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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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also in this week

Leisure and libraries staff set to be transferred to new trust

LOUISE GLEN
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LIVE Argyll, the new leisure and libraries trust for Argyll and Bute, will see a general manager in post next month, with legal documents in place for a transfer of 264 members of staff by October 2.

In papers due to be discussed in Kilmory council chamber today (Thursday August 17), a management fee of between £1.7 million paid from October 1, and £3.5 million or slightly more paid in subsequent years by Argyll and Bute Council for leisure and library services, was due to be agreed.

Council papers say Kevin Anderson has been appointed to the position. The former senior financial manager within Argyll and Bute Council will manage a budget of £10 million per year.

The plan for the new company, limited by guarantee, was agreed by councillors in November 2016, and was granted charitable status by OSCR, the Scottish Charities Register.

The transfer was agreed in order to make a saving in terms of between £556,000 and £705,000 through non-domestic rates savings and VAT savings due to the charitable status of the trust. The council is set to save at least £540,000 per year due to the reduction.

A service level agreement between Argyll and Bute Council and Live Argyll will see administration services for the new trust provided by the local authority. An operating agreement between the two bodies will set out the management agreement between the trust and the council, and includes specific services to be

Inveraray Pipe Band are simply out of this world



Inveraray and District Pipe Band were named World Champions for 2017, their founder Stuart Liddell won the Pipe Major Alasdair Gillies Memorial Recital Challenge and Oban High School's B band lifted the Champion of Champions title. Full story and more pictures on page three. Picture: Colin Cameron/06_a331DPBworldchamps18

delivered by the trust for the management fee paid by the council.

The management deal between Live Argyll and Argyll and Bute Council will last for 10 years.

The trust will manage libraries, leisure facilities, active schools, archives, halls, sports development, museums, community centres and community lets.

A shadow board is already in place to oversee the operation of the council's leisure assets, including the Corran Halls and Oban Library, as well as

other venues and leisure centres throughout Argyll, but not the social enterprise Atlantis Leisure which will continue to receive a grant from the council.

Live Argyll has already declared its directors with companies house. Registered directors of the trust are Mairi Coleman, an HR executive; Councillor Jim Anderson, a former council employee in the leisure sector; Charles Brodie, a retired banker; Mary Watt, an environmental health officer; Graham Hardie; and Councillor Jim Lynch, who is

noted on the Companies House register as a civil servant.

The chairman of the multi-million-pound company is former Liberal Democrat councillor Andrew Nisbet, who is named on council papers, but not the Companies House register.

The registered address of the company is Lochgilphead Community Centre, which will also be one of the venues the group manages.

Council papers show the council has worked to keep the 264 staff members, who will be trans-

ferred from the local authority to the trust, on equitable terms and conditions.

This includes an 'annual uplift to cover staff pay awards', to be added to the baseline financial projections for the management fee in order to give staff 'budgeted pay awards'.

The documents further state: 'It is proposed that this financial arrangement is reviewed after a three-year period on the basis that the trust will be able to grow its revenue streams and over time the percentage of the trust

expenditure represented by the management fee will reduce.'

Lawyers for the council, Brodies, have worked with Strathclyde Pension Fund to submit a formal request for the new trust to be given admitted body status in order that employees will have no change to their pension provision and full service protection.

Seven roadshows over the past year were held to 'ensure all staff were fully consulted over the past six months' and papers say that the 'trade unions were also fully involved in the process'.

INSIDE YOUR OBAN TIMES THIS WEEK

Congestion plan
PLANS are being developed to reduce congestion on Shell Street at the entrance to Stornoway ferry terminal. Full story – page two.

Fears for salmon
THIS year's run of salmon in the most closely monitored river in Argyll is on course to be the lowest on record. Full story – page three.

Grand gesture
OBAN Music Society's long campaign to raise funds to pay for a new Steinway grand piano has ended in success. Full story – page four.

School's out!
DUNBEG Primary School returned yesterday to the odd situation of not having teacher Sine MacVicar there for the first time in 44 years. Full story – page five.

Show-stoppers
THE past week has seen agricultural communities coming together to celebrate all that's best from their industry with brilliant annual shows. Picture specials on pages 14 and 15 (Islay) and 16 and 17 (Salen).

Macaulay Cup
DON'T miss our unrivalled coverage of everything that is happening in the world of shinty, with match reports, fixtures, pictures and a preview of the Macaulay Cup final. Full story – pages 26, 28 and 29.



The Argyllshire Gathering

OBAN

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Thursday 24th August 2017

March to Games Field leaves Station Square at 10.30am

OBAN HIGH SCHOOL PIPE BAND
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PREMIER PIPING COMPETITIONS AT VENUES ACROSS OBAN

Wednesday 23rd August 2017
PIOBAIREACHD Gold Medal
MacGregor Memorial Competition
Senior Piobaireachd
LIGHT MUSIC:
March, Strathspey & Reel (former winners)

Anger over proposed road closures

BUSINESS owners are demanding a rethink over road closures between Connel and Ballachulish which will see motorists sent on a detour of more than 90 miles, adding more than two hours to some travel plans, writes Louise Glen.

Ewan Mathieson, a resident and a business owner, has written in the strongest terms to Transport Scotland's operating body, saying: 'I operate a tourist business in the area. My visitors will have significant delays in arriving into Appin and will be denied the ability to tour the area.'

'Appin and North Argyll rely on tourism. I will lose business,

income and reputation. BEAR Scotland plans for significant disruption and daytime road closures to my only road north and south are completely unacceptable and need to be stopped.'

Fiona Hutchison, at Kinloch-laich Garden Centre and self-catering cottages, Appin, said: 'This will mean a complete loss of income for my business.'

'I rely on passing trade and ... if this goes ahead I will have no income and will have to look at giving my staff less working hours for the whole winter following. We are supposed to have had a letter through the door – we haven't.'

However, BEAR Scotland says

the plans, which are earmarked to start on September 11, are still at consultation stage which is due to close on Monday (August 21).

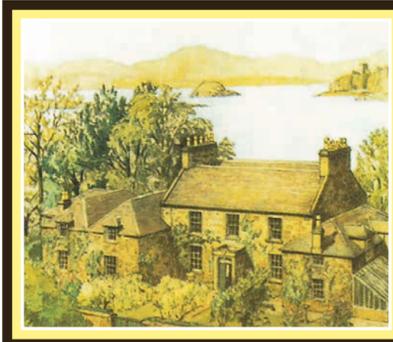
The major programme of work involves 14 different schemes which will improve the A828, including resurfacing at 10 locations, four kilometres of new running surface, drainage upgrades, safety barrier installations, cycleway improvements, road markings, road stud replacement, installation of bend warning verge markers, and landscaping activities.

A spokeswoman for BEAR Scotland said: 'Working simultaneously at a number of locations under traffic management most

appropriate for the location and type of work creates a much safer environment for teams to work in, as well as allowing the resources available to be deployed with maximum effectiveness to complete a range of schemes in the minimum possible time. Vehicles will be diverted at Ballachulish and Connel via Tyndrum (A82 and A85). The road will be re-opened each evening.

'Carrying out all activities within the combined project separately and at night would require at least 22 night-time closures and take up to 12 weeks.'

To offer feedback, email: A828consultation@bearsotland.co.uk



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Isles exam results surpass average

PUPILS in Eilean Siar who gained National 5 qualifications in fourth year of school pushed the local authority's pass rate above the national average.

Of exams sat, 85.98 per cent achieved National 5 in Eilean Siar, whereas the national pass rate was 79.5 per cent.

Percentage passes at Higher are in line with the national pass rate, with 77.75 per cent in Eilean Siar achieving an A-C pass, compared to 77 per cent nationally.

Overall, there is a slight decrease in the numbers and passes in the senior phase (S4-S6), largely due to increasing numbers who opt for vocational qualifications.

Results show that, at S4 National 5 there were 977 presentations and 85.98 per cent A-C passes in 2017, compared with 1,156 presentations and 89.45 per cent passes in 2016.

At S5/6 Higher level (SCQF level 6) there were 944 presentations and 77.75 per cent passes in 2017, compared with 957 presentations and 81.09 per cent passes in 2016.

Advanced Higher (SCQF level 6) results show an increase in the number of presentations, from 92 in 2016 to 101 in 2017. Percentage passes indicate a slight decline from 77.17 per cent in 2016 to 76.24 per cent in 2017.

Across the authority, at all levels, there were 3,096 presentations and 2,583 awards in 2017, representing an 83.43 per cent pass rate, compared with 3,266 presentations, 2,846 awards and a percentage pass rate of 87.14 in 2016.

Officers in the department are currently analysing each school's data to identify areas of under-performance which may have contributed to the overall decline.

Figures do not include attainment in vocational courses. National data published in March 2017 indicates that 31.2 per cent of learners in Eilean Siar achieved one or more vocational qualifications at SCQF level 5 or above.

Project aims to help solve Stornoway traffic problems

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

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

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

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

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

'While we are currently reviewing road-markings and signs on Shell Street and, in particular, the roundabout at the junction with the entrance to pier number three, we are working with CalMac and the port authority to re-



Congestion around the ferry terminal has become a problem for Stornoway.

view their respective operational management and marshalling arrangements to provide a more efficient check-in process.'

Finlay MacRae, CalMac's area operations manager, said: 'There are a number of factors which are contributing to the congestion on Shell Street.'

'First, we are seeing a large number of vehicles arriving to check in at the port in a relatively short period of time immediately prior to the deadline.'

'This leads to a build-up of traffic in the 10- to 15-minute

period prior to the check-in close and, while we would not wish to have to consider extending the check-in period, we would ask passengers to give themselves a bit more time prior to that deadline and have all travel documentation to hand at check-in.'

He continued: 'The efficient loading of the car deck is particularly important when there are high levels of traffic on the vessel, and the large range of vehicles in terms of weight and size now travelling on the route presents us with particular chal-

lenges in terms of marshalling and loading while adhering to the route timetable.'

'We have allocated additional staffing to the check-in arrangements during the summer months but recognise that improvements could also be made in terms of our use of better technology as part of the booking, ticketing and check-in processes.'

'We are working with our suppliers to develop and implement the necessary changes and are currently seeking to have

improved processes and equipment in place for early in 2018 and certainly in advance of the peak period, which appears to be starting earlier every year.'

The solution to the congestion on Shell Street will also include changes and improvements to the marshalling infrastructure, and Stornoway Port Authority has already begun investigations into alternative options.

