember on the Tobermory Lifeboat, often seen coming off an all-night shift, and going straight to the shop to make chocolate for the

day ahead. In 1993 he was awarded official Certificates of Commendation from the Royal Humane Society and Chief Constable, for saving a man's life who had fallen into Tobermory Bay.

More recently, Keith and Rhoda bought the derelict old church on Tobermory's Main Street, renovated it and opened it as The Gallery craft shop and eatery.

Keith was approachable, knowledgeable and helpful if one cared to listen. He always had an infectious and disarming smile, which could leave all he encountered instantly speechless. He possessed a wickedly dry sense of humour, and was able to give and take the banter of the islands.

Keith died suddenly and unexpectedly at his beloved home Erray House in Tobermory, on an otherwise quiet Sunday morning. He had just celebrated his 60th birthday a few weeks before. He is survived by his wife Rhoda, and three sons, John Francis, Rudi and Matthew, as well as his mother, Joyce. His funeral service at Tobermory Parish Church on August 7 was a joyous celebration of his life, with not a dry eye among those in the congregation - tears of mirth mixed with tears of sadness. He was fittingly carried from the church to a rousing rendition of A Life on the Ocean Wave (Henry Russell 1838) by the church organist with full sound effects, and closing one's eyes, one could see and hear the massed band of the Royal Marines.

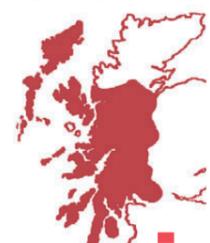
Keith died suddenly and unexpectedly at his beloved home Erray House in Tobermory, on an otherwise quiet Sunday morning. He had just celebrated his 60th birthday a few weeks before. He is survived by his wife Rhoda, and three sons, John Francis, Rudi and Matthew, as well as his mother, Joyce. His funeral service at Tobermory Parish Church on August 7 was a joyous celebration of his life, with not a dry eye among those in the congregation - tears of mirth mixed with tears of sadness. He was fittingly carried from the church to a rousing rendition of A Life on the Ocean Wave (Henry Russell 1838) by the church organist with full sound effects, and closing one's eyes, one could see and hear the massed band of the Royal Marines.

Frank Cannon

The Oban Times

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Editorial

Chief reporter
Louise Glen
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
Steven Rae
srae@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
Emma Crichton
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
Amanda Crawford
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Newsdesk
Oban 01631 568060
Fort William 01397 703003
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising

Advertising supervisor
Nadine Ross
nross@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising executive
Rhona McGillip
adverts@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising executive
Stephanie Dunstaffnage
sdunstaffnage@obantimes.co.uk

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GRADUATIONS



Anna Christina Smith graduated from the University of Strathclyde Business School with a First Class BA Honours Degree in Business Technology and Management. Anna is the daughter of Nancy and Angus Smith, Oban and granddaughter of Myrtle and the late Angus Smith, Dunbeg and the late Effie and Angus MacDonald, Shawbost, Lewis. Anna is joining glaxosmithkline at their London HQ on their IT graduate scheme



Katherine Mary McKerral graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University with a first class honours degree in Building Surveying. Katherine is the daughter of John and Christine MacDonald, Oban and the granddaughter of the late Donald John and Bannatyne MacDonald and the late John Angus and Katie Mary MacSween, Isle of Harris. Katherine is a former pupil of Rockfield Primary School and Oban High School.



Debbie McCorkindale youngest daughter of Neil and Hazel McCorkindale, Scammadale Farm, Kilniver, graduated from Queen Margaret University with a B.Sc Honours degree in Occupational Therapy. Debbie is a former pupil of Kilniver Primary School and Oban High School.



Zoe Johnston graduated from Stirling University, achieving a First Class Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Professional Education (Primary) with specialism in Early Years. Daughter of Alison and Keith Docherty, Oban. Zoe is a former pupil of Park Primary and Oban High School.



Stefanie Anderson graduated from Queen Margaret University with a BA (Hons) in Events Management. Stef is the daughter of Seamas and Avril Anderson, Kilbride Farm. Stef is a former pupil of Easdale Primary and Oban High School.



Rowen MacAskill recently graduated from Strathclyde University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Hospitality and Tourism with First Class Honours. Rowen is the younger daughter of Susan and the late Malcolm MacAskill, Oban and granddaughter of Jean and the late Calum MacLean, Tobermory and the late Alice and James MacAskill, Oban. Rowen is a former pupil of Rockfield Primary School and Oban High School.



Iona Heather Underwood graduated from the University of Glasgow with a Bachelor of Science honours degree in Anatomy. Iona is the daughter of Tracey Black and Stuart Underwood and granddaughter of Allan and the late Helen Black and Richard and the late Chrissie Underwood. Iona is a former student of Dalmally Primary and Oban High School and is continuing her studies at St. Andrews University with a degree in Medicine.

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Saints' striker, Allan MacKay, No 9, slams a 25 yard free kick past Oban Athletic goalkeeper, Graham Douglas, to open the scoring in the Argyle and Bute Cup tournament final in Lochgilphead last Saturday. Photo: Derek Black

Two Oban teams contest final of the Argyle and Bute Cup tournament

Saints defeat Athletic in final

OBAN Saints rounded off their busy pre-season schedule in the best possible style by winning the Argyle and Bute Cup in Lochgilphead last Saturday.

In what was to prove a very good day for Oban football in general, Saints defeated the tournament's surprise package, Oban Athletic, in the final after three group section games and a semi-final.

The eight participating teams were divided into two groups of four, each playing once in matches lasting forty minutes. Group One at the Ropework Park consisted of hosts and trophy holders, Lochgilphead Red Star, Dunoon, Tarbert and a youthful St Mirren side drafted in to replace Rothesay Brandane who were unable to attend. On the all-weather surface at Lochgilphead Joint Campus, Group Two was contested by Oban Saints, Campbeltown Pupils and tournament debutants, Dunoon Athletic and Oban Athletic.

Group Stages - Saints and Dunoon Athletic got things underway in Group Two where two goals from Craig MacEwan gave the Oban side a 2-1 win over their Dunoon opponents.

The opening match in Group One saw hosts Lochgilphead Red Star lose out 2 - 1 to 2006 cup winners, Dunoon. This was quickly followed by a convincing 3 - 1 win for the youngsters of St Mirren over Tarbert who were handicapped by the tournament's only red card for a first half handball on the goal line.

Back in Group Two, Argyle and Bute Cup new boys, Oban Athletic, put in a very good performance before losing out 1 - 0 to Campbeltown Pupils.

Athletic remained on the pitch for match three where they would face Oban Saints for the very first time. With a number of former Saints players in their ranks, and managed by former Saint, Steven MacLeod, this promised to be a very interesting encounter and a mistake from Saints keeper,

Thomas McCulloch, gave Athletic's Craig Campbell the chance to send a looping header into the net to give his side a 1-0 win.

Back at the Ropework, Red Star gained their only point of the day in a 0 - 0 draw with St Mirren while Dunoon kept up their winning start defeating Tarbert 1 - 0.

The unexpected defeat against Oban Athletic and Campbeltown Pupils 1 - 0 win over Dunoon Athletic left Saints needing to



Donnie Campbell was voted Player of the Tournament

beat Pupils in their final match to maintain their chances of progressing to the knock-out stages and this they did thanks to goals from Donnie Campbell and Shaun MacIver in a close fought 2-1 win.

Oban won the battle of the Athletics 3 - 0 thanks to a hat-trick from former Saints player, Colin Tindal, seeing them safely through to the semi-finals as group winners on goal difference eliminating Campbeltown Pupils into the bargain.

In Group One, Red Star's defence of the trophy stuttered to a halt after a 3 - 0 defeat to Tarbert leaving Dunoon and St Mirren to fight it out for top spot which the young Buddies duly earned by beating the Dunoon men 2 - 0.

The third and fourth place play-offs were staged on the all-weather pitch at Lochgilphead Joint Campus where, in the first match, Tarbert and Dunoon

Football

Athletic drew 1 - 1 with the sides electing not to proceed to a penalty shoot-out. Campbeltown Pupils and Lochgilphead Red Star contested the second play off which ended goalless before Pupils eventually prevailed in the penalty shoot-out.

Semi-finals - Oban Saints faced the Paisley Saints in the first semi-final with the Oban lads coming flying out of the traps to take the lead inside sixty seconds through Allan MacKay

Oban Saints increased their lead when persistent play on the right wing from Kevin Keen won a corner which Ross Maitland placed straight onto Donald Campbell's forehead for the Saints skipper to bullet an unstoppable header into the net to make the score 2 - 0.

The Buddies were presented with an opportunity to get back into the game when they were awarded a penalty but Saints' keeper, Thomas McCulloch, made a fine save from the spot kick.

In the second semi-final, Oban Athletic recovered from a 1 - 0 half-time deficit to equalise through Kris Gillies in the second period sending the tie to a penalty shoot-out.

The format was to be three penalties each before sudden death. Dunoon scored with the first penalty before Kris Gillies levelled for Athletic. Graham Douglas saved the second Dunoon kick giving Scott Johnston the chance to put Athletic ahead which he duly completed.

The third Dunoon penalty was missed sending Oban Athletic through to the final for the second Oban derby match of the day.

The Final - Saints won the toss and elected to kick up the slope in the first half. The Athletic game plan was identical to the first match. However, by this time, their legs and minds were beginning to tire and Saints had a



Argyle and Bute Cup winners - Oban Saints Photo: Derek Black

far easier task in finding the gaps in their overworked defence.

In the sixth minute, Stephen Kelly brought down Lewis Cameron twenty five yards from goal giving Saints a free kick in a dangerous position. Allan MacKay took the kick which Graham Douglas got a hand to but couldn't keep out of the net.

Two minutes later, Saints were two in front, Graham Douglas made an excellent save from a Lewis Cameron shot turning the ball round the post for a corner. Lewis took the corner from the Saints right where Douglas made another good stop from a Donald Campbell header but was powerless to stop Myles McAuley from heading the rebound into the unguarded net.

Saints extended their lead on the quarter hour with a stunning Allan MacKay 25 yard strike from the corner of the box which flew past Graham Douglas into the postage stamp corner. Saints kicked off the second

half attacking the pavilion end and quickly put the result beyond any doubt when David McArthur picked out Donald Campbell's run into the box to allow him to lift the ball over the advancing Graham Douglas and into the net to make the score 4-0.

Referee Jimmy Litster, who together with assistants, Jim Pearson and John Scott, handled a sporting contest between the two Oban teams well, brought proceedings to an end giving Saints their eleventh Argyle and Bute Cup success.