Alex Macleod, the port authority's chief executive, said: 'Stornoway Port Authority recognise that there is a need for further improvements to the Stornoway ferry terminal marshalling and parking arrangements to reduce congestion on the public road and within the ferry terminal area.'

'The port authority will work with CalMac and the comhairle to reduce the likelihood of congestion and disruption on Shell Street.'

Councillor Robertson added: 'We have agreed that a number of interim measures will continue to be put in place by CalMac and would reiterate their request that the travelling public give themselves more time prior to the check-in deadline for the rest of this summer period.'

'In the longer term, we are hopeful that, following the implementation of the necessary improvements prior to next summer, there should be little likelihood of a repeat of the congestion seen over the past couple of years and that people continue to see the Outer Hebrides as an attractive and welcoming place to visit.'

Taking action on climate change

ORGANISATIONS in the Western Isles are being encouraged to host events and raise awareness of the impact of climate change as part of Climate Week 2017.

Running from September 18 to 22, Scotland's Climate Week will highlight the actions people and organisations can take together to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate.

Activities could range from having climate conversations, hosting seminars and educational sessions, to sustainable travel fairs to encourage people to cycle or walk to work.

Organisations can also team up with Climate Challenge Fund groups which are delivering climate actions, including energy efficiency improvements, low carbon travel options, community growing initiatives and schemes to tackle waste.

Scotland's climate change secretary Roseanna Cunningham said: 'Climate Week is an opportunity to get more people talking about climate change and highlights how people can get together and learn from each other to take action - whether it's reducing food waste, cycling and walking instead of driving, installing energy efficiency measures, or improving our green spaces for biodiversity.'

'Scotland is already punching well above its weight when it comes to its climate change ambitions. I would encourage organisations in Comhairle nan Eilean Siar area to sign up to Climate Week and help us spread the word that everyone can play a role in tackling climate change.'

Research to address population decline among skate

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roseanna Cunningham was in Oban last week to announce a research programme to monitor

the numbers of common skate in the seas.

Skate populations have declined by more than 90 per cent

over the past 100 years due to over-fishing.

The Scottish Government has committed £390,000 to a three-

year research programme, to be led by the University of St Andrews, in collaboration with Scottish Natural Heritage,

which should underpin the long-term conservation effort which is required to allow the skate population to recover.

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Kilchrenan scientist is heading for the Antarctic



Dr Karen Alexander must raise £15,000 to fund her journey.

THE tiny State of Tasmania, nestled at the base of Australia, is a long way from Kilchrenan, but from there, local woman Karen Alexander has her sights fixed on horizons which are much further afield still.

Dr Alexander, a scientist and researcher working for the University of Tasmania, who studied for her PhD at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), in Dunbeg, has been selected to take part in a year-long leadership programme which culminates in a three-week voyage to Antarctica.

But before casting off on the somewhat ironically called (in this case) Homeward Bound programme, she must raise £15,000 towards her costs and is using

crowdfunding to try to meet the target.

Dr Alexander said: 'Homeward Bound is designed to address the low numbers of women in leadership in STEMM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine), hence giving them a seat at the table where we'll make the big decisions facing our planet's future.'

'Clearly, this is something I'm passionate about and my goal is to inspire others, whether that be on campus in my current home, or my true home which is on the other side of the world.'

You can support Dr Alexander at www.facebook.com/TeamTassie-HB or via her GoFundMe page: www.gofundme.com/team-tassie-homeward-bound

New Kerrera ferry launched in Shetland

CALEDONIAN Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) and Malakoff Limited yesterday (Monday August 14) launched the ferry for the link between Kerrera and Gallanach.

The new 12-metre vessel, named MV Carvoria, has been constructed by Malakoff at its new boat-building facility at the Greenhead base on Shetland. The fabrication, construction, painting and the majority of the internal fit-out has been completed.

CMAL joined the Malakoff team to launch the ferry at Lerwick harbour, where an inclining test was conducted.

The vessel will now be loaded onto a chartered Northlink vessel and sail to Aberdeen.

From there, it will be transported by road to Oban, where the final elements of the fit-out will be completed and the vessel will undergo berthing trials, before being handed over to the ferry operator, CalMac.

Kevin Hobbs, chief executive



The MV Carvoria is lowered into Lerwick harbour at its launch.

of CMAL, said: 'The team at Malakoff has been working extremely hard to turn around the build of our new ferry. They've done a fantastic job in 40 days to ensure we have the new ferry in place for the island of Kerrera later this month.'

'The replacement ferry will offer islanders and visitors a

more comfortable crossing and has greater cargo carrying capacity than the current ferry on the crossing.'

'We look forward to handing it over for service in the coming week.'

Ryan Stevenson, boat-building project manager at Malakoff, added: 'We were delighted

to have secured this order for a new landing craft to serve the route for the island of Kerrera.'

'Thanks to our team's hard work and commitment, the new ferry is on track to be delivered to the operator this month.'

MV Carvoria will replace the existing Kerrera ferry, MV Gylen Lady.

Concern at decline of Awe salmon

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THIS year's run of salmon in the most closely monitored river in Argyll is on course to be the lowest on record.

The salmon count, which takes place on a daily basis on the River Awe, has hit an all-time low after 30 weeks of the season. The numbers are collected and independently verified by a fish 'lift and counter' system in the dam.

Further evidence comes from rod-caught salmon in the river and is recorded by the Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board (ADSF).

Last year's count recorded a total of 807 fish which was only slightly above the all-time lowest number.

This year it is running at only

one-third of the 2016 count. If this continues the final total may struggle to reach 400, according to the ADSF.

This would be the lowest count of returning salmon to the Awe since records began in 1965.

The Awe is a short river, draining Scotland's longest loch, Loch Awe, with a hydro-electric dam at its head. The flow regime is such that fish can run the river any day of the year and almost all the fish are destined for the headwaters, so there is a full river count which is almost unaffected by the weather.

Roger Brook, chairman of the Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board, said: 'The Scottish Government has promoted the continued expansion of the salmon aquaculture industry while refusing to implement adequate control on the siting of farms and

the levels of sea lice on the farms.'

'We call upon Scottish Government to insist that future farms are sited away from the probable migration routes. The worst existing farms, both in terms of location and lice control, should now be closed.'

Mr Brook continued: 'Rivers such as the Awe are facing an uneconomic future but the government appears to care nothing about our iconic west Highland salmon and the important West Coast tourist industry associated with recreational fishing.'

'We are facing a very precarious future.'

Andrew Graham-Stewart, director of Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland, said: 'Since the arrival of intensive salmon farming, numbers of mature west Highland sea trout have crashed.

'The decline in wild salmon numbers has not thus far been as extreme but it now appears that in the southern section of the west Highlands the decline is accelerating into a freefall.'

Mr Graham-Stewart added: 'Despite all the warnings regarding the consequences of pursuing the unfettered growth of salmon farming without any meaningful controls to protect wild fish, successive Scottish Governments have blundered on with this policy.'

In an attempt to quantify the effect of salmon aquaculture, a comparison can be made between salmon catches on the east coast of Scotland and the West Coast between the Mull of Kintyre and Ardnamurchan Point.

According to organisation figures, between 1970 and 2014, rod

catches of salmon on the East Coast increased by almost 40 per cent. Over the same period, rod catches in the south-west Highlands declined by 50 per cent.

Juvenile salmon migrating from rivers in the south-west Highlands swim close to salmon farms before they reach the open sea.

Another major river in the south-west Highlands is the Lochy, which enters the sea by Fort William.

The published rod catch of salmon to the end of July was 33, summed up by the river's management as 'the worst start in recent times'. The catch to the end of July was 27 per cent of the five-year average for the same period.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said: 'We recognise that a number of factors

may be having an impact on wild salmon stocks, including the activity of aquaculture.'

'This can result in elevated numbers of sea lice in open water, and hence may increase the infestation potential on wild salmon.'

'The magnitude of any such impact in relation to overall mortality levels is not known for Scotland. Marine Scotland scientists have recently commenced a project to address this issue.'

In March the Scottish Government and its agencies set out how it will work with the sector and others with a direct interest to operate a policy and regulatory framework that enables sustainable growth while maintaining the right balance across economic, environmental and social responsibilities.

TIMESLINE

Organ donor campaign begins

THERE has been a 'we need everybody' call for people in Argyll and Bute to join the NHS organ donor register.

The call comes as a campaign to increase donor numbers in Scotland gets under way.



Statistics released to coincide with the campaign show there are currently 4,345 people in Scotland who are living with a transplant, thanks to organ donors and their families.

Some 45 per cent of people in Scotland are on the NHS organ donor register but, with someone dying every day in the UK waiting for a transplant, more are needed.

To join the NHS organ donor register, visit organdonationscotland.org

'Baby boxes' now available to all

ALL babies born in Scotland will be gifted a box full of essential items aimed at tackling inequality and promoting health. The boxes were officially available to all babies from Tuesday (August 15).

The Scottish Government said the boxes send a 'strong signal' that every child, regardless of their circumstances, should get the best start in life.

Each box contains a large number of items which are not only practical but designed to help tackle inequality and improve health.

The box itself also doubles up as a safe sleep space, awarded British Safety Standard accreditation as a crib for domestic use.

Bands are best in the world

ARGYLL is top of the world for pipes and drums.

Inveraray and District Pipe Band were named World Champions for 2017, while Oban High School's B Band were named Champion of Champions, with the school's A band taking a sparkling second place. Pipe band leaders Angus MacColl and Stuart Liddell were in world class solo piping competitions.

Inveraray fought off extremely stiff competition from 23 grade one pipe bands from seven countries before a crowd of more than 35,000 people at the two-day Glasgow Green event.

At the World Pipe Band Championships, Oban High School's Juvenile B Band secured the Champion of Champions crown in only its second season of competition, with its A band runners-up.

Len Scoullar, Provost of Argyll and Bute, said: 'It is so pleasing that we are able to congratulate Inveraray and District Pipe Band on becoming World Champions. It is such a wonderful accolade to be crowned the best pipe band in the world against the toughest of competition.'

'Oban High School also did remarkably well and we're equally pleased to recognise the efforts of the Juvenile B Band.'

'Our congratulations also go to all the other pipe bands from Argyll and Bute who took part in the prestigious competition across the grades. We're already looking forward to next year's



Oban High School's B band performs at Glasgow Green, where Stuart Liddell, right, won the Pipe Major Alasdair Gillies Memorial Recital Challenge. 06_a331DPBworldchamps19

championships and hopefully even more success for our bands.'

This year's championships saw more than 200 pipe bands from 15 countries competing.