The participating teams retired to an after tournament reception in the Stag Hotel where on the call of Red Star chairman, Dougie Moore, both Oban clubs were presented with their winners and runners-up plaques by Ronald Sinclair and John Docherty before Saints' captain, Donnie Campbell, was presented with the Argyle and Bute Cup. Donnie was also voted the Player of the Tournament.



Oban Saints' captain, Donnie Campbell, pictured after being presented with the Argyle and Bute Cup in the Stag Hotel 25_c33cup39



Oban Athletic goalkeeper, Graham Douglas, makes a great save in the semi-final penalty shoot-out against Dunoon 25_c33cup18



Host club Lochgilphead Red Star 25_c33cup01



John Docherty and Ronald Sinclair are presented to the Oban Athletic team before the final 25_c33cup20



Athletic's Scott Johnston gets a shot on target during the semi-final 25_c33cup14



Myles McAuley, No 18, heads home Saints' second goal in the final 25_c33cup23



Action from the Red Star v Campbeltown Pupils game 25_c33cup06



Dunoon Athletic and Tarbert fought out a 1-1 draw in their play-off match 25_c33cup33



Oban Saints players head out again after the half-time break during the final 25_c33cup28



Saints' striker David Beaton takes a tumble under this challenge from Athletic's Stephen Kelly during the final 25_c33cup33



Donnie Campbell, No 10, heads home Saints' second goal in the semi final win over St Mirren Photo: Derek Black

Second spot for Connel's John McPhee in Indianapolis



A delighted John McPhee celebrates his second place finish in the Red Bull Indianapolis Moto3 grand prix

'We thought let's take the gamble and go for it'

CONNEL'S John McPhee took second place in the rain-hit Red Bull Indianapolis Moto3 race to claim his first World Championship Grand Prix podium finish. The race was marked by mixed weather conditions and something of a lottery over which tyres to use. The sudden onset of rain shortly after warm-up and ahead of the Moto3 start meant a difficult decision had to be made by the RSF-backed Saxoprint-RTG rider about which set-up to best match the changing conditions. Although the track was still wet, the rain had stopped and McPhee opted to run on slick tyres, a decision which could be crucial if

the rain was finished for the race duration and the track was to dry out. He had to start the race from the pitlane - taking a ride-through penalty for the very late tyre change, while the main body of the bikes took off cautiously from the grid. In the following laps, the track did dry out and the other riders came in to change to slicks as their soft wet tyres would not last the race distance. John was soon up to 8th place, and with 19 laps to go he had moved up into 4th. With eight laps to go, the flags went out to signal more rain and John continued to ride a steady and slightly

Moto3

lonely race, and took the flag in second position - claiming a superb first World Championship Moto3GP podium through a mix of great strategy and excellent, cool-headed racing. John said: 'We weren't sure what was going to happen - whether it was going to stay wet or we'd have a dry line,' said a jubilant McPhee. 'So we thought let's take the gamble and go for it, put the slicks on and it was a really good choice. So I'm absolutely delighted with the race.'



Glencruitten

David McCuish won the Glencruitten Trophy on Saturday with a score of 62. Kevin Mackie was runner-up with a score of 64. Steven Murphy won the Chrysler Sunbeam trophy with a score of 65 - 5 = 60. Arvid Fagerqvold was runner-up with a score of 64 - 3 = 61. The Wellpark Trophy was won by Graham Whitelaw with a score of 74 - 13 = 61. John Tannahill was runner-up with a score of 82 - 18 = 64. The Captain's Scramble takes place on Saturday and on Sunday the fourth round of the Handicap championship and

Club championship takes place, with a Stableford on Tuesday 18th August.



David McCuish won the Glencruitten Trophy last weekend

Taynuilt

S & S Services sponsored Gents Open: Scratch Category - 1 David Howie, Taynuilt GC 66 (BIH); 2 Graham MacColl, Glencruitten GC 66; 3 Alan MacKie, Glencruitten GC 66. Handicap Category: 1 Mark Cringean, Taynuilt GC 61 (20);

2 Paul Armstrong, Inveraray GC 62 (14); 3 David Laurie, Taynuilt GC 63 (28). Longest drive: George J Morrison, Inveraray GC; Nearest the pin 3rd/12th: Jim Carmichael, Airdrie GC; Nearest the pin 8th/17th Andrew Diggory, Taynuilt GC.



Prizewinners at the Taynuilt Gents Open

Tobermory

THE recent Tobermory Open weekend could hardly have started in less auspicious circumstances when torrential rain and flooding delayed the start of the competition for the Macbrayne Cup (scratch) and the Willy MacAllister memorial trophy (handicap). Competitors set out late afternoon in damp conditions and the later players finished in near darkness. Saturday's overnight leader was 15 year-old Lewis Brown, whose 67 put down a marker that was to spur on some of the best scoring seen on the second day of the tournament. Lewis's lead was eroded bit by bit by 18 year-old William MacCrone, who set out seven shots adrift but, with a hole in one at the 16th, reduced the lead to 2 shots. Lewis held his nerve over the last two holes to win the Macbrayne Cup as William claimed a new

course record becoming the first player to break par on the course. Keeping things in the family, Graham Brown returned a lifetime best 67 to claim the Willy MacAllister Cup and a bottle of Whisky donated by the late Willy's Uncle Alec. Club captain, Ewan MacCrone, could take rightful pride in elder son's achievement of the course record and also his younger son Ross's second place handicap with a Sunday round of 59 Net. Results: Macbrayne Cup - (scratch) 1 Lewis Brown 134; 2 William MacCrone 136; 3 Graham Davidson 144. Willy MacAllister Cup - 1 Graham Brown 124; 2 Ross MacCrone 129; 3 Paul Brown 134. Best 18 on Sunday Lewis Wilshire net 63. Gents August Medal, 1st Ewan MacCrone 70-08-62, 2nd William MacCrone 66-04-62, 3rd Graham Davidson 72-06-66



CHAMPIONS: Picture shows L to R seated, Lewis Brown, William MacCrone and Graham Brown, with the runners-up behind them.

Rugby teams head north to take on Caithness

OBAN Lorne were without a fixture on Saturday as Caledonia Division 1 side Highland RFC called off the scheduled pre-season fixture due to a lack of playing numbers. It was disappointing for the Green Machine to miss out on some vital game time prior to the season's kick-off on September 5 at home to Isle of Arran in the BT West Regional Shield. Oban Lorne and Argyll and

Rugby

Bute RFC who are also based in Oban are both looking forward to a positive season ahead with an upturn in playing numbers since pre-season preparations began last month. This week, both teams have an away trip to Thurso to take on Caithness RFC in what will be a tough contest..



Oban Open Pairs competition sponsored by Carpet Services was held last Saturday and saw a good turnout from clubs all over Argyll with the team from Ardrihaig romping away with the trophy. Pictured from left to right are winners, Alastair Craig and George Annan from Ardrihaig and local runners-up, David and John McLaren, with Peggy MacPherson presenting the cup.

Martial Arts in Oban

Martial Arts in Oban is at an all-time high, with six or seven clubs currently running in or around the town. Instruction is available from some of the highest ranking instructors in the country and, with regular seminars available, there is not a better time to start training. Any club that is not currently, but would like to

be represented in this column, should contact Iain Rodger on iain@iku.co.uk

Mixed Martial Arts

Oban MMA are now officially affiliated with Marcos Nardini. Marcos is a Jiu Jitsu black belt from Brazil who has clubs all over Scotland and this affiliation means that students can now



grade as well as participate in the interclub events and sparring held at his various dojos through-

out the year. Marcos will be holding seminars in Oban every four weeks with the next one on Saturday, August 29, at 12 noon; this will be open to anybody. Classes on a Tuesday night will be concentrating on MMA fundamentals so are perfect for anyone wanting to start. If you are interested or want more information; contact Iain Potter on coogiepots@gmail.com

Shukokai Karate

The beginners class in Inveraray received their first grading award certificates. Most of the children have only been training for less than six months and are showing a lot of promise.

For more information on Shukokai Karate and Argyll Martial Arts; contact Kenny Gray on kenny.gray@btinternet.com

Kyokushinkai Karate

The junior class on a Thursday night in Oban is growing in size, with several new members joining over the last few months. New members are welcome up until the end of September, after which, the next intake will be in

January 2016. New beginners must beat at least eight years old.

Training is continuing as normal with Mark Welsh and Amy Campbell putting in a lot of extra hours in preparation for the British Open in October. This preparation is vital as they will be competing against some of the best fighters in the world.

Mark Welsh has been nominated for the Argyll & Bute Youth Sporting Award and has been shortlisted to the final three. The awards are to give recognition to under 25s who have excelled in their chosen sport. The award ceremony will take place in the Phoenix Cinema on 24th September. For information on the Kyokushinkai classes; contact Iain Rodger on iain@ikku.co.uk

Kick Boxing

Classes are continuing as normal, with Juniors at 6:30pm on Wednesdays and seniors at 7:30pm. Sharon Dickson's women-only class is on Sundays at 2pm.

Sharon, along with Craig MacLachlan and Colin Campbell are in training towards their 2nd dan grading test in December. This is a gruelling test of skill, strength of character, and stamina which concludes with forty continuous fights. For more details or information on the kick boxing classes; contact Willie Rodger on shihanwill@gmail.com



The children from Inveraray's Shukokai Karate club with their grading award certificates

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £750

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This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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Easy to enter

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You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mistaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your crosses must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

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Please tape your £1 coin here

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Newtonmore defeat Lochside in Sutherland Cup final

Kyles Athletic take on Newtonmore in second Camanachd Cup semi-final at Taynuilt this weekend

Camanachd Cup semi final

LOVAT progressed to the Camanachd Cup final on Saturday, with a dramatic extra-time win over Inveraray.

Lovat took the lead in just two minutes through Lewis Tawse, but Inveraray fired back two minutes from half-time to level going into the second half.

With no goals by the end of normal play, the game went into extra-time, and with no goals in the first period, looked to be heading to penalties.

However, John MacRitchie's men regained the advantage in 106 minutes through Jamie Matheson, and sealed their place in next month's final with a Kevin Bartlett goal in 115 minutes.

Lovat travel to Drumnadrochit this Saturday to face Glenurquhart in the league, with a 3pm throw-up.

INVERARAY were left with no coveted Camanachd Cup final place after a 3-1 defeat at the hands of an in-form Lovat side in the semi-final last Saturday.

The men in yellow and black arrived in Fort William minus some key players caught up in delays caused by road accidents on the A82. But they started brightly in spite of having to draft in some inexperienced cover.

The early signs were not good for Inveraray. Lewis Tawse had the north men in front just two minutes into the game after out-pacing the Aray defence.