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall played host to an exciting night of piping as Ian K MacDonald, Angus MacColl, Finlay Johnston and Stuart Liddell battled it out at the Pipe Major Alasdair Gillies Memorial Recital Challenge. Inveraray's Stuart

Liddell won the competition for the second year in a row. In the renowned masters' competition, it was Benderloch man Angus MacColl who came out on top. The results were: Piobaireachd:

1. Finlay Johnston
 2. Angus MacColl
 3. Faye Henderson
 4. Callum Beaumont
- MSR: 1. Pipe Major Gordon Walker
2. Angus MacColl
 3. Alasdair Henderson
 4. Craig Sutherland
- The overall masters champion is Angus MacColl.



Carer embezzled thousands from disabled pensioner

A FORMER carer has admitted embezzling thousands of pounds from a disabled pensioner.

Rosemarie Morrison, of 10 Marine Court, Dunbeg, was entrusted with withdrawing money from a cash machine as part of her job.

However, during an eight-day period in June 2017, the 36-year-old woman stole £4,300 from the 71-year-old's account, taken from various ATM cash machines in Oban in 10 installments of between £200 and £500 at a time.

Morrison appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday August 15, where she pleaded guilty to all charges.

The thefts started on June 12, when Morrison visited the victim and was subsequently asked to withdraw £200 cash.

Records show that she did withdraw the money, but that she also took a further £300, and only handed over £200 to the victim.

Following this, she withdrew £500 per day for eight subsequent days until June 20.

The theft came to light when the victim tried to withdraw money and the transaction was declined.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said the victim suffers from significantly reduced mobility and receives home care four times a day.

Mr McGinty added: 'Police noted that [the victim's] confidence has been greatly shaken.'

He told the court that Morrison was arrested and interviewed, where she made a full admission and indicated that she was struggling financially.



Mr McGinty said: 'None of the money [that she had embezzled] was readily available. She said she used it to pay bills.'

Morrison's defence agent, Kevin McGinness, said that his client was full of remorse and 'very much regrets her behaviour'. She has since resigned from her position as a care worker.

Mr McGinness said: 'Her motivation was that there were personal debts in the household of just over £9,000.'

'She had an accident in December of last year and as a result of that she was unable to work for a period of two months. She had no income and arrears built up.'

The woman has since paid off the outstanding debts with the help of a loan.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said that the pensioner had 'been taken advantage of in a disgusting way'.

Sheriff Hughes deferred sentencing for a period of three months, while Morrison explores options to recompense the victim.

'If that means [Morrison] goes back into debt,' he added, 'that may be something she has to accept.'

Morrison will reappear in Oban Sheriff Court on November 7.

Council makes commitment to armed forces

A COMMITMENT to supporting Britain's armed forces has been made by Argyll and Bute Council and the Ministry of Defence.

Council chief executive Cleland Sneddon and Faslane's executive officer, Commander John Livesey, have signed the Argyll and Bute Armed Forces Covenant.

It pledges the council's support for the armed forces community and recognises the value that serving personnel, both regular and reservists, veterans and military families, contribute to the country.

Mr Sneddon and Commander Livesey made the commitment at a signing ceremony at the Helensburgh.

The armed forces covenant is a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served in the armed forces and their families should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Organisations signing it include councils, businesses and charities.

Mr Sneddon said: 'On behalf of Argyll and Bute Council, I would like to pay tribute to every member of our armed forces, their families and our veterans. They have made sacrifices for us and for our country and deserve our thanks, our respect and our support.'

'I am delighted to sign this covenant and demonstrate Argyll and Bute Council's recognition of how important their contribution is, but also to what we will do to ensure they are fully supported in Argyll and Bute.'

'Both we and the MoD are fully committed to working together to underpin that support, now and in the future.'

The council's armed forces champion, Councillor Barbara Morgan, said: 'We all owe our armed forces a debt of gratitude.'

Education: 'improvement needed'

A DETAILED improvement plan has been agreed by Argyll and Bute Council outlining how it will address the main points for action detailed in an inspection report.

A report issued by Education Scotland, Foghlam Alba, said that while early progress has been made in the year since the inspection in September 2016, 'much more remains to be done'.

A plan prepared by council management sets out 'appropriate improvement actions, progress and timescales'.

A statement issued by Education Scot-

land said: 'It is important that members of the council and staff, at all levels, buy in fully to the plan and work together to realise the significant improvement that is needed.'

'Strategic leadership and direction is now more clear, underpinned by the aspirations set out within the vision strategy document Our Children, Their Future. Inspectors noted this is beginning to bring about a common purpose across the council.'

'The council is continuing its work to improve the quality of communication

across its education functions. Centrally-based officers are beginning to have more direct and purposeful engagement with schools.'

'Argyll and Bute Council has made some early progress since the original inspection in September 2016. Much more remains to be done.'

'As planned, we will return in September 2017 to carry out further inspection of the education functions of the council and report on its progress in addressing the findings of the original inspection.'

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OT

Behind the Scenes at Atlantis

Cafe
This month sees the cafe in the sports centre now accepting card payments for food orders.

Pool changing rooms
Now that the busy summer holidays are over, the centre plans to make repairs to the flooring and the lockers will all be serviced. The centre is also in the process of replacing the two old hair dryers and hand dryers in the toilets with new ones.

Breakdowns
Atlantis's state-of-the-art Hyprolyser was out of action for a few days this month. The Hyprolyser unit produces pool chlorine from salt to keep the water clean and safe. This is why the pool water can sometimes taste a little salty during busy sessions. Back-up systems were used to keep the swimming pool open and safe for swimmers during this period.

Parking
The parking spaces to the front and rear of the Atlantis building are now pay and display. Drivers can pay with coins or with bank cards, via their phones and smart watches. Staff say feedback from customers has been positive as there are now parking spaces available for the first time in years for Atlantis users during the busy holiday period. The money raised from the car parking will be invested back into the community facilities.

Staff news
Iwan Roberts has been promoted from duty manager to operations manager. His role will allow general manager Nick Wesley to concentrate more on raising charitable funds and developing and improving the facilities and programmes

offered by the centre. Rebecca Sims has become a full-time duty manager. Rebecca also teaches many fitness classes to adults and dance to the children.

Jade MacEwan, sports development manager, leaves the business this month to pursue a career in teaching.

Jade will be sorely missed as she has worked hard over the past five years improving Atlantis's dance programme and show, private and rookie swimming, and the children's party programme, to name a few. Jade will still be teaching fitness classes and Highland dancing until she completes her training next May.

Social enterprise
Anna has travelled all the way from Germany for a three-week work placement and chance to experience a successful community social enterprise.

So far she has enjoyed being involved with the children's holiday camps, which over the summer holidays had more than 1,000 visits.

Atlantis had two other social enterprise-related visits this month, one from the New Zealand Social Enterprise Academy, which is looking for inspiration and best practice advice for its rural communities back home.

The other visit was from a film company creating a film for the Social Enterprise World Forum using Atlantis as a case study of a thriving social enterprise in Scotland. Interviews with staff, volunteers and customers were filmed for the project.

Training
Peter Konokpa and Iwan Roberts completed their Social Enterprise Academy leadership course, which they started in January.



Directors and staff Andrew Mead, Julie Didcock, Claire Hutchison, Dave Bleazard and Nick Wesley are part of a team raising funds for a new changing room. 16_T28_Atlantis 25th anniversary

Oban music society unveils Steinway at season launch

SANDY NEIL
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THE EARLY history of the Oban Music Society is lost in the mists of time but it was soon after the Second World War that a small group of enthusiasts came together to meet other groups from around Scotland to arrange and be included in tours for small chamber groups, especially quartets.

Concerts were held in a variety of venues around Oban, including Christ Church on the Esplanade, Glencruitten Church Centre, the Corran Halls and even in the Oban cinema.

However, it was not until 1985 that the society, after a lengthy fundraising appeal, raised sufficient funds required to purchase a piano – a Steinway Model S, made in 1937, previously belonging to Lady Isla MacCallum of Turvine, Kilchrean, and valued in 1991 by the Arts Council of Scotland at £4,000.

The piano was housed in St



Oban Music Society chairman Jeremy Church plays the new Steinway, accompanied by members Michael Hawke, Richard Hess and Seymour and Molly Adams.

16_T33_New piano at St John's Cathedral_01

John's Cathedral, where it has been to this day. Because of the difficulties of moving a grand piano, most of the concerts since then have been held in the Scottish Episcopal Church in George Street, Oban.

In 1992, the society was first

registered as a charity and the constitution was drawn up under the chairmanship of Claire MacKinnon. The object of the society was 'to promote and encourage the study, practice and knowledge of music in Oban and the surrounding district'.

The society has been loyally supported over the past 25 years and concerts regularly held through the winter season. Since the year 2000, the society has been part of the Argyll and Bute Concert tours group along with Bute, Cowal, Kintyre, Mid Argyll and Islay. The group has had the advantage of being able to negotiate advantageous fees from visiting artists and has become a very effective and mutually supportive organisation.

In 2016, the society became increasingly concerned that its piano, now nearly 80 years old, was in need of reconditioning. Furthermore, it was also the opinion of a number of visiting pianists that the instrument was too small for the venue.

Over the years the society had been steadily adding to a piano fund specifically for this eventuality. Rather than reconditioning the old piano, it was decided to purchase a larger instrument which had already been reconditioned. This led to a very successful appeal

that raised sufficient funds to purchase a Steinway Model B made in 2003.

Jeremy Church said: 'The target for the appeal was £35,000, which we raised very successfully by April and we were able to top this up by a legacy from a past member, which allowed us to buy the Steinway Model B.'

The society would like to thank all those who donated to the purchase of the piano, especially Thomas Tunnock Ltd, Scottish Sea Farms, the Rotary Club of Oban, the Gordon Fraser Charitable Trust, Oban Common Good Fund, the Hugh Fraser Foundation, the Highland Society of London, and friends and members of the society.

The piano is to be showcased at a concert to an invited audience by Peter Evans and Uli Fenner on September 9. Further information about Oban Music Society and details of future concerts can be found on the society's website oban-musicsociety.org.

New craft shop opens on Oban's Railway Pier

A NEW crafters' shop called Made in Argyll has opened at the Waterfront Centre on Oban's Railway Pier.

The shop threw open its doors on Saturday August 5 showcasing locally-made jewellery, knitwear, paintings, decorations, furniture, photographs and bespoke commissions, and will be open all year round.

'We are tapping into local talent,'

said Janice Stewart. 'People can get something inspired by the area. It is a big adventure. A lot of work has been involved and it will be worth it once people know we are here.'

Pictured right are Argyll crafters Sheila McIntyre, Sherryl Peter, Rosslyn Williams, Ada Daly, Julie Henderson, Janice Stewart, Sandra Shedden and Elma Mee.

16_T32_Made in Argyll crafters' shop opens_01



Flower show supports Oban Hospice

OBAN and Lorn Agricultural Society presented a cheque for £400 to Oban Hospice, raised by the sale of produce from its annual flower show, this year scheduled for Saturday August 19 in the Church of Scotland Centre.

The money will go towards the renovation of Oban Hospice's new drop-in centre, named the Dove Centre, on Stevenson Street, which opens soon and will support people with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses.

It will offer therapy, group sessions and one-to-one sup-

port for those affected by palliative illnesses, including families and carers.

Andreas Wolffe, Alison Pringle and chairman David Entwistle of Oban Hospice receive the £400 cheque from Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society's David Hodge, Fiona MacKillop, Mary Lamont, Janet Crerar, Ken Munro, Maimie Morrison, Ronnie MacKillop and Duncan Black.



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Pontoons prove boon for marine visitors

WHAT a month August's been so far. We've had visits from three cruise ships with another arriving on Sunday August 20, and for three of them it's been their first visit to Oban but hopefully not their last, writes Oban town ambassador Kay MacDonald.

The Balmoral was the largest of the ships and the first to have the benefit of using our new pontoons to land visitors, which was fabulous. It meant their crew were able to set up on the breakwater and not be in anyone's way and gave us so much more room at the top to greet everyone and be able to provide directions and advice without the hustle and bustle of everyone trying to get past us on the pavement.

The Balmoral brought us more than 1,000 visitors for the day, with about a fifth of that number taking advantage of the half-day trips provided by the

cruise company and spending the rest of the day in the town.

Thankfully, it was a beautiful day and, with the extra room available to us, it was easier for Joe and I to spend time speaking to people and telling them about the joys of our wee town and then getting feedback as they returned to the ship.

I have to say, Oban, you did a great job: everyone was delighted with their visit with more than a few saying they would return again for longer.

The Seabourne Quest has visited Oban before and will undoubtedly be back.

This visit, I was invited onboard to speak to the guests before they came ashore, which I really enjoyed. The majority of them were American and they were really looking forward to exploring the town and sampling our seafood.

WHERE IS THIS?



Our next visitor will be the Crystal Symphony for her first visit to Oban, with more than 900 passengers. Let us pray for another lovely day and another lot of visitors who return to the ship determined to return to Oban for a longer holiday.

Last week's photo must have been too easy as my uncle phoned from Manchester to tell me where it was, so this week I hope it will challenge you a bit more. For most of you this is something you won't see every day.

WHITE VAN Man

AS OBANITES become more and more frustrated with the lack of infrastructure in the town, spare a thought for other areas.

It seems it is not just here in Oban but the whole of the West Coast is struggling to cope with the tourist influx. The warning signs have been there for many years that we would reach the crisis point we are at now.

Last Sunday morning, I decided to go out early and look around the town – there were caravans and motorhomes in the old Lidl car park, the

doctor's surgery car park and to the leeward side of the barriers at Pennyfuir car park.

On the Isle of Skye last week the question of a tourist tax was raised but is this the way forward? Virtually every European country has some form of tourist tax.

But would the money earned simply slip into the bottomless pockets of those who administer the tax, namely the government, or would it be given back to the various local authorities who collected this tax in order for them to sort

out the problems affecting their towns and villages?

The simple fact is that it is a booming industry so we must sort out the infrastructure of the West Coast before people decide not to come back. After all, if we can provide a safe haven and warm welcome to the sailing fraternity berthing at the pontoons in Oban, surely we can and must provide the same welcome for those arriving by road who contribute much more to the community.

George Berry

A huge thank you from former head teacher Sine

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

AS PUPILS, parents and teachers get back to school this week, there will be one very notable exception at Dunbeg Primary School.

Sine MacVicar, teacher and head teacher at the village school for more than 44 years,

will no longer be at the door to greet the 2017 intake of primary pupils at the busy school.

Ms MacVicar, who has decided at 65 she will no longer be taking to the classroom, was still tidying up her desk on Monday morning.

Her filing cabinets no doubt include five decades of policies and reports.

Spending the past 25 years of her career as head teacher, Ms MacVicar has taught three generations of some families.

At the Scottish Education Awards 2017, Ms MacVicar was nominated 18 times by teachers, parents, former pupils and the local police officer – one of the highest numbers to suggest the same person.

Ms MacVicar contacted *The Oban Times* to thank everyone who had helped celebrate her retirement.

She said: 'I would like to thank everyone too numerous to mention who joined in the recent celebrations, sent cards and contributed so generously to my recent retirement. 'To staff, pupils and parents

present and former, and to Amanda and staff at the Argyllshire Gathering for an amazing night, my sincere thanks.

'Dunbeg Primary, its community and beyond, including the secret organisers, you have really done me proud.

'My heartfelt thanks to you all.'

Award-winning Dunbeg nursery re-opens after makeover

ARGYLL College's Little Learners' Nursery was officially re-opened on Tuesday August 15 by the Scottish Government's minister for further and higher education and science, Shirley-Anne Somerville.

The ceremony follows a refurbishment which will see the 32-place centre of excellence spruced up and ready to play.

The nursery, crowned best independent nursery in Scotland in 2015, originally opened in 2006 and is located near the village of Dunbeg.

The nursery's senior practitioner, Sean Cooke, completed a National Certificate in Early Education and Childcare with Argyll College UHI before moving on to study for an HNC in Glasgow.

Sean recently returned home to Oban after working in Ayrshire as a youth activities co-ordinator.

Sean said: 'One of the most inspiring things about Little Learners' is the amount of outdoor learning the children receive, spending part of every day exploring outside either on the beach discovering our "Gruffalo-land" in the forest or playing in the castle. It's just a wonderful way to learn and develop their imaginations.'

Ms Somerville said: 'I am delighted to have the opportunity to officially re-open the Little Learners' Nursery



Scottish Government Minister Shirley-Anne Somerville cuts the ribbon to re-open the nursery helped by Amanda Lawn, left, some of the children and Sarah Blacklaw, right. Back row are nursery manager Kathleen McNiven, Fraser Durie (Argyll College principal) and senior practitioner Sean Cooke. Picture: Kevin McGlynn.

at Argyll College. The nursery already has a great reputation, which I'm sure it will cement further as a result of these refurbishments.

'The provision of affordable, quality childcare on campus plays a key role in enabling parents, and particularly women,

to return to education – helping us to deliver inclusive economic growth.'

Nursery manager Kathleen McNiven said: 'We are delighted that the minister has chosen to visit us and officially re-open the nursery. The refurbishments are part of our continual investment plans

and allow us to provide an enhanced experience for the youngest children. We will also have more space for wet weather and outdoor equipment to support our commitment to use the environment to provide our children with rich experiences and learning opportunities.'



John McFadden, who has retired from MacLeod Construction Ltd, with Kenny MacLeod and staff.

Colleagues bid farewell to John

MACLEOD Construction said a fond farewell to a member of staff who had come out of retirement to join the company.

John McFadden retired last week after 16 years' service to MacLeod Construction Ltd.

Company director Kenny MacLeod said farewell along with various members of staff and managers who contributed to a retirement collection.

John provided engineering services to the company after

previously retiring from Argyll and Bute Council's roads department.

Mr MacLeod said: 'Good wishes for a long and happy retirement were the sentiment of the day.'

Study shows importance of tourism to Argyll and Bute

RESEARCH released this week outlines the vital role tourism plays in supporting local communities across Scotland.

The study, carried out by VisitScotland, has revealed that in some communities of Scotland, such as Argyll and Bute and the Highlands, tourism employment accounts for nearly double the national average.

Tourism has the biggest impact on employment in Argyll and Bute, with 17 per cent of the population employed in the sector.

Other regions that lead the way in tourism employment include Highlands (14 per cent), South Ayrshire (13 per cent) and Orkney (12 per cent).

Between them, Edinburgh, Glasgow, the Highlands, Aberdeen City and Fife accounted for almost half of tourism employment in 2015 with 103,400 jobs. Overall, there are 217,000 jobs relating to tourism in Scotland.

Local authorities have long recognised the important contri-

bution of tourism to their areas, providing infrastructure that is essential for its growth, captured in the National Tourism Development Framework.

The aim of this framework is to highlight the activity and investment that exists to ensure the visitor journey is as smooth and efficient as possible.

Local authorities that include the most tourism businesses relative to their population are Argyll and Bute (13.5 per cent), Dundee (11.5 per cent), North Ayrshire (11.3 per cent), West Dunbartonshire (11.3 per cent) and the Highlands (11 per cent).

The top 10 most visited regions in Scotland by overnight visitors are:

Edinburgh (2,276,000 trips), Highlands (1,777,000 trips), Glasgow City (1,682,000 trips), Argyll and Bute (891,000 trips), Perth and Kinross (721,000 trips), Dumfries and Galloway (702,000 trips), Aberdeen City (661,000 trips), Fife (528,000

trips), Stirling (432,000 trips) and South Ayrshire (373,000 trips).

Malcolm Roughead, chief executive at VisitScotland, said: 'Tourism is more than a holiday experience – it is integral to sustaining communities across Scotland by generating income, creating jobs and stimulating social change.'

'More and more people are realising just how important the sector is to the economy and these figures illustrate this vital impact that is growing year on year.'

'Scotland's reputation as a quality destination relies on continued investment and innovation to ensure that current provision meets future demand.'

'VisitScotland is working with stakeholders and businesses across the country to ensure that this happens and ultimately every visitor gets a quality experience every time.'

For more information about the importance of tourism to Scotland, visit www.visitscotland.org

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

Careless driving

ABOUT 1.15pm on Sunday August 6, on the A85 near the Halfway House filling station, Dunbeg, a collision occurred between a Fiat Panda and a Mini Cooper, after which an 80-year-old woman was charged with careless driving.

No-one was injured and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Vehicle damaged

AT 5.55PM on Tuesday August 8, in the car park at Lidl, Soroba Road, Oban, a red Range Rover Evoque was damaged by having the bumper dented by another vehicle which failed to stop and report the incident.