The breakthrough came for the Argyll club just before half-time when Euan McMurdo bulleted home the equaliser.

Inveraray had much of the second half play, but to no effect as the 90 minutes ended all-square.

Aray player-manager, Gary MacPherson, had the ball in the net shortly after the re-start, only for ref, Billy Wotherspoon, to chalk it off for an earlier push on Lovat defender, Drew Howie.

Jamie Matheson, on 106 minutes, gained the advantage for Lovat with a smartly-taken goal.

Ten minutes later it was Kevin Bartlett who took advantage of tiring Inveraray legs to secure Lovat's first Camanachd final berth for 62 years.

Inveraray now have a home league tie to look forward to tomorrow, versus fellow premiership strugglers, Oban Camanachd.

Sutherland Cup Final

LOCHSIDE ROVERS suffered disappointment on Saturday, losing 5-0 in the Sutherland Cup final against Newtonmore's second team in Fort William.

Calum Stewart celebrated his 21st birthday in style, scoring all five goals for Newtonmore.

Rovers manager, Gareth Evans, said: 'In the first half we played really well, even though we went 1-0 down in three minutes, which perhaps our keeper should have done better with. Their keeper



Lovat's Ali Cruden and Ali Macdonald from Inveraray challenge for the ball during last Saturday's Camanachd Cup semi-final at An Aird. Lovat won 3-1 Photo: Neil Paterson

Shinty

had three or four really good saves too.

'They got their second on the hour mark and then another two in the next ten minutes, so by then it was over. All credit to Newtonmore, but I would say the scoreline flattered them slightly.'

'It was a good experience for the young guys though as they got that "big match" experience.'

This Saturday, Lochside take on Aberdour in league action at Ganavan, with a 1.30pm throw-up.

NEWTONMORE'S second side took home the Sutherland Cup on Saturday, beating Lochside Rovers 5-0.

It was a memorable 21st birthday for Calum Stewart, who scored all five goals for his team in the victory at the Jubilee.

Newtonmore's first team, who had no fixture as the junior side were in the final, are on cup duty themselves this weekend, as they face Kyles in the semi-final of the Camanachd Cup.

The winner of the tie will take on Lovat in the final next month, who sealed their place with a win



Lochside's Ross MacMillan tries to stop five-goal Newtonmore hit-man, Calum Stewart Photo: Kevin McGlynn

against Inveraray on Saturday in the other semi.

Saturday's match throws-up at 4pm, in Taynuilt.

Premiership

FORT WILLIAM are gearing up for a premiership derby against Lochaber this weekend.

Victor Smith's men will welcome their rivals to An Aird on Saturday and said he hopes they play better than the last time they met.

He adds: 'I hope we turn up for this one because we really didn't last time. Fort William didn't play well at all in the last derby and Lochaber played really well. Other than two cracking goals we didn't play well at all so I'll be hoping for better so we can give the crowds something to watch.'

The Fort men will be without Stevie Stewart and Ewen Campbell, who are both suspended, as well as Aaron MacPhee who is injured.



CHAMPAGNE CHARLIES: A jubilant Newtonmore squad spray the champagne after beating Lochside Rovers 5-0 in the final of the Sutherland Cup. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

LOCHABER don't have far to travel this weekend when they make the short trip from Spean Bridge to Fort William for the derby.

Ally Ferguson's men are likely to have a good crowd behind them when they play at An Aird on Saturday to balance out their rivals' home advantage.

Lochaber are three points ahead, but Fort William have two games in hand.

OBAN CAMANACHD had a free weekend with junior side, Lochside Rovers, playing in the final of the Sutherland Cup.

Ian Hay's side meet Inveraray in a crucial league match at the Winterton on Saturday.

A win would take Camanachd

the second week in a row as they have no fixture allocated for this weekend

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National Division

BALLACHULISH will play Glasgow Mid Argyll this Saturday. The club did not have a match last weekend.

Saturday's game at the Jubilee playing field will throw up at 2.30pm. Ballachulish's second team also play Glasgow Mid Argyll at the Jubilee with a 12 noon throw up.

This weekend will see KILMALLIE face their most important game of the season so far as they take on Skye to fight for the top spot.

The Caol men will travel to the island in a game that could see them knocked from first place in the league.

The rivals are neck and neck on 13 points, with Kilmallie edging ahead on goal difference, and, with both teams fighting for promotion, it will be everything to play for.

Kilmallie manager, Mark MacPherson, said: 'It's all square at the top so this is a massive game. We will have to play a lot better than we did in our last game against Caberfeidh. If we play at our full potential we have a good chance of winning but Skye are a good team, especially at home, so I know it won't be easy.'

Seb MacMillan and Mark Graham will both be missing from Saturday's squad.

SKYE CAMANACHD travelled for more than eight hours to play against Glasgow Mid Argyll last Saturday. There were road traffic accidents on the A82 and A83 through Arrochar and past Loch Lomond which led to lengthy road closures as the team made their way down.

Glasgow Mid Argyll offered Skye the chance to postpone, but the team were determined to make their way to Glasgow and pick up the two points that would put them on a par with Kilmallie at the top of the table.

The team arrived two hours late for the throw up but after a tough game, walked off the park with a 2-0 victory.

John MacLeod, Skye manager, said: 'Fair play to Mid Argyll, they gave us the opportunity to turn back and go home, but the players wanted to carry on. It was the right attitude.'

This Saturday the Skye squad will take on leaders of the league, Kilmallie, at Pairc nan Laoch in Portree at 2.30pm.

The team hopes to secure the points and goals that will knock Kilmallie off top spot.

GLENORCHY'S game with Kilmory was postponed as the Mid Argyll club could not raise a team due to the Mid Argyll show taking place last Saturday. The game will be re-scheduled for a later date. This weekend the Mart park side are at home to Bute with a 2.30pm throw up. Glenorchy's second team game away to Tayforth was also postponed. This match has been re-arranged for August 29.

OBAN CELTIC manager, Davy Hamilton, said his side will be looking to take every point they can now, as the season nears an end.

With four games to play and sitting in third place in the league, Celtic are still in the running to win the Marine Harvest South



FIVE OF THE BEST: Newtonmore's Calum Stewart celebrated his 21st birthday by scoring all five goals in the Sutherland Cup final at Ballachulish. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Division One. His side lost 3-2 to Taynuilt on Friday evening, at Ganavan, which is also the venue of his side's tie against Kyles this Saturday.

Hamilton said: 'It was the same old story on Friday, we just struggled to put the ball in the net, despite having the majority of the play, especially in the second half. We pulled it back to 3-2 and tried our best to get another one, but it just wasn't to be.'

'I think it's a problem every team has at some point, so if you get a goal-scorer you can rely on to get you one or two goals every game, you're onto a winner.'

Discussing the upcoming Kyles tie, Hamilton said: 'We're getting back to almost a full squad, injury-wise, but it's always difficult to consistently put the same team out each week because of work and other commitments - I think every team has the same problem.'

'We have to take every point we can now until the end of the season, and get back onto that winning streak.'

Saturday's game at Ganavan throws up at 12 noon.

TAYNUILT recorded a narrow 3-2 win over Oban Celtic last Friday evening at Ganavan thanks to goals from Jamie MacFarlane, David Graham and Mark Begeant. This Saturday, Taynuilt will travel to take on Inveraray at the Winterton. The game will throw up at 12 noon.

Two second-half goals from BUTE were enough to see off Aberdour last Saturday. Playing on the Fife coast, Duncan Davidson scored the opener before Neil McKirdy added the gloss a minute before full-time.

A good crowd turned up at INVERARAY'S Winterton Park last Saturday lunchtime to witness an entertaining Loch Fyne-side derby.

Visitors Strachur pressed the home defence from the start and scored the opener through Stevie Bulloch on the quarter hour

mark. Strachur continued to play well, but the Inveraray defence held out. A penalty, scored by Robert Wood after half an hour, levelled matters. Inveraray improved greatly in the second half and had a good deal of the play, but a closely-fought match ended 1-1. Aray remain top of the ten-team league with five games of the season remaining.

An improving STRACHUR side, sitting in eighth place in the league, inches ever closer to league safety after a slow start to the 2015 season. A club spokesman said: 'The boys battled well against Inveraray and I'm pleased with the attitude they have shown in recent games. If we continue with the same enthusiasm we should stay in the division, which would give us something to build on for next season.'

KILMORY'S away league game against Glenorchy was scratched after the Lochgilphead side was unable to field a team. The tie is to be re-scheduled.

SOUTH DIVISION TWO OBAN LORN had no game last Saturday. This weekend, the Oban side travel to take on Bute at the Meadows - throw up 2pm.

COL GLEN had no game last weekend. This Saturday they travel to take on Glenorchy at Mart Park with a 12 noon throw up.

NORTH DIVISION TWO GLENGARRY shinty club announced that they will host the semi-final of the Strathern Cup, the same week the team won 4-1.

The 'Garry boys took on Strathspey on Saturday and were pleased with their victory.

This Saturday, the young team will compete against Kinlochshiel and hope to beat the team that keeps on thrashing them in the run for the cup.

MARINE HARVEST PREMIERSHIP Fort William v Lochaber Lachie Wood - 3pm Glenurquhart v Lovat Graham Cameron - 3pm Inveraray v Oban Camanachd Robert Baxter - 3pm

MARINE HARVEST NATIONAL DIVISION Ballachulish v Glasgow MA Billy Wotherspoon Inverness v Beaulie Ron Kennedy - 2.30 Skye v Kilmallie Archie Ritchie

MARINE HARVEST NORTH DIVISION 1 Beaulie v Lochearron Scot McNeil Glenurquhart v Lovat John Wood - 12pm Kingussie v Strathglass Euan Pearson

MARINE HARVEST SOUTH DIVISION 1 Glenorchy v Bute David Mitchell - 2.30pm Inveraray v Taynuilt Ewen MacDonald - 12pm Lochside Rovers v Aberdour Willie MacDonald 2.30pm Oban Celtic v Kyles Athletic Alan Harrison - 12pm Strachur v Kilmory John MacGregor

MARINE HARVEST NORTH DIVISION 2 Aberdeen Uni v Boleskine Calum Girvan Lochaber v Skye Ronnie Campbell Inverness v Caberfeidh Ron Kennedy - 12pm Kilmallie v Strathspey Andy MacLean - 2.30pm

MARINE HARVEST SOUTH DIVISION 2 Ballachulish v Glasgow MA Billy Wotherspoon - 12pm Bute v Oban Lorn Jim Innes Glenorchy v Col Glen David Mitchell - 12pm

Throw ups 2pm unless stated

RESULTS Friday August 7

MARINE HARVEST SOUTH DIVISION 1 Oban Celtic 2 - 3 Taynuilt

Saturday August 8

SSE Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Semi Final Inveraray 1 v 3 Lovat