No insurance

ABOUT 7.35pm on Friday August 11, on Miller Road in Oban, police stopped a car for a routine check, which revealed there was no insurance in force for the vehicle and it was being driven in contravention of a prohibition notice. The driver, a 34-year-old man, was charged with the offences and the vehicle was seized. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Car dented

BETWEEN 9.15am and 6.45pm on Thursday August 10, in Gallanach Road, Oban, a black Skoda Yeti was damaged by having the bodywork dented by another vehicle which failed to stop and report the incident.

Drugs found

ABOUT 1.40am on Sunday August 13, in a licensed premises on George Street in Oban, a man aged 27 was searched by police and was found in possession of a small amount of cocaine. The

man was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Biker charged

ABOUT 5.20pm on Saturday August 12, on the A82, near Bridge of Orchy, a motorcyclist was stopped for exceeding the speed limit. The rider, a woman aged 31, was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Speeding motorist

AT 12.40PM on Wednesday August 9, on the A85, near Dalmally, a motorist was stopped for exceeding the speed limit. The driver, a woman aged 47, was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Offensive weapon

AT 4.55AM on Sunday August 13, in Glenshellach Terrace, Oban, a man was arrested for assaulting a woman with a wooden pole, damaging a door, behaving in an abusive manner and brandishing a wooden plank in the street. A report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Witness appeal

ABOUT 12.45am on Saturday August 12, a caravan at Inveraray Caravan Park was broken into.

Several items were stolen and discarded by the offenders who made off.

Police are investigating a positive line of inquiry and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

IF ANY member of the public has information in relation to any of these incidents, they can contact police on 101, or anonymously to Crime-stoppers on 0800 555 111.



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Connel

The scheduled community council meeting which was meant to have been held on August 1 was cancelled. The next meeting will now take place on November 7.

Coll

Coll half marathon will take place on Saturday August 19. The event, which is run by island volunteers, is a great day out for all the family. There is a 5K, 10K and children's race. For more information and to enter, visit collhalfmarathon.org.uk

Loch Awe

The Friends of St Conan's Kirk will have a stand at Dalmally Show on Saturday September 2 to help raise funds for the Kirk and to raise awareness of the work of the Friends.

Dalmally

Dalmally youngsters were celebrating winning the fourth annual St Conan's Cup for art. The artwork is the joint effort of children from Dalmally Primary School's P1, P2 and P3 classes. All the fantastic creations are on display in the Kirk until the end of August.

Barra

The Barra Lifeboat Station would like to thank the children from Cuithir, Castlebay, for their donation of £242.26.

Lochaline

Lochaline First Responders are now live. If you would like to find out more and join the scheme email Morvern Community Development Company on admin@morvern.org

Tiree

The Gott Bay Moorings in the Isle of Tiree are now available for public use.

The cost to use the facility is £12 per night, and each of the 10 moorings has a maximum weight capacity of 15 tons.

The moorings were made possible after the Tiree community successfully raised funds through a variety of sources.

Appin

A celebration tent will be the centrepiece for the 60th anniversary celebrations at this year's Appin Agricultural Show this Saturday. The event, at Tynribbie Croft, includes Oban Pipe Band, a falconry display, hill race, prosecco bar and a mass Strip the Willow.

Lochgilthead

TWO students from Lochgilthead High School will showcase the young artistic talent in Argyll and Bute at an exhibition next month.

Beth Qualter Buncall and Holly Smith are hosting the display from September 15 to 17 at Acknabreck Farmhouse, where people can exhibit their work to the general public.

'We are trying to bring the young artistic talent within Argyll and Bute out into

Iona

VISITORS to Iona are reminded that specific traffic restrictions are in place to help protect the historic island.

Permits are needed to take a car onto Iona in a move to preserve the unique character of the popular location.

To drive a car onto the island you must be either an Iona resident, owner of a property on Iona, a blue badge holder, a tradesperson or providing an essential service.

Policy lead for roads and amenity services, Councillor Roddy McCuish, said: 'Iona is an extremely special and historic place but its infrastructure is fragile and it cannot support a high volume of traffic.'

'The local community is keen that visitors to the island - who are very much welcome - are aware of the permit regulations and ask them for their support in protecting this iconic location.'

'Visitors will be issued with a permit if they are disabled and hold a blue badge, or are in the community to provide an essential service.'

'Iona is a small island and it's easy to get around on foot - for example, the abbey is only 10 minutes' walk from the pier.'

'Bikes can be hired on the

Ardgour

ARDGOUR residents learned how to repair and maintain their bikes at an event organised by Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG).

Bike mechanics Ross and Neil from Nevis Cycles set up a makeshift workshop in Ardgour Hall where 15 locals learned how to fix a puncture, brakes and gears, clean their bike and carry out pre-ride safety checks.

The class last Thursday was one of a series of workshops being held in Lochaber to teach basic bike repair skills.

The free events are funded through the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund to help people get the most out of

the light,' they said, 'as well as creating an excellent opportunity for them to meet established artists and gain knowledge young people in Argyll would not usually receive.'

'We are doing this to show the capability of these young artists, musicians, film-makers, photographers and textile designers.'

The exhibition will be available to view from 6pm on September 15.

island and there is a local taxi available.

'Plus, many accommodation providers offer a pick-up from the pier if they know when visitors are arriving.'

'For those driving to the Iona ferry on Mull, there is a free car park with capacity for 140 vehicles close to the Columba Centre and another car park at Fionnphort pier which has space for 70 vehicles and is charged at £1 per hour.'

'We all want to ensure Iona remains the wonderful gem that it is and we thank visitors for their support for and appreciation of our beautiful island.'

Iona is subject to a Prohibition of Vehicles Order which means permits can only be granted to residents, property owners who live there at least eight months of the year, people who hold a blue badge, or those with vehicles being used for agriculture or forestry work, funerals, by the emergency services, by a doctor, nurse, vet, dentist or parish clergyman or woman, people carrying out work for the council, and drivers of delivery vehicles.

For further information and to apply for a permit, see www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/licences/iona-vehicle-permit. Also see www.iona.org.uk

Taynuilt



Crowds enjoy summer ceilidh

A large audience were well entertained at Taynuilt's penultimate summer ceilidh. They were treated to a night of music and dance from a variety of performers. Taking part were piper Stuart Campbell, Isla Sinclair, dancers Iona and Isla MacKay, Mabel Rodwell and Rachael Stewart. Singers Maria Clark, Oliver Clark, Aoibheann Clark, Katie Houston, Riona MacCormick and Freddy MacKenzie also took part. As did instrumentalists Chris Beveridge (clarsach), Alasdair MacDonald (accordion), Helen Watt (ukulele), Katie Houston (flute) and Alex Houston (guitar); Fear an Taighe - the Rev Brian Wilkinson.

Callander

THE Callander Youth Project Trust has been shortlisted for two awards at this year's Social Enterprise Awards Scotland.

Social Enterprise Scotland has announced that the Callander-based organisation is shortlisted for the Social Impact Award

and for Social Enterprise Champion in Chris Martin.

The Callander Youth Project Trust aims to improve the quality of life for young people aged between 11 and 25 in the Callander area by providing access to the best possible education and recreational facilities - as well

as support resources.

Local MSP Bruce Crawford has submitted a motion to the Scottish Parliament to congratulate the trust on being shortlisted.

He said: 'This is a fantastic achievement for this local organisation that puts so much time and

energy into improving the

lives of younger people in the Callander area. I am delighted that Callander Youth Project is up for two awards and wish them every success on the night, when they come to the Scottish Parliament for the awards ceremony.'

Crianlarich

THINGS are looking up for children in Crianlarich as new equipment has been purchased for the play park.

Following the loss of the previous park's equipment due to safety concerns, Strathfillan Community Development Trust is bidding to rebuild the facility.

The Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs have helped by donating £500 to the cause from its Friends of Our Park visitor giving scheme.

Kelly Clapperton-Bates, community development officer with Strathfillan Community Development Trust, said: 'It was a blow to the village to lose the playpark equipment due to safety concerns but things are now starting to look hopeful with some new equipment being purchased by the community trust following kind donations from a number of local organisations, including Stirling Council, and this cash injection from the Friends is a major boost for our ambitions.'

'It has not been an easy process to get this far and we have needed all the support we can get, and we very much appreciate the Friends' assistance in this venture.'



Jared Bowers, from Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, presents the cheque to Kelly Clapperton-Bates of Strathfillan Community Development Trust.

Colonsay

SINGER songwriter Karine Polwart is set to return her musical roots when she headlines Colonsay's music festival in September.

Polwart first performed at the inaugural folk festival, Ceol Cholasa, in 2007.

She will be joined by her brother and guitarist Steven Polwart and multi-instrumentalist Inge Thomson.

Ceol Cholasa 2017 will span the week from Tuesday to Sunday, September 12 to 17, and the organisers are delighted to have representatives from the four bands that started it all off.

Festival director Keith Johnston said: 'We are delighted to welcome back old friends but very excited to have the new wave in Scottish music represented by the Elephant Sessions and Inyal.'

Also confirmed, among others, are Kathleen MacInnes, Anthony John Clarke, Iain MacFarlane, Rallion, Lorn Macdougall and the superb fiddler Ryan Young accompanied by Colonsay regular Jenn Butterworth.

There will also be music from Colonsay's local musicians as well as a showcase of Colonsay food, poetry and song in A Taste of Colonsay.

Dion Alexander, author of the well received *A Potter's Tale*, a memoir of his time on Colonsay in the eighties, will also pay the festival a visit. For more information and tickets, visit www.ceolcholasa.co.uk.

Skye

ONE of the main events at this month's Skye Book Festival features one of Scotland's most distinguished literary talents, Graeme Macrae Burnet.

Graeme's critically acclaimed novel *His Bloody Project* was short-listed for the prestigious Man Booker Prize in October last year, leading to him being named Author of the Year 2017 at the Sunday Herald Culture Awards.

Graeme told organisers: 'It is particularly exciting to speak at an event so close to the setting of *His Bloody Project* as I expect the conditions under which the crofters live in the book will be of particular interest to the audience there.'

The event in Skye will be particularly interesting as it will be chaired by Graeme's uncle, the critic and academic Alasdair DF Macrae, who was brought up in Lochcarron.

Skye Book Festival runs from August 31 until September 2. For further information on the festival contact ruth@aros.co.uk.

At Random

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Lessons learned

THE leadership of the education department at Argyll and Bute Council came in for some damning criticism back in March in a report from Education Scotland.

The report back then said, among other things: 'While there are some strengths in how well the education authority leads the change and improvement of its education services, there are also important areas for improvement. Overall, this area of provision is weak.'