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final Newtonmore 5 - 0 Lochside

Bullough Cup Semi Final Aberdour 1 - 10 Kyles Athletic

MARINE HARVEST PREMIERSHIP Kyles Athletic 3 - 2 Kingussie

MARINE HARVEST NATIONAL DIVISION Glasgow MA 0 - 2 Skye

MARINE HARVEST NORTH DIVISION 1 Kingussie 4 - 3 Fort William Kinlochshiel P - P Lochearron Rearranged for August 22

MARINE HARVEST SOUTH DIVISION 1 Aberdour 0 - 2 Bute Inveraray 1 - 1 Strachur Glenorchy P - P Kilmory Kilmory unable to field a team, tie to be rescheduled

MARINE HARVEST NORTH DIVISION 2 Aberdeen Uni 11 - 0 Inverness Glengarry 4 - 1 Strathspey Skye 2 - 0 Kilmallie

MARINE HARVEST SOUTH DIVISION 2 Bute P - P Glasgow MA Rearranged for August 29 Tayforth P - P Glenorchy Rearranged for August 29

JIM BARR, president of the Camanachd Association, meets the Lochside players before the Sutherland Cup final Photo: Kevin McGlynn

KINLOCHSHIEL will be idle for

Oban boat lifts top trophy at West Highland Yachting Week

'It has been another very successful event with a variety of wind and weather conditions'

OBAN sailor, Steven Forteith and his team, lifted the Peter Cocks Memorial Trophy at the West Highland Yachting Week (WHYW) this year – the top prize for the best overall performance in the fleet.

Racing his father Billy's Beneteau First 31.7 in Class 3, the Joint Regatta Race Committee judged this was the most competitive class and the results proved it to be the case.

With a string of firsts and one second, Shadowfax finished the series on seven points.

A delighted Steven, a former class winner at WHYW, paid tribute to his crew. 'We have come so close in the past to winning this trophy and never quite made it, so this is absolutely fantastic. I have to thank the brilliant crew work on board the boat and the sails that just worked so well this week over a range of wind conditions.'

'It has been an excellent event and this is just the best result.'

At the prizegiving ceremony, Steven thanked the organisers of WHYW pointing up the amount of work done behind the scenes to organise the event.

Oban councillor, Elaine Robertson, presented the prizes and told competitors she had been associated with the event for around 50 years. Her uncle, who

Yachting

ran the former Commercial Hotel in Stafford Street, always took WHYW off to race his Dragon taking away a week's supply of boiled eggs and whisky...an interesting combination she said, while her aunt held the fort at the hotel.

She announced that progress was being made on the installation of a transit marina in Oban to a round of applause, recognition of the need being pointed up by all present.

Special Trophies
Bruce Douglas and crew on the J133 Spirit of Jacana lifted the MacBrayne Centenary Challenge Cup for the fastest passage from Craobh to Oban with Mike Johnston's big Freedom 35 Arran Comrades winning the Oban Bicentenary Trophy for the best corrected time in this race.

Clyde-based Craig Anderson and his Moody 336 Cool Bandit 2 took home the Angus Meldrum Trophy for the best corrected time in the Gael Force sponsored Oban to Tobermory Race. Oban boat, Hot Toddy, won the British Waterways Trophy for the best corrected time on the Thomas Tunnock Ltd passage race from Tobermory to Oban and the



Shadowfax, skippered by Oban's Steven Forteith, lifted the top prize for best overall performance at this year's West Highland Yachting Week. Photo: Ron Cowan

John G. Maxwell Trophy for the highest placed Royal Highland Yacht Club yacht in Class 8. The prestigious Family Trophy was won by the Millers on their Sigma 33 Mayrise.

It was a good week for local boats. Graham Anderson's Lucky Ned Pepper took second to Shadowfax in Class 3 and Alison Chadwick's Hot Toddy

took second overall in Class 8 in a close finish with Lucy Downie and Garth Wilson's Zebedee. Lucy has recently moved to Oban. Colin Crawford also took a third overall in Class 6 while the Campbell's Ajax was third in Class 2.

Joint Regatta Committee chairman, Andy Knox, said: 'It has been another very successful

event with a variety of wind and weather conditions. 'We couldn't race on Tuesday, but managed racing every other day, so the fleet generally had good sailing.'

'We have to thank our sponsors – Tunnock's, Argyll and Bute Council, Malin Waters and Tobermory Harbour Association as well as the support from Gael

Force Marine, Dunstaffnage Marina, Caledonian MacBrayne, Flit Self Drive and West Coast Motors. We look forward to seeing everyone back again next year.'

WHYW dates for 2016 are July 30 to August 5 2016. All results on www.whyw.co.uk www.facebook.com/WestHighlandYachtingWeek

Saints at home in first league game of the season

Football

AFTER a successful pre-season, Oban Saints get down to the business of picking up league points when they take on East Kilbride in the first league game of the SAFL season.

The match will be played at Glen 2 with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is Alan Frame.

This could prove a tricky fixture for Saints as East Kilbride lifted the Premier Division One league title last season so Saints can't afford to take the visitors lightly.

Manager, Alex Craik, should have a full squad to play for this important fixture.

Alex said: 'We've had a great pre-season, but it's now down to the nitty gritty of picking up league points.'

'I've got to pick my first squad of 16 players, which is going to be difficult as everybody has done really well in pre-season.'

'Some players will be disappointed at being left out, but as long as they continue to come to training and work hard they will be given their chance as the season goes on.'

The following Saturday the Oban side travel to Greenock to take on Inverclyde.

Well turned out shinty referees

Shinty

CAMANACHD Association referees will be turned out smart and warm thanks to the donation of weatherproof clothing by Duisky-based company, Ewan M. Bowman.

Regular sponsors of the Camanachd referees association for many years, the new equipment was presented by Ewen, Ann and Michael Bowman to CRA President, John Sloggie.



Above: Hamilton Accies, the overall winners of the tournament, celebrate as Rhys Casci, 13, from Ardrishaig, lifts the trophy. 15_t33saints01



Left: The three Oban boys who play for Dumbarton: From left to right, Lewis Campbell, 13, Lennon Campbell 13, and Cameron Hill, 13. 15_t33saints04

Hamilton Accies make it four in a row

DAVID MCPHEE
editor@obantimes.co.uk

HAMILTON ACADEMICAL retained their title at the prestigious Oban Saints under 14s youth tournament last Sunday, making it four wins in four years for the pro youth side.

Hamilton progressed through the entire round-robin-style tournament without losing a game for the second year in a row.

Joining Hamilton were hosts, Oban Saints, and their local rivals, Fort William, alongside other pro youth teams, Dumbarton, St Mirren and St Johnstone.



St Mirren's Ben Cameron, 13, was voted player of the tournament. 15_t33saints02

Hamilton coach, Paul Friar said: 'The boys were tremendous. I think a lot of that has to do with the performance environment that we have.'

'The tournament itself was fantastic and well run. The parks are excellent and the backdrops are great. The boys love coming up to Oban.'

'My only criticism would be the weather.'

Oban Saints picked up just one point from their five games, drawing their first game 0-0 with Fort William. However, they did manage to do what most teams couldn't and scored against Hamilton, who only let in two goals all tournament.

Dumbarton had three local boys in their squad, Cameron

Hill, Lennon Campbell and Lewis Campbell, with Cameron and Lennon scoring both of Dumbarton's goals against Saints in their 2-0 victory over them.

Alan Macleod, chairman of Oban Saints YFC, said: 'The tournament went really well. There was a great spirit about it and the level of football played was excellent.'

Oban Saints YFC ended the event, which took place at the Oban Lorne Rugby Club, thanking their sponsors, Oban Joinery Services and the Royal Hotel, Ian Hay and the Argyll and Bute ground staff, all the volunteers at Oban Saints YFC and the three referees - John Scott, David Dunlop and Jimmy Litster.

Results: Oban Saints 0, Fort



Action from the opening game of the tournament between Oban Saints and Fort William. The game ended in a 0-0 draw 15_t33saints06

Youth football

William 0, Hamilton 4, St Johnstone 1, St Mirren 0, Dumbarton, 0.

Oban Saints 0, Dumbarton 2, Fort William 0, St Mirren 2, Dumbarton 2, St Johnstone 0.

Oban Saints 1, Hamilton 4, Hamilton 0, St Mirren 0, St Johnstone 2, Fort William 4.

Oban Saints 0, St Mirren 3, Dumbarton 0, Fort William 1, Dumbarton 0, Hamilton 3.

St Johnstone 4, Oban Saints 0, St Mirren 3, St Johnstone 0, Fort William 0 Hamilton 3.



Rory Dowd, 13, was voted Oban Saints player of the tournament. 15_t33saints03

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WEATHER

Thursday Sunshine
Winds light south south westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 17°C.

Friday Cloudy
Winds light west south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday
Sunshine and showers on Sunday
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.

FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, August 13, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	Ardrishaig	Mallaig
Thur	05.04 3.5 11.03 1.0 17.04 3.7 23.46 1.1	-5.35	+0.25	
Fri	05.36 3.7 11.42 0.9 17.39 3.9 ** ** **	-5.30	+0.55	
Sat	00.21 1.1 06.08 3.8 12.18 0.8 18.13 4.0	-0.47	+0.16	
Sun	00.55 1.0 06.40 3.9 12.53 0.8 18.45 4.0	2.00	+5.30	
Mon	01.27 1.1 07.10 3.9 13.26 0.9 19.17 4.0	+0.30		
Tues	01.59 1.2 07.40 3.8 13.58 1.0 19.47 3.9			
Wed	02.31 1.3 08.10 3.7 14.29 1.2 20.15 3.7			

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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Entries up at the busy Sunart Show



'Weather could be a factor' as three hill walkers die in a week

AMANDA CRAWFORD
fort@obantimes.co.uk

THREE men have died in just one week on the hills of Lochaber, a record for the area in the summer months.

On the morning of Friday August 7, Lochaber mountain rescue team (LMRT) were alerted to an incident at Carn Mor Dearg Arête, Fort William.

Steven Fogg, 56, from Aboyne, had been walking with two friends when he plummeted around 400ft. He was airlifted to Belford hospital where he later died.

The following morning a search was launched by police, LMRT, and Glencoe mountain rescue team after a 60-year-old man from Berkshire failed to return from a walk in the Grey Corries on Friday evening.

The hill walker was found dead in a river around 3pm on Saturday having apparently slipped and fallen in the Coire Choimlidh area. His family have been informed.

The two make the number of fatal accidents on the hills up to three last week.