'The pace of change in recent years has been too slow in terms of strategic planning for improvement and change.'

'This has had an adverse impact on the quality of strategic planning for improvement and change in the service.'

'Planning and reporting systems are not yet sufficiently well developed or fully effective to ensure the change and improvement needed. Senior leaders at all levels need to provide more effective guidance and strategic direction in order to take forward improvements within a realistic pace of change.'

The report also recommended five main points for action.

It said: 'The education authority should:

- significantly improve young people's attainment across the authority;
- improve the use of data, ensuring greater rigour;
- continue to improve the quality of educational provision with consistently higher levels of support and challenge from central officers and elected members;
- improve relationships and communication, promoting a more positive ethos among all stakeholders; and
- improve the quality of strategic leadership and direction at all levels within the education authority.'

- Because of these genuine concerns, a follow-up inspection was carried out in June, and from which a new interim report has been published.
- The new report, just published on Thursday August 10, says: 'The council has formulated a detailed improvement plan outlining how it will address the five main points for action detailed in the original inspection report. The plan sets out appropriate improvement actions, progress and timescales. Inspectors noted that the council had taken prompt action to develop this plan.'
- 'Argyll and Bute Council has made some early progress since the original inspection. Much more remains to be done.'
- It seems the kick up the rear has worked, or is starting to, so let's give credit where it's due and congratulate the council for upping its game



Are campervans an issue?

Road to perdition?

WE HAD a remarkable response to a question we asked on social media last week. The question said simply: 'Campervans - good or bad?'

Dozens of people were moved sufficiently to comment, with some unexpected replies.

By the way, to the couple of people who responded by criticising us for asking the question in the first place, I love their failure to see the irony in that they engaged in the debate regardless.

And I acknowledge the technical correctness of the guy who pointed out: 'Objects can neither be good or bad. That concept is alien to almost all life

on this planet, bar man.' Touche. The bottom line is that the people who come to the rural West Highlands in campervans and motorhomes, or towing caravans, are demonised by some motorists for the frustrations they can cause among other road users. Indeed, I must fess up that I've been known to rant about them when I've been stuck in a long queue of vehicles trundling slowly along the A85, A82 or A828 behind an apparently oblivious campervan driver.

They are also criticised for dumping waste, including human effluent, in public places when they have been 'wild camping'.

But the reality is that they pay their vehicle excise duty - otherwise known as road tax - the same as anyone else and are entitled to be on our highways.

They also contribute to the economic prosperity of our area, which has seen a tourism boom in recent times.

So let's cut them a little slack, with the proviso that any half-cent driver of one of these behemoths should be aware of what's behind them and pull over to let quicker vehicles go past.

What do you think?

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A meeting of various organisations hopes to improve the facilities for the pilgrim routes around Scotland.

Pilgrim ways group is set up for Argyll and the Isles

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

ANYONE who hosts tourists in Argyll and Bute will be in no doubt about the rising number of visitors to the area who are now on walking holidays here.

Many of these people, both religious and non-religious, are following ancient pilgrim routes. With this in mind, a meeting in Oban earlier in the year brought together local member organisations of the Scottish Pilgrim Routes Forum (SPRF).

At the meeting it was agreed to set up a steering group of volunteers to develop and promote pilgrimage walking routes linking the Christian heritage in all parts of Argyll.

This important step follows an earlier meeting hosted by SPRF in Dalmally last autumn, and is part of the forum's expanding work across Scotland.

The steering group includes representatives of organisations representing faith tourism,



Stunning scenery looking back towards Dalmally on the Iona to St Andrews Pilgrim Way. Picture: SPRF

heritage, churches, youth work and walking bodies.

Plans are now in hand to upgrade the status of existing routes such as the Kintyre and Cowal Ways for pilgrimage use and to create others using existing core paths where possible.

In time, this network will create a distinctive addition to

the western section of the coast-to-coast Iona to St Andrews Pilgrim Way, which is a recognised priority of the National Walking and Cycling Network promoted by the Scottish Government.

Jonathan Sheldrick, chairman of the Heart of Argyll Tourism Association and convener of the steering group, said: 'We are

excited to be a partner of the broader Columba Way/Slighe Chaluim Chille discussions along with partners Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll Long Distance Routes Forum and others which sets out to link communities in Ireland and Scotland, developing language and associated heritage as a basis for tourism, especially faith tourism, economic development and education.'

The steering group will operate under the auspices of SPRF in developing a website and literature for the Argyll routes and will help promote essential services such as accommodation, transport links and food.

Meetings will be held in different venues to engage with local people.

Nick Cooke, SPRF secretary, said: 'Coming very soon after the Church of Scotland General Assembly's welcome encouragement of local church support and hospitality to pilgrim

travellers, this is an exciting opportunity to celebrate Argyll's unique contribution to Scotland's spiritual landscape for the benefit of walkers, cyclists and communities alike.'

John Henderson, SPRF trustee and treasurer, added: 'The enthusiasm of individuals, churches and other organisations shown at both the earlier meeting held at Dalmally and this one in Oban confirms the desire and will to expand the opportunities for pilgrim walkers in Argyll.'

'The new Argyll steering group will help to be the catalyst to achieve these objectives and will hopefully maintain the pressure on the development of the across-Scotland pilgrim route linking Iona with St Andrews.'

More details on the plans for the Argyll steering group can be found at www.sprf.org.uk/news.html. Organisations wanting to find out more should contact chairman@heartofargyll.com.

Emily is the ray of sunshine that Mike needs to help fix No8's energy bill...



Fantastic! Another huge energy bill, and the prices are going up again according to the news, what am I going to do?

Dad, have you not looked at the solar panel information you asked me to get you when I was on work experience with Cairngorm Group?

I learnt so much about solar panels at Cairngorm, like did you know any power generated is free, plus the government will pay a monthly feed-in tariff?

The government will pay us? Now I'm interested, I'll give Cairngorm a call, once I find the phone.

MORVERN lines

Old funeral customs

'REMEMBER man as you pass by, as you are now so once was I; as I am now so shall you be, therefore prepare to follow me', is a poem replicated in many versions and on many gravestones.

Its clarion call to the living to concentrate their minds on the inevitability of death is guaranteed to chill the spine of the most optimistic of souls.

Highland funerals were unlike any other, largely because of the many miles mourners and coffins had to travel. The wish to be buried at home or in the place of one's birth was, and still is, very strong among Highlanders throughout the world.

Regardless of the distance, no effort was spared to take a body back to the family burial-ground whether by land or by sea. Seldom were coffins put onto carts as it was considered an honour by family, friends and neighbours to carry the deceased to the last resting place.

The custom in Argyll used to be that the closest relatives took the first lift of the coffin and the last on going into the graveyard. The remainder assisted with the intervening relays. In some places the deceased's family would walk ahead dispensing whisky to anyone standing at the roadside or in doorways, by way of hospitality frequently described as 'the darling of the Highlanders'.

At the rear of the procession there was usually a pony or two carrying panniers of food and drink to keep the mourners going during the journey. Frequently the pall-bearers would stop to rest and have refreshments.

At these traditional sites, usually near a well, cairns were built in memory of the dead.

The best example in Morvern can be seen at Clach na Criche (Gaelic for 'the march stone'), a mile west of



'Remember man as you pass by'. Photograph: Iain Thornber

Fiunary, which marks the boundary of the medieval parishes of Cille Choluim Chille and Cill Fhiontain. Here, on both sides of this huge geological slab, numerous little cairns, half-hidden among the bracken, mark the place where funeral parties rested when coffins were taken from one parish to another.

Although coffins are no longer shouldered, modern hearses occasionally stop here by the Sound of Mull to allow mourners to gather stones from the shore to build simple cairn. Further examples are to be found near Blain in Moidart and Ardnamurchan and Sunart on the old 'coffin roads', leading to St Finnan's Isle on Loch Shiel.

For some reason which I have never found out, women were discouraged from going to the graveside. They would be present at the house for a short service but, if the coffin was being

carried to the cemetery, they would accompany it only as far as the first stream but would not cross it. As late as the 1970s, I remember seeing all the women who had been present at funeral services at Kiel, Morvern, lining up at the gable end of the church until after the committal.

Long ago, when burial parties arrived at cemeteries, graves would still have to be opened. No council diggers in those days. This could not be done until the family of the deceased, who had an intimate knowledge of where their forebears lay, had decided on the position of the lair. The decision being taken, every able-bodied man would then lend a hand.

After the burial was over, the grave was filled in before anyone left; a tradition still followed in the old burial-grounds of Irine, near Roshven,

St Finnan's Isle, Cille Choireil in the Braes of Lochaber and elsewhere where modern excavators cannot go.

Until the 19th century, inscribed gravestones were the exception rather than the rule. There were two reasons. First, it was only relatively well-off families who had access to and could afford to pay a mason to produce one. Secondly, it was often considered that putting a name on a grave marker would bring misfortune to the family concerned, which is why so many graves up and down the West Coast are marked only by a small cairn or a single stone – a sentiment echoed in a Latin inscription on a stone for a 13th-century Franciscan priest, now in the Budapest museum which translated reads: 'Stranger, do not seek my name, but when thou pass say an Ave for my soul.'

On completion of the burial, a rite, called 'in praise of the dead' (Gaelic Moladh mairbh) was celebrated which included the partaking of food and drink by all those present. If the family home was some distance away, the assembled company would gather at a spot outside the graveyard. This custom, which nowadays is contained in the eulogy, goes back to the very earliest times when men performed deed of valour before they died.

Refreshments are still provided but with vehicles and more hotels around, few take place outside although I have been offered whisky, cheese and oatcakes at Kiel, Morvern and in a field near Dalilea following a burial on St Finnan's Isle.

Bagpipes used to be denounced from the pulpit as being 'instruments of the Devil' but, happily, this is no longer the case at funerals.

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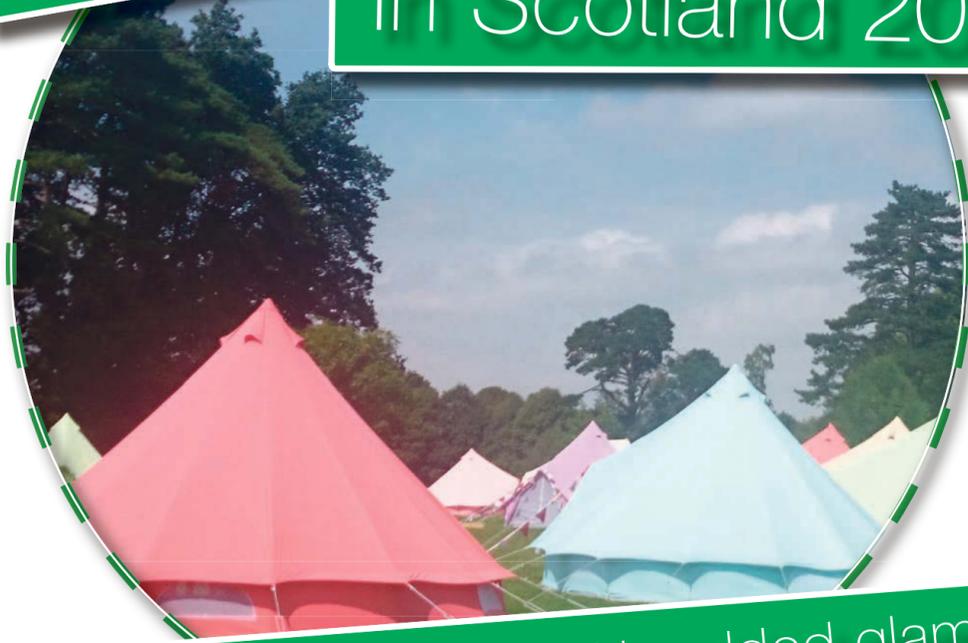


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#MeetTheCairns

GLAMPING

In Scotland 2017



Glamping: Camping with added glamour



Glamping on Arran

IF THE idea of camping calls to mind images of a mouldy tent, a leaky air mattress and muddy clothes, then you haven't been introduced to the joys of glamping. According to Niche Brands, glamping itself was first heard of in the UK in 2005: however, it isn't the first time it has been around in Scotland. Luxurious camping can be seen as early on as the 16th century when the Earl of Atholl prepared many tents for King James V with a vast amount of wine and food that he had grown accustomed to in his palace. Other forms of glamping can also be seen throughout worldwide history, usually involving bringing lavish food and drink on expeditions and treks across countries.

Glamping – or glamorous camping – is seeing strong growth in the UK as some holidaymakers stick closer to home for their vacations.

Glamping fascinates more and more people who would otherwise not be interested in camping holidays.

It has become especially popular with families and the over-65s but, more and more, couples and even solos are discovering how fabulous a camping trip can really be. Or maybe you are a holidaymaker who loves nature, but does not want to buy their own camping equipment.

Today's glamping accommodations range from luxury bungalows, lodge tents and original sleeping quarters such as tree houses, yurts, circus wagons, barrel cabins and teepees.

These luxurious forms of accommodation are no less well-appointed than hotels. Whirlpools, double beds, cooking areas and one's own bathroom are just some of the features that make glamping relaxing for newcomers to camping, or those just looking for a better way to enjoy the great outdoors.

So why is glamping often a better option for a holiday than regular camping or even a break at a hotel? There are several reasons. First, it's all about nature.

Glamping sites on the West Coast are located in some of the most breathtaking landscapes in the world. Almost nothing stands between you and a mountain view, seaside or verdant glen. Scientific studies have shown time after time that experiencing nature yields measurable mental benefits and may reduce the risk of depression. And children benefit from nature in so many ways, from enhanced cognitive abilities to improved self-discipline. Glamping is a sustainable way to enjoy a holiday, as they are often eco-friendly. Good for you, good for the planet – it's a no brainer.

Glamping is also great for truly getting away

from your workaday routine. Imagine a week without making busy schedules, constantly checking emails and returning phone calls and text messages – just you and your loved ones relaxing in a beautiful setting.

Listen to the birds chirping, feel the wind blow through your hair and get back to what is really important. You can tell stories around a campfire as you toast marshmallows, spot wildlife and take long walks together, simply enjoying each other's company.

Compare that to a city break, with a long list of tourist attractions to hit, dinner reservations to make and crowds to fight.

After a glamping holiday, you won't have that feeling of needing a vacation from your vacation.

A glamping trip can recharge your soul, soothe your spirit and give you precious memories that will last a lifetime. So if you love nature but hate the idea of roughing it, why not give it a try and join the thousands of Brit-ish holiday-makers who have discovered the future of camping ... glamping.

Runach Arainn
Glamping yurts – Isle of Arran
www.runacharainn.com

WITH fully equipped, insulated yurts, log-burning stoves, private bathrooms and a fire pit for cooking outside, there is lots of fun to be had glamping on the Isle of Arran.

Runach Arainn (secret Arran in Gaelic) is a small family-run, three-yurt, eco-friendly glamping site on the south of Arran.

The quiet rural location offers the opportunity for a romantic retreat or a family activity packed holiday.

The three yurts are set around an orchard filled with wildflowers.

You can walk from there to the beach, up into forests or to the Lagg Hotel for refreshments.

For more details on glamping on Arran go to

www.runacharainn.com

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tel 01465 821355 www.barrhillholidaypark.com

Barrhill Holiday Park

BARRHILL Holiday Park is surrounded by peaceful farmland and woodland in beautiful South Ayrshire. The park is located close to both the seaside town of Girvan and the quaint village of Barrhill, making it a perfect base from which to explore the endless activities and attractions in both Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway. Whether you're a Robert Burns fan, a keen cyclist, beach lover or foodie, this region of Scotland has it all.

Barrhill is ideal for families or couples and welcomes dogs. The caravan accommodation boasts lovely decor, comfy beds and all mod cons, while the luxury glamping pods which are new for 2017 are very well equipped and offer something more funky for the intrepid traveller. Two pods come with their own hot tubs – what could be more fun?

The glamping pods are superb value starting at just £70 for two people for two nights.

For those wishing to camp or bring their own touring vans, there are shared kitchen facilities and shower facilities at no extra cost. Enjoy your stay!

www.barrhillholidaypark.com

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The warm and cosy camping pods are set adjacent to the ancient caledonian woodlands and overlook Loch Sunart. Bring your camping equipment and enjoy your own space protected from the elements.

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Sandy Bay Croft Wigwams - a stunning Hebridean escape

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Glentress Forest Lodges – your adventure starts here!

SITUATED in the beautiful Borders countryside with views across the Tweed Valley with the River Tweed, famous for its salmon and trout fishing just a short walk away, the holiday park is located just two miles from the lovely town of Peebles with its plethora of shops and restaurants, and the vibrant city of Edinburgh is just 25 miles away.

Glentress Forest Lodges is a brand new development offering the experience of outdoor living in one of their comfortable and safe timber wigwams. Glentress is adjacent to the Glentress forest's 7stanes mountain bike trails, the number one mountain biking centre in the UK. The high wire adventures of Go Ape Glentress is a minute's walk away – and Glentress guests receive a 10 per cent discount.

Available to rent on a per night basis, the timber-framed wigwams can sleep three people in comfort and up to five people if required. They also have camping and motorhome pitches available, some with electric hook-ups.

There are excellent shower and toilet facilities as well as a communal kitchen. For mountain bikers, there is a purpose-built storage and cleaning facilities where bikes and equipment can be cleaned and stored securely. Other services include the supply of barbecue fuel and campfire logs. Free wi-fi is available.

We priced up a three-night stay in a wigwam, Friday to Monday, for a family of three at just £182. Great value and a wonderful base for your outdoor adventure!

www.glentressforestlodges.co.uk

Na Bothain
Sandy Bay Croft Wigwams

T: 01859 550 473 E: nabothain@outlook.com

Glamping pods which are ideally situated for nature and adventure enthusiasts, or for those looking for romance or a unique and memorable family holiday.

SANDY Bay Croft Wigwams are set on a working croft in the picturesque Hebridean village of Scarista on the west coast of the Isle of Harris, an area which is world-renowned for its beauty and untouched habitats.

Whether you are looking for a romantic break or an adventurous family holiday, staying in one of these two deluxe wigwams is the perfect choice for an island getaway.

Sandy Bay Croft is perfectly positioned on the main A859 Tarbert-Leverburgh spinal route, offering the ideal base for families, surfers, bikers, cyclists, hikers, hill climbers, kayakers, as well as those taking a day trip to St Kilda, or photographers and artists wishing to capture and create stunning late night or early morning images.

After a day exploring the dramatically diverse landscapes, fascinating history, heritage and wildlife of the Isle of Harris, return to your cosy wigwam cabin to relax, enjoy a barbecue and a drink around your personal outside firepit. This is your chance to recharge and reconnect as you witness one of the most spectacular moments of the day – the sky transforming into a kaleidoscope of colours as the sun sets and sinks into the Atlantic.

Sandy Bay Croft offers excellent facilities for cyclists, hikers and bikers with bike/hiking gear storage and laundry facilities on site.

Families can travel light by hiring a baby/toddler essentials kit, beach kit or rainy day pack – everything you need for a fuss free, relaxing holiday – and there onsite laundry facilities, a must when holidaying with young children.

Arrive by ferry or plane as car hire is available on the island.

See website for more details: <http://www.wigwamholidays.com/mobile2/Sandy-bay-Croft-Wigwams>

Campaigners demand action on Fort William traffic chaos

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

TWO LOCHABER men are calling for action on the A82 as Fort William endures another gridlocked summer.

Frustrated by the lack of response from local and national authorities to traffic congestion in Lochaber, Elliot Brown and Mike MacGruer launched two separate petitions this week – amassing more than 2,000 signatures between them – in an bid to bring about change.

Buoyed by public support, the pair have now joined forces and are calling on the Scottish Government, Transport Scotland and the Highland Council to take action and upgrade Lochaber roads.

The high volume of traffic in the town this summer has meant that three-mile south-bound journeys through the town have sometimes taken up to an hour.

'The petition arose,' Elliot explained, 'after experiencing the issues myself and reading countless posts on Facebook about the state of the traffic and calling for someone to do something. So I thought I'd start the petition. It has taken off, with more than 1,600 signatures



Mike MacGruer, left, and Elliot Brown at the Lochy Bridge, a traffic pressure point. Photograph: ABrightside Photography.

already. Support has come in from not just Fort William but Skye, Inverness and many surrounding areas.'

Mike MacGruer, whose original petition was aimed at the Scottish Government, says he is delighted with the response

from the public so far and hopes it continues. He said: 'Hopefully this support can be sustained with action taken and decisions made by the Scottish Government for both the short term and for the future. The town is going to suffer financially if commerce

and tourists cannot move freely and our emergency services are not able to respond as quickly as they would like, which could ultimately lead to the loss of life.'