The Oban Times reported last week that the body of 60-year-old Ian Bell was recovered during a search last Monday.

Team leader, John Stevenson, responded to the call-out on Friday, but was off duty on Saturday morning.

He said: 'We have had three

in a week. Although it is not a regular occurrence, it is sad. We still have two men missing and we have put in a lot of man hours this season to look for them.

'There have been an increased number of calls from people who are in a bit of trouble. There have been a lot of sprained ankles and general slips and trips. Many people have had navigational errors. These were a big contributing factor in the winter and usually happen when the clouds are low and the weather is poor.

'It can result in people losing their way and the weather has been bad lately.'

Lochaber area inspector, Donald Campbell, has issued a statement to people in the area and to those visiting who wish to walk or climb in the hills around Fort William.

He said: 'Three fatalities in one week is unique and unfortunate, but there have been no similarities in the three cases. I think the weather could be a factor as the summer tends to be better for climbing, but we have had a poor summer this year.

'Never underestimate the task you are undertaking. Make sure you are prepared with efficient equipment and climbing wear when you are taking to the hills. They are daunting.'

LMRT has seen 93 deployments this year already, a figure that the team has never reached in the first eight months of a year.



The Grey Corries where a man slipped and died at the weekend f33greycorries01no

TIMESLINE

Young people want to stay in the Highlands

MORE young people are choosing to stay in the Highlands. A report commissioned by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) said an increasing number of former students are choosing to stay in the north as it offers them 'opportunity, quality of life and strong community links'.

Of the 4,409 people aged between 15 and 30 surveyed, 43 per cent said they were committed to staying in the Highlands and Islands long-term and 50 per cent currently living outside the region said they are interested in living here in the future.

Community spirit is a strong lure to the north, as 78 per cent of people surveyed expressed pride in their community.

According to the report, 57 per cent of people said they would be happy to attend college or university here, while 56 per cent said the region has a good 'educational offering'.

Highland youth convenor, Shaun Finlayson, said: 'It's fantastic to see that the Highlands is capable of retaining a large amount of its young people and even drawing in young people from elsewhere.'

But work to keep young people in the area is not over, said Carroll Buxton, HIE director for regional development.

She added: 'This report is very encouraging, but we need to continue to create more opportunities in both education and employment. We are working with universities to expand the provision of undergraduate courses linked to regional career opportunities in sectors such as life sciences, creative industries, energy and food and drink.'

'Developing infrastructure, transport links and access to digital technology is helping to make the region a more attractive option for young people.'

Six brave shavers raise lots of cash

HAIR is a prized possession of many women who go to great lengths to keep it looking good. But six brave Lochaber ladies gave it all up at the weekend to raise money for charities close to their hearts.

The women raised £800 at a rally in Fort William's Cameron Square at the weekend, in aid of Lochaber

food bank, Lochaber Hope and the Lindsay Jarrett foundation, as part of a wider protest against benefit cuts.

Caly Moore, 18, from Ballachulish, was the first to brave the shave at the hands of barber, Neil MacNeil, but she wasn't sad to see the hair go.

She said: 'I was a bit nervous but

it's a great opportunity to raise money so it's worth it.'

Event organiser, Marie MacPherson, said the day was a success, despite some guest speakers being unable to attend. She added: 'A lot of people turned out and, in total, around £800 was raised for local charities. Some of our guest speakers didn't make

it, including Tommy Sheridan, who couldn't get here because of a crash on the road which was a shame, but we got some local activists to speak instead.'

NERVOUS: Caly Moore from Ballachulish waits to have her head shaved by barber Neil MacNeil 16_f33shave01



GONE: Caly Moore gave up her long hair to raise money for Lochaber charities 16_f33shave02



Sadness as Morag's long life ends at the grand age of 105

ONE OF Lochaber's oldest residents, Morag Cameron, died peacefully this week aged 105.

Miss Cameron, passed away in her Roy Bridge home on Monday, less than a mile away from the Upper Inverroy croft she was born in.

The oldest twin in a family of eight, Miss Cameron lived through two World Wars and worked in Fort William's Nevis Bank hotel from the age of 14 until she returned to Roy Bridge to build the village shop with her brother, Angus Cameron, now aged 97, until her retirement aged 60.

Miss Cameron celebrated her 105th birthday on November 9 last

year, Remembrance Sunday, at home with her sister, Joan Cooper, aged 98.

The centenarian spent her retirement knitting socks and spending time with her family and previously said the secret to a long life is 'hard work, eating plenty of cheese and enjoying a dram'.

A Requiem Mass will be held for Miss Cameron this Saturday (August 15) at 12pm in St Margaret's Church, Roy Bridge. Afterwards she will be laid to rest at the village's Cille Choirill cemetery.

Morag Cameron, from Roy Bridge, who died this week.



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- VW Golf SE 1.6 tdi 63 - 5 dr h/back (red)
- VW Golf Match 1.6 tdi 12 - 5 dr h/back (blue)
- VW Tiguan Match 2.0 tdi 14 - 5 dr h/back (red)

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Dave Thompson
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and
Ian Blackford
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will be holding the following joint surgeries:

15th August
1430-1500 Mallaig Community Centre

20th August
1400-1430 Fort William Service Point
1500-1530 Caol Community Centre
1600-1630 Spean Bridge Hotel

21st August
1400-1430 Ballachulish Village Hall
1530-1600 St Mary's Church Hall, Glencoe

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FW

Local rugby player accused of assaulting nurse in pub brawl

AMANDA CRAWFORD
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A JURY has heard how a nurse had to have a metal plate fitted under his eye socket after a bar brawl broke out in a Fort William pub.

This week, local man, Conor Taylor, 20, stood before a jury in Fort William sheriff court accused of assaulting a 33-year-old psychiatric nurse, while the man was visiting Lochaber.

Taylor, of Lanark Place, Fort William, was charged with repeatedly punching him in the face causing him severe injury and impairment in the Crofter bar on High Street on February 28, 2014 at around 11pm.

On Monday and Tuesday this week, a jury heard evidence from three crown witnesses, including the complainer, and one defence witness.

The court heard that the complainer and three friends had arrived in Fort William on Friday, February 28, to begin a social weekend of 'pub and pool'.

After arriving at around 1pm the foursome checked into a hotel and headed out on a 'low key' afternoon in the pubs.

Around 11pm, three of the friends headed to the pub where the alleged incident took place soon after. The jury heard that Taylor had approached two of the party and repeatedly asked one of the alleged victim's friends: 'What are you looking at?'

The court heard that a fight broke out between the complainer and the accused, after the complainer pushed Taylor. The grapple led to Taylor being ejected from the pub.

It was what occurred after the initial confrontation that led to the nurse's face being punched and left him suffering from a broken cheekbone, it was alleged.

The jury heard that moments after the initial brawl, the complainer thought Taylor had cornered his friend in the toilet and went over to make sure he was okay. This is when Taylor is alleged to have punched the complainer, breaking his cheekbone, which caused him to lose feeling in the left side of his face for three months and have a metal plate fitted.

But a series of inconsistencies in evidence given by two witnesses, led defence solicitor Gerard Sweeney to question whether his client had been 'sandwiched' by the two gentlemen and provoked by the complainer punching Taylor on the back on the head.

The only defence witness in the case was a friend of Taylor's, who had been out on the same evening, but with a separate group.

He supported Mr Sweeney's explanation and said he saw the complainer follow Taylor into the toilet and punch him on the back of the head as he stood facing away from the complainer.

Taylor, apprentice welder and rugby player denies the charge and lodged a special plea of self-defence ahead of his trial.

On Tuesday evening, all evidence in the case had been heard and the trial was due to continue on Wednesday afternoon. A verdict was due to be heard as the *Oban Times* went to press.

Police plea over injured woman



POLICE in Fort William are appealing for witnesses after a woman was found with serious injuries yesterday morning (Wednesday). The 27-year-old woman was discovered in the early hours down an embankment near steps between Fassifern road and Union road and was taken to the Belford hospital for treatment. She is of slim build and was wearing a black hooded top and blue jeans. A police spokesman said: 'If anyone was in the area between 11pm on Tuesday night (August 11) and 6am the next morning, or may have any information about the incident, they are urged to contact police on 101.'

16_f33hub01

TIMESLINE

Damage to cars and properties

POLICE are appealing for information from the public after a number of vehicles and properties were damaged.

Between 3.30pm on Sunday August 2 and 9.55am the following day, a vehicle parked in the layby on the A82 at Letterfinlay Straights had its rear doors tampered with.

An Audi A6 was damaged while parked on Fassifern road, Fort William, between 6pm on Thursday August 6 and 5.15am the following morning.

A red Audi Quattro was taken from the Railway club car park, Inverlochy, between 12.30 am and 8.05am and was later found at Claggan park.

The door of the old post office in Glen Etive was damaged between lunchtime on Wednesday August 5 and 3pm on Sunday August 9.

Between 5pm on Wednesday July 29 and 7pm on Monday August 3, a window frame of a house on old Banavie road was damaged.

Police are appealing for anyone who has information, or witnessed anyone acting suspiciously in these areas, to come forward by calling 101.

Information can also be given anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800555111 or going online at crimestoppers-uk.org.

Help to clean-up mountain plea

CLIMBERS, outdoor enthusiasts and engineers are being sought for a major mountain clean-up on Rannoch Moor.

Old fencing, rusting steel and cables are to be removed from Meall a' Bhruiridh this weekend and organisers, Glencoe mountain resort, are looking for as many people to help as possible on both Saturday and Sunday.

Anyone fit enough to walk up and down the steep slopes can volunteer, but engineers are required to cut large pieces of cable and experienced climbers can help by accessing the steep ravines and gullies.

The junk will be collected in helicopter bags to be airlifted from the mountain later in the week. All volunteers will meet at the mountain resort's base cafe at 9am on both days to be sorted into teams. For more information contact Andy Meldrum on 07977553901.

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Big-hearted donors stock uniform bank

KIND-HEARTED Lochaber women have come together in an effort to provide school uniforms to children in need.

In just four days trousers, shirts, shoes and jackets have been collected by Lochaber Women for Independence for what they have dubbed the 'back to school bank'.

The clothes will be donated to Lochaber Women's Aid then sent on to those in need. In what started as a last

minute collection, the ladies are now considering making the collection year-round.

Donna Darnbrough, one of the organisers, said: 'We only started the collection at the weekend so it's gone really well to get as much as we have. Everyone's feeling the pinch just now, so it's nice that people are still thinking of others and donating rather than selling.'

Another volunteer, Carol

Anne Campbell, added: 'We've got about 30 items of clothing already, but the schools go back on Tuesday so there's not much time left.'

'We've also had some donations so if there's anything needed that we don't have we can buy it.'

Donations of school uniform, lunch boxes, bags and stationery in good condition can be donated to Loco Motif body art in Coil.



Carol Anne Campbell, left, and Donna Darnbrough, have collected school uniforms to be donated to Lochaber Women's Aid 16_f33schoo01

'Incredible' help for youngsters

PARENTS of 'difficult' pre-school children in Lochaber have been invited to a support programme by Highland council and NHS Highland.

The 'incredible years' project aims to help parents of youngsters aged between three and five who are more demanding than others, with the support of trained staff.

Topics in the programme, to be held in Fort William from September, include setting limits, reducing conflict and improving social skills.

Alan Richards, Highland psychology of parenting project co-ordinator, said: 'For the parents who qualify this is important because they will receive support to attend, for example with child care, and there is a proven benefit arising out of getting involved with these groups when children are young and before they start school. Reaching the parents of three to five year-old children is important because it is at this young age when children can be supported effectively to grow and be successful.'

For more information contact the health team on 01397 709859 or Mr Richards on 01463 711176.

Expert's talk at Gaelic College

A LANGUAGE expert will be giving a talk at Skye's Gaelic College today (Thursday). Dr Thomas Bak, who specialises in the effect of bilingualism on the brain, will be at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) from 1pm. He will also speak on the impact bilingualism has on Alzheimer's disease.



LOCHABER schools pipe band joined hundreds from all over the world in a march down Edinburgh's historic Royal Mile at the weekend. A group of 17 travelled to the capital on Sunday for the Marie Curie Cancer Care fundraiser, held only once every five years, and donated £250 to the charity

f33band10

Taxis for Highlanders could cost more after fare tariff rise agreed

TAXI drivers in the Highlands will be able to charge more for journeys from next month, following a council decision made on Tuesday.

Under the new tariffs, customers can now be charged £3 for the first 785 yards, up 50p on the current cost, and 10p for every additional 130 yards, bringing a one-mile journey from £3.30 to £3.90.

The higher fare, charged on weekends and after 9pm on week nights, will now cost £3.30 for the first 560 yards and 10p for every additional 92 yards.

Despite controversy from the public about the raise, members of Highland council's licensing committee agreed the decision at its meeting on Tuesday, and increased the planned rise even further, from 20p to 50p.

Councillor Maxine Smith warned fellow members if the tariff didn't go up taxi companies could go out of business due to increasing wages and costs.

She said: 'If we don't put this up by a substantial amount we are going to lose taxi businesses.'

This is the maximum tariff set by the council. Taxi companies can choose whether to implement the rise.

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Nurses cracking under the strain, says ex-surgeon

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

AN SURGE in patients requiring treatment during the summer has placed an unbearable workload on nurses at an Oban hospital.

That's the view of former hospital consultant, Brian MacKay, who said he was 'horrified' watching over-stretched nurses trying in vain to cope with their workload recently.

Mr MacKay had taken his 86-year-old father, who lives in the Oban area, to the out-of-hours service at the Lorn and Islands district hospital where he had to wait for 12 hours before a nurse could treat his elderly parent.

The retired surgeon said: 'I was horrified to see staff who were overworked and unable to help those in need.'

'While I understand my dad was not a priority - I was shocked

to see just how busy the hospital was. My father didn't have anything seriously wrong with him - thank goodness. But getting access to NHS 24 and then through the out-of-hours service took too long.

'Staff are very clearly over-stretched and unless something is done, it will remain difficult for them to get through their caseload.'

'We met people who had to make their own way to the hospital and then were being sent to Paisley, instead of receiving treatment here in Oban.'

His comments were endorsed by patients who say staff are working long hours and seem to be 'rushed off their feet'.

Briony Miller, who was visiting her parents in Oban, agreed with Brian MacKay: 'My eight-year-old son fell and broke his arm. We rushed him to Oban hospital.'

'But instead of him being treated there, he was taken to Paisley.

'We had to wait for hours to be seen, despite us phoning ahead. We also had to drive there ourselves.'

'While I appreciate there are various problems in getting staff, surely someone has noticed that the excellent staff at the hospital are overworked more in the summer. Children have a right to be treated nearest to their families.'

A nurse, who did not want to be named, said: 'Over the last few years, the hospital has seen fewer and fewer services delivered in Oban. Part of the problem is staff, another is the lack of specialists, but mostly, it seems to me, that it is keeping costs down at all costs.'

However, a spokesman for NHS Highland denied there had been a spike in the number of summer patients to be treated: 'There has been no significant increase in demand compared to the same period last year and therefore any suggestion that we are hav-

ing to transfer patients to other hospitals due to demand is not only wrong, but also potentially damaging to the confidence our communities may have in the services provided locally and it could also potentially undermine the morale of our hard-working staff.'

'The hospital is a busy environment due to the wide range of services that we provide locally and this is to be welcomed. We do ensure, however, that we have sufficient staff on duty to meet the needs of our patients.'

'However, we always welcome feedback on our services and if any individual does have any concerns, then we would ask them to contact us so that we can investigate those concerns.'

But Oban community council chairwoman, Marri Malloy, claimed the hospital was becoming 'an office block' with so many patients being referred elsewhere for treatment.

Headliners

Fiona's high wire act



LIVING THE HIGH LIFE: Charity fundraiser Fiona pushes cash total to over £4000 for Yazidi appeal. See page nine

Oban's high achievers



PASS MARKS: Two Oban high school pupils set a higher standard. See page five

TIMESLINE

Five cars in crash near to cemetery

FIVE cars were involved in two separate traffic accidents on Monday on the A85 near Pennyfuir Cemetery.

First there was a three-car collision, with one of the cars left at the side of the road, with a bashed-up bumper, awaiting assistance.

Following this, in the queue of traffic, a car rammed in to the back of another.

There were no major injuries, but police are urging people to drive with caution in slippery conditions.

Mull councillor on ferry tender panel

THE committee that will oversee the west coast ferry tender has appointed Mull councillor, Mary-Jean Devon, to its panel.

The Scottish government's Independent Scrutiny panel, which will decide the outcome of the ferry tender, is due to meet between September and December.

Independent MSP back left project

INDEPENDENT Highlands and Islands MSP, Jean Urquhart, has backed the Scottish Left Project, a pro-independence group endeavouring to build an electoral alternative in Scotland.

Urquhart was a member of the SNP, but resigned over the party's stance on Nato.

Movie star Kristin on an islands tour

BAFTA-winning actress, Kristin Scott Thomas, was spotted on Mull, Iona and Staffa on Tuesday. Thomas, who was Oscar nominated in 1996, was thought to be on a 'three island' tour.

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Spaceport a major boost to Argyll

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

ARGYLL and Bute will be 'transformed' if a bid to build the UK's first spaceport at Machrihanish is successful, according to the council's leader.

Dick Walsh made the comment during a visit to the former Ministry of Defence site in Kintyre on Monday, where it was announced the council has entered into a partnership with Machrihanish Airbase Community Company (MACC) for the next stage of

bidding. The newly-formed consortium is to be led by MACC subsidiary company, Discover Space UK.

Councillor Walsh said: 'We are delighted to be a part of the Discover Space UK consortium.'

'As the only shortlisted site to exceed the criteria for runway length and located away from densely populated areas, Machrihanish has a strong case.'

'With potential for up to 5,000 jobs and multi-billion pound investment in vital infrastructure, this could be truly trans-

formational for the area.' The spaceport is intended to be used to launch both human-carrying flights and commercial satellite missions.

Chairman of MACC and Discover Space UK director, Tom Millar, said: 'We are delighted to be working with Argyll and Bute council. The launch campaign really put Discover Space UK on the map and positioned Machrihanish as a serious contender in this process.'

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) welcomed the

news of the consortium and will continue to support the bid as it moves into the next phase.

Machrihanish is one of five potential sites expected to receive an invitation to tender from the UK government later this year.

It is hoped that spaceports will become hubs for commercial flights into space, as well as super-fast, round-the-world flights.

Companies involved in developing such technology hope that space planes will eventually be able to fly from the UK to Australia in just two hours.



Money Matters with Iain Cairns

Helping you get to grips with auto-enrolment

Workplace pensions are undergoing a revolution. Automatic enrolment has not only changed the UK pensions landscape, it has also placed new obligations on employers. If you run a company with one or more employees, auto-enrolment will affect you and you should be aware of these changes. So what do you need to do?

Under the new legislation, every employee will be entitled to save into a qualifying workplace pension. As their employer, you will be responsible for organising a suitable scheme that meets certain key criteria.

It is important to allow plenty of time to prepare for auto-enrolment. The Pensions Regulator suggests employers allow at least 12 months be-

fore their "staging date". You can find out your company's staging date by entering your PAYE reference into the staging date tool on the Pensions Regulator's website at <http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/>.

Auto-enrolment presents new challenges for British companies. You need to make the right decisions, not only for your employees, but also for your business. Argyll Financial Services can help you to understand your company's move to auto-enrolment, ensuring a smooth transition and a positive outcome for you and your employees.

If you have any questions on auto-enrolment or would like to know more about how we can assist you and your employees, please do get in touch.

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE ROCKFIELD Centre in Oban is now sitting pretty after receiving benches and tables for a picnic area.

Fusion Marine, based at Barcaldine, supplied the garden furniture and generously donated one of the benches to Oban Communities Trust, the organisation that owns the former primary school building.

Caroline Boswell, who is leading the grounds group for the centre, said: 'We are very grateful to Fusion Marine for this donation and already the benches and tables are enjoying good use, when the weather is clement.'

'Being made of recycled plastic, they will not be as affected by the weather and we hope they will be in use for many years by both visitors and the local community.'

Funding for the benches was part of the grant award from the Holyrood-sponsored project, Stalled Spaces, and Argyll and Bute Community Partnership's



Sean Gordon and Michael Cameron of Fusion Marine deliver the picnic tables and benches as Caroline Boswell looks on

Health and Wellbeing Fund. Fusion Marine is one of leading suppliers of fish farming equipment and, in recent years, has diversified its range of operations which include bespoke outdoor solutions for the leisure industry including garden furniture.

Alan Forsyth of Fusion Marine said: 'We are delighted to be able to help Oban Communities Trust and The Rockfield Centre and hope the picnic bench will be well used by everyone.'

Meanwhile, good progress is being made clearing the grounds at the centre, with a work party hard at it every Thursday evening at 6pm. Volunteers are always welcome.

Anyone wishing to be involved in the grounds and garden project, either at the ideas or development stage, should email membership@obancommunitrust.org.uk

Shot in the arm as golfers drive funds for Dalmally charity

OBAN Rotary Club has just swung into action for a very worthy cause.

The club has given Mary's Meals the proceeds from the raffle at its popular annual charity fundraiser, the AM-AM golf tournament.

Representatives from the world-renowned Dalmally-based charity, Mary's Meals, received a cheque for £549 from the rotarians.

The AM-AM tournament was played at Oban's Glencluiten golf club in June and is now in its 30th year.

The tournament has raised approximately £145,000 for charity over the past 30 years.

Pictured from left to right are Ken Moncrieff, the Rotary club president, Christina Lisiter and Marie Rowan from Mary's Meals and Iain MacIntyre, the Am-Am convener.

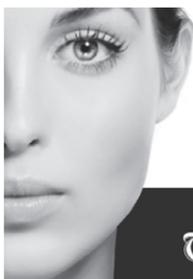


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Fiona aims high as she raises £4,220 for Yazidi appeal

AN ARDCHATTAN woman and 15 of her friends embarked on a heart-stopping 500-metre climb last Friday to raise money for the persecuted Yazidi refugees in the Middle East, writes David McPhee.

Fiona Bennett and friends climbed the Via Ferrata, a mountain route equipped with fixed points, at Vertical Descents in Kinlochleven. Mother of two Fiona, a former psychiatric nurse, said: 'It was an incredible experience and the staff, Ben and Mikey, were excellent.' The climb raised £4,220. Anyone who would like to help or find out more, should visit 'www.gofundme.com' and search 'Yazidi Appeal'.



(Pictured above) Fiona (fifth from right) with her friends. (Right) Heddy Forrest and her son Chris, 11, get to grips with the climb



TRIBUTES POUR IN FOR GIFTED OBAN GRADUATE WHO OVERCAME ADVERSITY WITH A SENSE OF HUMOUR

Town mourns loss of 'inspirational' man

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A GIFTED Oban scholar who was described by his former headteacher as 'inspirational' died after falling ill at his student accommodation in Cupar, near St Andrews.

Rian MacAllister, 21, from Oban, had just completed a degree in Mediaeval History and Middle East studies.

And he graduated with honours from St Andrews university in June.

He overcame optic nerve hypoplasia, a severe sight impairment, to embark upon a highly successful academic career.

His cousin, Rachel, wrote on his Facebook page: 'Absolutely heartbroken. R.I.P to the most

intelligent man I've ever known, my beautiful little cousin Rian, just remembering the times we used to wrestle and pretend we were Lord of the Rings characters.

'Or when I was wee and was asked what I'd do if I won the lottery and I said I'd get Rian new eyes.

'Just shows how much I adored you and will do always ... Even though I'm older I always looked up to you ... such a caring, honest and smart guy and it's not fair that this happened to you.'

A pupil of Park primary school in Oban, Rian lived in the Longdale district of the town.

At Oban high school, he was a popular young student and a friend to all.

A pupil with a passion for pol-



TALENTED: Rian MacAllister

itics, he took those who needed support and guidance under his wing.

Headteacher at Oban high, Peter Bain, paid a moving tribute to his former pupil.

He said: 'It is with great sadness

“ He was truly inspirational. He will be sadly missed ”

Peter Bain
Oban high school

other youngsters in the school to follow his example. He was truly inspirational. He will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with his family.'

A spokesman for St Andrews university said: 'Rian was an exceptionally bright and committed young man.

'We're extremely saddened by this news.

'It came as an enormous shock to some of the staff Rian who worked with when he studied here and it will be devastating to many of the friends he made at university.

'Our thoughts are with his family at this very difficult time.'

Rian, a member of the Scottish Youth Parliament, was nominated for a Young Scot Award by the former First Minister of

Scotland, Jack McConnell, in 2006. Showing off his sense of humour, Rian said: 'I want to be an author, but if that doesn't work out I'll go into politics - so watch out Tony Blair.'

In 2011, Highlands and Islands MSP Mike MacKenzie invited Rian to be his local hero during the procession down Edinburgh's Royal Mile before the formal opening of the Scottish parliament.

Rian championed the use of technology to overcome disability and was a guest speaker at the Assistive Technology Advisers Network annual conference in 2013, when he talked about his experiences as an undergraduate.

Rian is survived by his parents, Scott and Karen, and his older sister, Rowan.

New chapter in cancer support for Oban

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

A WEEKLY service is to be set up by MacMillan Cancer Support for people in Oban who are affected by the disease.

The charity is to hold confidential, non-clinical drop-in sessions on Wednesdays from November this year at Oban library.

Users of the library were asked on August 5 what kind of seating, furnishings and lighting they would like to see in the area as part of a public consultation exercise.

Deirdre Henderson, service manager with the charity in Argyll and Bute, explained: 'We get a lot of people using the service, from holidaymakers, families of people getting treatment, and others looking for general information.

'We provide emotional support and information about the conditions.

'Our work here is about getting good quality information to people, rather than them going online and reading horror stories about cancer.

'We are asking people what the service here should do, and what we can provide within our budget, hence the public consultation.

'We'll use the money available so people feel comfortable, but will also bear in mind the area is used the rest of the time by other library users.'

Sue Nicholson, who is library supervisor, said: 'It's a nice light area, with artwork by local artist, Anna Twigg.

'It's a popular part of the library for people as it's quiet and has WiFi, so people feel comfortable here.'



NOVEL IDEA: Library supervisor Sue Nicholson, left, with Deirdre Henderson of MacMillan Cancer Support

Deirdre added that while the open area will put many people wanting to chat at ease, a reading room in the library is always available for those wanting a private, one-to-one discussion.

Anyone who needs further information, support, or would like to volunteer with MacMillan Cancer Support in Argyll and Bute, is asked to telephone 01586 555 932 or email: macmillan@argyll-bute.gov.uk

The facts about epilepsy

EPILEPSY Scotland wants to talk to people about the illness at a question and answer session.

Workers from the charity will be at the North Argyll Carers centre in Albany Street, Oban, on Tuesday August, 18, from 1pm to 4.30pm. Epilepsy Scotland's staff will be there to answer questions and give out useful factsheets at the free event.

Meanwhile, at the Kilmore and Oban Church in Glencruitten Road, local health, social work,

teaching and voluntary sector workers can enjoy free epilepsy awareness training sessions. The certified CPD course will run between 1pm and 4pm.

The second session looks at the impact of sleep deprivation on mental health and learning for teenagers and is on from 5pm until 7.30pm.

To attend the awareness training or evening seminar call 0141 427 4911 or email IStewart@epilepsyscotland.org.uk

Abbey sleepwalks to 21st century

A MAJOR refurbishment of Iona Abbey will see the 'mediaeval' accommodation updated to meet the needs of 21st century demands.

Design papers are due to be lodged with Argyll and Bute council's planning department where it will consider the various changes required.

At one time known for its bunk beds and no unmarried couple's policy, Iona Abbey rooms are managed by the Christian organisation, The Iona Community.

Former Iona Community guests described how a double bed was once given to

two bishops by mistake. However by giving this to two men it did not contravene the unmarried rules.

A pipe bed was also used where one quarter of the bed was given over to a heated water pipe surrounded by lagging so as not to burn the pilgrims.

However, the company charged with overseeing the project, Roots Design Workshop Architects described the accommodation as looking 'tired and showing signs of age'. The plans include a new accessible entrance, a sculpture, and reorganisation of bedrooms and facilities.

Area set to lose out in ward shake-up

OBAN will lose a councillor in 2017 if planned Scottish government changes to ward boundaries go ahead, writes Steven Rae.

The proposed restructuring, part of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's electoral review, takes place every five years.

The Oban Lorn and the Isles (OLI) area is currently split into two wards - Oban South and the Isles and Oban North and Lorn, both of which have four councillors.

Oban North and Lorn will be reduced to three elected members if the changes are ratified, with a large part of the north east of the ward to become part of the Mid-Argyll ward.

Under the new proposals, Dalmally's sphere of influence would transfer from Oban to Lochgilphead. When the changes were announced in June, Argyll and Bute council said it was opposed in principle to the plan.

The public consultation stage started on July 30, and

will run until October 22 this year. Duncan MacIntyre was first elected as a councillor to the area in 1999. He said: 'I am totally against the current proposals, both technically and from community perspective. The proposal for a reduction from four to three members for Oban North and Lorn with the re-alignment and reduction of this geographic area misses the point with regard to population and economic growth.'

'Scottish government funding (TIF) for development is mainly on the North side of Oban, and requires maximum support and representation. 'The Boundary Commission has had discussions with the council and has not accepted the council's counter-proposals and appeals for the preservation of natural communities, together with the remote and rural and island nature of the local authority area.'

'The carve-up of natural communities in essentially the same geographic area and a

reduction to three members is hardly proactive and is too focussed on a one-size agenda.'

Iain Stewart MacLean, is the shortest-serving councillor in the ward, having been elected in last October's by-election.

He said: 'This is not a good thing for Oban North and Lorn. The OLI area will see a weakening of the OLI committee, which inevitably lessens influence.'

'The over-riding principle in reviewing boundary changes is population numbers coupled with an increased councillor workload in areas of deprivation.'

'This approach of 'one size fits all' ignores two problems in geographically spread, rural communities, travel distances and different needs for sparser populations which can be equally time-demanding.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson, who was elected in 2003, said: 'I have grave concerns these proposed boundary changes will have on our established area and the local links of the communities within it.

'Oban is the natural hub in North Lorn, for administration, local council services, and larger social activities and gatherings.'

'Furthermore, I do not feel the geographical spread of the proposed new boundaries has been fully considered. It is a long way from Lochgilphead to Glen Orchy.'

'I understand that these changes have been brought forward as it was felt that more councillors were required to meet the needs of communities in deprived areas and to achieve this, the commission has reduced councillors in some authorities.'

Councillor Robertson continued: 'When I was elected in 2003, there was one councillor per ward. North Lorn included Lismore, Appin, Ardchattan, Connel and part of Taynuilt. Following the review prior to the 2007 elections, the ward was increased and became a four member ward.'

'Ward 5 included all of the North Lorn ward plus the north area of Oban, Ganavan, Dunbeg, all of Taynuilt, Avich and Kilchrenan, Glenorchy and Innishail to the east and Kilmore, Kilniver and Kilmelford, Seil and Easdale, and Luig to the south. 'In my opinion, the loss of a councillor in Oban Lorn and the Isles, may well reduce this area's influence within the council. It will affect working patterns, and the time available to attend to local matters. 'My concerns are about the impact the changes will have on the present communities within the ward. This consultation needs to be made as public as possible to give everyone the opportunity to respond. I emphasise these are my personal views, and not attributable to the council.'

Comments on the proposals can be submitted through the commission's consultation portal website at: www.consultation.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk, by email to lgbc@scottishboundaries.gov.uk, or in writing to Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5HD.

TIMESLINE

Search of lochside for missing man

POLICE Scotland are searching for a 66-year-old man who went missing after leaving a pub near Loch Lomond at the weekend.

Joe Brown had been camping and fishing in Pilot Bay, on the east side of the loch.

He was last seen leaving the Oak Tree Pub in Balmaha at around 10:30pm on Friday, August 7.

At around 11am on Saturday, a fisherman found his boat beached on rocks in Pilot Bay, north of Ross Point, with no-one inside.

He is described as 6ft tall, and was last seen wearing a beige-coloured fishing jacket, a blue shirt and a green jumper.

Anyone with any information should call Police Scotland on 101.

Snapper was too close to bird nest

ANEAGLE'S nest disturbed by a photographer at 3.30pm on Tuesday, August 5 is the subject of a police investigation.

The nest, which is located at Killecronan at Aros, is home to a family of white-tailed sea eagles which are protected under law.

Witnesses said the photographer was very close to the birds and caused one of the eagles to fly away from its nest.

Police have launched an enquiry to find the man and are following a positive line of enquiry.

They reiterated that anyone who is seen disturbing sea eagles or walking close to nest sites should be reported to officers on 101.

Quick thief strikes during marathon

AN Apple Mac laptop computer was stolen within ten minutes on Mull.

The fast-acting, opportunistic thief stole the £800 piece of equipment from an unlocked car in Salen on Sunday between 4pm and 4.10pm during the island's annual half marathon race.

Anyone who has information about the crime, should report it as soon as possible to PC Sharon Carr on 101.

Stopped by police as he hit 88mph

A VEHICLE travelling at 88mph in a 60mph zone was stopped by police on Sunday near to Tyndrum.

A 52-year-old man from the Oban area has subsequently been reported to the procurator fiscal.

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Weakened Fort William squad lose out to Inverurie Locos



Fort William's John McLeod storms ahead of Locos' Greg Mitchell 16. f33football1

'We knew it would be difficult, we had 14 players missing'

Fort William	0
Inverurie Loco Works	4
Highland League	

WITH fourteen Fort William men missing, manager, Ally Ewen, sent out a young squad of new players to take on Inverurie Locos on Saturday.

The Claggan side held their own in the first half and were just 1-0 down when the whistle blew, but Locos dominated in the second half and the Fort were 3-0 down an hour into the game before a controversial goal, dubbed a foul by Ewen, gave the visitors the fourth goal and the points.

Ewen said: 'We knew it would be difficult as we had 14 players missing between work, holidays and family bereavement. We were still looking for a keeper on the

morning of the game. It was a big ask for the young boys I put out there, but having said that, they did really well compared to last week's performance, particularly in the first half.

'The ball slipped right through the keeper's hands in the first goal and I couldn't really complain about the second and third, but I think the fourth should have been a foul. The referee wasn't giving us anything though, so all we could do was bite the bullet and get on with it.'

Despite the unflattering score, Ewen said there were positives to take from the game: 'David Moffat's performance really stood out for me on Saturday. I'd call that his best performance in a Fort shirt. Stefan MacRitchie played really well too. That was

Football

his first game back after a long injury and he did really well.'

This weekend, the Fort travel north to play Wick Academy, who finished fourth in the league last season.

Ewen thinks Wick will be out for revenge after an unexpected 3-2 victory for Fort William the last time the teams met in March.

He said: 'This is going to be another hard game and I definitely think they'll be after some kind of retribution after the last time. I already know I'll be missing Darren Quigg [vice captain] and Iain Foggo but we'll give them a game and have a good go at them.'

Fort William's next home game is against Deveronvale on Saturday August 22.

Lochaber runners come out on top in Two Inns race

Athletics



Lochaber athletic club runner, Jon Gay, powers through the Two Inns race on Saturday

THREE Lochaber athletic club runners came out on top in a race against experienced runners from all over Scotland.

Andrew Barrington was Lochaber's first member to cross the finish line of the Two Inns Scottish championship and was 10th overall in the competition on Saturday.

Jon Gay crossed in 12th place making him the second local to finish and Stuart Crutchfield finished 26th overall making him the third local.

Lochaber members were met with competition from Glasgow, Fife and Argyll and experienced good conditions in Glencoe.

A Lochaber athletic club coach said: 'Well done to all who took part in the Two Inns race. A big thanks to all organisers and helpers, Glencoe and Oban mountain rescue teams and a big thank you to Glencoe visitor centre for use of the car park.'

On the same day, some other members of the club took part in the Craig Dubh hill race 2015 when Amanda Blackhall was commended for crossing the finishing line first in the veteran over 40 female category and second female overall. Steven Burns, 17, finished second in the 800m race.

West Ardnamurchan regatta was not for the faint-hearted

COMPETITORS in the annual West Ardnamurchan regatta had choppy waters to contend with as they battled with a strong wind last week.

The 32nd contest in the most westerly area of Britain saw the yachtsmen sail with discipline and concentration, but it was not enough for the crew of Wayfarer, which was swamped and forced to retire during the Challenge Cup on Friday morning. Geoffrey Campbell swept up the yachting prizes for his skill on board the Laser 2000.

On Friday afternoon, rowers and kayakers took on the breezy course and Caitlin MacDonald picked up three prizes for rowing, while Lachlan Peterson and Sarah Cameron-Sutcliffe were crowned winners of the junior section.

The 'Old Drippy' crew took home the raft race prize and also won second place for best-dressed raft.

The most hotly-contested event was the powerboat race, won by Steve White in his rib, while Bert Cameron took the prize in the solid hull section.

Regatta chairman, Alastair MacColl, said: 'This is Great Britain's most westerly regatta, and it isn't one for the faint-hearted. We've seen worse conditions as we had to cancel the event in 2013, but it's good to see competitors having to contend with the sea conditions.'

'In the old days, local crofters and fishermen, who earned a hard living from the sea, used to take a day out to pit their rowing and sailing skills against each other.'

Proceeds from the regatta will be split between the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Red Cross and West Ardnamurchan Jetty Association.

Results: Yachts: Ellan Vannin Handicap for Ormsaigbeg Cup and Mugs: Geoffrey Campbell.

Drascombes: Day 1 New Zealand Cup - David Syme. Day 2 Glashven Cup - David Syme.

Other Yachts: Day 1 Portuairk Quai - Geoffrey Campbell. Day 2 Challenge Cup - Geoffrey Campbell.

Outstanding Contribution to the Regatta: David Syme. Inshore

Sailing

Races - Rowing: Boys Singles - Lachlan Peterson. Ladies Singles - Caitlin Macdonald. Girls Singles - Sarah Cameron-Sutcliffe. Mens Singles - Alasdair MacLachlan. Boys Doubles - Alasdair and Lachlan Peterson. Girls Doubles - Iona Peterson and Sarah Cameron-Sutcliffe. Ladies Doubles - Caitlin and Catriona Macdonald. Mens Doubles - Neil Macdonald and Phil Shaw. Over 50s - Neil Macdonald. Senior Mixed Doubles - Caitlin Macdonald and George Shaw. Junior Mixed Doubles - Iona and Alasdair Peterson. Canoes: Boys Singles - Lachlan Peterson. Girls Singles - Sarah Cameron-Sutcliffe. Ladies Singles - Rachael Haylett. Mens Singles - Rory Campbell. Boys Doubles - Lachlan and Alasdair Peterson. Girls Doubles - Sarah Cameron-Sutcliffe and Iona Peterson. Junior Mixed Doubles - Morag and Lachlan Peterson. Mens Doubles - Connor Campbell and Jack Carlisle. Ladies Doubles - Rachael Haylett and Peggy-May Chapple. R a f t Race: Position - Old Drippy. Best-dressed Raft - Riptide. Outboards: 3-6 hp - Chris Gane. 6-10 hp - Nan MacLachlan. RIBs - Steve and Ben White. Solid Hull- Bert Cameron. Other Awards: Youngest Competitor - Finlay Peterson. Best Boy - Lachlan Peterson. Best Girl - Sarah Cameron-Sutcliffe. Best Juvenile Canoeist - Lachlan Peterson.



The yachts set off at the West Ardnamurchan regatta



Stephen Dent from Onich won the under 16s category of the Errigal international youth cycling tour in Ireland

Onich brothers on the podium in Errigal youth tour event

TWO brothers put Lochaber on the map when they won podium places at an international youth cycling competition in Ireland.

Onich siblings, Stephen and Alex Dent, travelled to Donegal last weekend for the Errigal international youth tour and the long trip proved worthwhile for the Nevis cycles team as 16-year-old Stephen won the under 16s event and 14-year-old

Cycling

Alex took second place in the under 14s category.

Next up for the Dent boys is the British series road race in Scarborough on August 23, before Stephen represents Scotland at the Sainsbury's school games in Manchester next month.



Dougie Milne, front left, and Jessie Watt, front right, both of Grantown on Spey, picked up trophies at the Highlands and Islands British Legion bowling championships held in Inverlochty at the weekend

Disappointing weekend for Fort William bowlers

IT WAS a disappointing weekend for Fort William bowlers who hosted the Highlands and Islands British Legion championships on Saturday.

None of the locals made it through to the Scottish final, despite a closely-fought competition at the Railway Bowling Club.

But it was a double success for

visitors from Grantown on Spey as Dougie Milne picked up the singles trophy and Jessie Watt and her winning team won the group contest.

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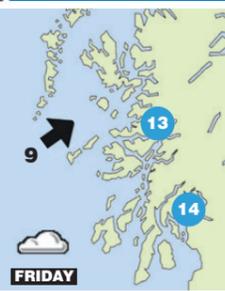
Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday Sunshine
Winds light south south westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 17°C.

Friday Cloudy
Winds light west south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday
Sunshine and showers on Sunday
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 14°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 13, 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	05.04 3.5 11.03 1.0 17.04 3.7 23.46 1.1		Ardrihaig	-5.35 Mallaig +0.25
Fri	05.36 3.7 11.42 0.9 17.39 3.9 ** ** *		Campbeltown	-5.30 Portree +0.55
Sat	00.21 1.1 06.08 3.8 12.18 0.8 18.13 4.0		Crinan	-0.47 Tobermory +0.16
Sun	00.55 1.0 06.40 3.9 12.53 0.8 18.45 4.0		Islay Port Ellen	2.00 Dover +5.30
Mon	01.27 1.1 07.10 3.9 13.26 0.9 19.17 4.0		Lochboisdale	+0.30
Tues	01.59 1.2 07.40 3.8 13.58 1.0 19.47 3.9			
Wed	02.31 1.3 08.10 3.7 14.29 1.2 20.15 3.7			

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)