The pair met with Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes this week to discuss potential solutions to the

traffic problems. In a joint statement released after Tuesday's meeting with Miss Forbes, Elliot and Mike said: 'Together we've drawn up a number of points to proceed on and a solid plan to go forward. We will continue to maximise the petition and encourage anyone who hasn't yet signed it to do so.

“

It is an absolute joke and completely unacceptable to spend 30 minutes travelling under a mile into town

Kate Forbes

'We discussed some lower cost, quick solutions to speed up traffic like cutting back foliage and improving signs. We will not give up until we see progress.'

Kate Forbes told the *Lochaber Times*: 'I was pleased to meet with Elliott and Mike to discuss their concerns and the petition.

Spending a lot of time in Fort William this summer, I am fully aware of the congestion through the town.

'It is an absolute joke and completely unacceptable to spend 30 minutes travelling under a mile into town. Bluntly, a town cannot operate with this level of congestion. It restricts all movement and means people think twice about travelling during the summer.'

With the number of tourists visiting Lochaber increasing each summer, many feel the traffic problems could affect tourists' experience when visiting the area.

When asked about the impact on tourism, Chris Taylor, a director at VisitScotland, said: 'We appreciate that for residents and for other visitors, it is frustrating when journeys take a bit longer during the peak summer months when visitor numbers increase. However, looking more broadly and in terms of the local visitor economy, this is a positive sign the area is thriving and visitors want to come, spend time here and visit local attractions.'

Mr Taylor continued: 'Our research also showed that overall visitor satisfaction, which includes scores for 'ease of getting around', is extremely high.'

Community groups act on land ownership

MORE than 100 community groups in the Highlands now own their own land, figures from the Scottish Parliament Information Centre have revealed.

Just under 500 community groups in Scotland have benefited from recent land reform policies that help enable communities control their destiny. The majority of beneficiaries are in rural areas, but there is now a push to see a similar trend develop in urban communities.

Kate Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said: 'While it's fantastic Scotland's land reform has brought over half a million acres of land into community ownership, it's even more impressive when you consider the human impact of this reform with nearly 500 community groups now in charge of their own destiny in Scotland.'

'People are well and truly at the heart of land reform efforts that enable communities to thrive and make decisions about places that would often otherwise be lying derelict. In the Highlands, land reform has empowered 124 community groups to bring community assets into community ownership. Anything we can do to reverse the depopulation trend in Scotland and encourage more people to live and work in Scottish communities should be encouraged.'

BEAR seeks public opinion on major A828 roadworks

BEAR Scotland and Transport Scotland are consulting on proposals to carry out more than £700,000 of road works on the A828 from Ballachulish to Connel.

The work involves 14 schemes

including resurfacing, drainage upgrades, safety barrier installations, cycleway improvements, landscaping and other repairs between September 11 and 28 with proposals for up to ten day-time road closures in two phases.

BEAR Scotland says it is conscious of the impact of roadworks on users and is asking the public to provide feedback. The first stage of consultation is already under way with discussions between bus operators and the local

authority to ensure public and school transport is maintained.

BEAR Scotland is now launching a wider consultation to residents and local businesses, with a dedicated consultation email address set up to allow this

feedback to take place – A828 consultation@bearsotland.co.uk

Commenting on the proposals, the north west representative for BEAR Scotland, Eddie Ross, said: 'This is the first time we have proposed carrying out a

programme of major investment using this method. These roadworks are essential to improve the safety of the trunk road, but we want to gauge feedback from the public with regards to the proposed timing of these schemes.'

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OT

Viewpoint



Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

The wealth of musical talent in Argyll and the Isles – especially, perhaps, in the traditional sector – has been well known for a very long time.

So it was wonderful to see the dedication and hard work of the many people involved in our local pipe bands being accorded what was undoubtedly the highest possible accolades.

For Inveraray and District Pipe Band to triumph as the newly-crowned world champions was a brilliant denouement to the annual competition held at Glasgow Green last week.

And for the current band's founder, Stuart Liddell, to

win the Pipe Major Alasdair Gillies Memorial Recital Challenge was icing on the cake.

As if that were not enough, there was further enormous credit earned by the brilliant Oban High School musicians who took home the Champion of Champions title as well as the runners-up spot for their B band and A band respectively in the juvenile competition.

These latest awards are thoroughly deserved recognition for those involved. These achievements do great credit to the bands, the individuals and to this area in general.

Warmest congratulations to them all.



Day gone by – circa 1863

This week we travel back all the way to around 1863 and a shooting and fishing party at Ardtornish House. Pictured left to right are Benjamin Leigh Smith (1828-1913), a cousin of Florence Nightingale and famous Arctic explorer who donated plant specimens to the Royal Botanic Gardens and brought home live polar bears for the London Zoo; Dr Edward Hamilton, a regular sporting guest at Ardtornish between 1866 and 1879; Harriet Smith (nee Cook) and William Smith (1828-1899), husband of Harriet and son of Octavius Henry Smith, owner of Ardtornish estate; and Thomas Cobb (sitting with gun), the well-known English landscape painter. Thanks to Iain Thornber for the photograph.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



WITH the recent advent of the annual and impressive Perseid meteor shower lighting the heavens with shooting stars, the contrast between the constant and the changeable nature of existence was represented beautifully.

I was lucky to be at home on Tíree the night of August 12 when the activity was predicted to peak and, after an overcast day, at around midnight, the clouds cleared and the stars appeared brightly above us.

Low on the sky to the east, illuminating Milton and Mull, was a bright waning gibbous moon, which was reducing the clarity of the view slightly. However, with all the lights in the house at Skippinish turned off and a bench placed in the middle of the croft, we sat back and gazed skyward to the north.

Our chosen position placed the Plough just over the house and, above that, Polaris shone bright and true as it has for millennia, marking within a fraction of a degree the direction of true north.

I have seen a shooting star only a

few times in my life and was sceptical about the predicted frequency. As an eternal optimist, though, I had a few wishes at the ready just in case. It did not take long for these amazing distant sights to begin streaking across the sky above us.

With only a few modest and simple wishes to deliver, they were all received by these far-off wonders within the first few minutes. After that I relaxed back into the bench and, wrapped in a warm blanket, like a cailleach by the fire, I began to ponder on the pole star.

Known by numerous names with many overlaps between differing languages – Stella Polaris (the polar star), Stella Maris (the sea star), the lode star (the guiding star) and Dhruva (fixed) – among many, this multi-star source of illumination around 434 light years away, in the context of our lifetimes, remains in a constant position above the North Pole.

As sailors over thousands of years knew, having a constant reference point with which to trace your position on the Earth is essential to the

undertaking of any voyage. Constant sources of reference in life, as with crossing an ocean, are an important part of finding fulfilment and, like Polaris guiding sailors on the sea, there are many constants that can help guide us through the ups and downs and rough and tumble of our own voyages.

The importance of reference points for keeping a grip on our position cannot be overstated, and there are no limits to what these reference points can be. Bonds to place, family, friendship, nature, country, ethnicity, profession, love, religious faith and music are just some of the anchors that give meaning to many.

It is my belief that our ability to cope well with change and disruption is enhanced by the strength and number of our individual and unique range of pole stars.

As the shooting stars of our lives illuminate, bring brightness and often disappear far too quickly and without warning, our pole stars can keep our course steady when the rest of the sky is left in darkness.



Social media

There was a spirited response to the simple question we asked on Facebook last week: 'Campervans – good or bad?'

Ian Fletcher reasoned: 'It's the rules of the road that's bad not campervans. For example : if there is more than two cars behind you then it should be against the law to not pull over and let them pass. Simple...'

Gwyn Moses wrote: 'If driven by people who know what they are doing, they are great. Unfortunately they are often hired by people who have never driven anything bigger than a Ford Focus and then try to either drive them like a small car or like a 40 tonne artic. The renters have no understanding about driving on Scottish rural roads, are unable to reverse 5m into a passing place and almost never pull in to a layby to let faster cars pass after they've built up a queue by going round corners at 20mph.'

Alick MacLellan argued: 'I'd love to

criticise the camper and and the drivers, but it's not that simple. The roads to/from town are often unsuitable for overtaking. The drivers are not always so comfortable driving them, so they are naturally more cautious. In town, they are poorly catered for. I don't agree with free parking for them - cars pay, so should campervans and m/c's. But, provide proper sized spaces for them.'

Karen Anderson said: 'Camper vans non parking overnight on the main Glencruitten Rd which already is a narrow road with lots of Pedestrians and cyclists as well as cars/ Lorries/ buses. They have even been seen parking overnight in the golf club car park. More noise pollution for residents!! There needs to be a designated pay/parking areas for them!'

Willie MacDonald posted: 'As a motorhome owner I've got a biased opinion. However more towns should follow Hawick's example and openly welcome them, Hawick has several dedicated

spaces where motorhomes can park for free and are greeted by "Welcomers" who give a welcome pack which has info about local businesses and also has vouchers for them which encourage folk to use local businesses.'

Peter Taylor commented: 'Great if you're on holiday. Utter travesty if you're actually trying to get somewhere and see one round the next corner...'

Marina Curran-Colthart posted: 'Its great to see so many visiting our beautiful area, but they need to be mindful of who's behind them and let other road users pass. They also need to plan where they are going to park up and be encouraged to use designated sites and not take up viewing points or for that matter passing places for their overnight stays. It would also help if they left more than their footprint.'

Linda Simpson wrote: 'Dreadful when your about 10 cars behind and no one can pass by them on roads like the A82.'

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Academics have hijacked Gaelic

Sir, I have often heard comments on language and culture from individuals who are alien to the areas in which they try to be do-gooders.

So regarding Gaelic and its abuse in general, we can well do without being preached to by people from the central belt who have little knowledge of or spoken ability in Gaelic.

I am a genuine, well-versed proper Gael, and I can assure you this kind of lopsided advice, both on the oral and academic side, is not helping the process at all.

To add insult to injury, the idea that throwing money at issues is going to provide a solution is for the birds, sweet as they might sing.

I have painful feeling in my bones that it is the academic hijacking of the language over the past 40 years that has given it a downhill run in both quantity and quality, one example being that, when the language was non-academic, it was real, very good orally and alive in a normal way, without anyone forever preaching that it should be like this or like that.

We need to act instead of moaning and stop being advised by folks who live a long way off and are amateurish in their ways.

It is ridiculous to me and others that the leaders of Bòrd na Gàidhlig and others are not able to deliver fluent conversation in Gaelic.

Aonghas Eoghainn Mhoir,
Gearraidh ns Monadh,
Uibhist a Deas.

A demographic NHS timebomb in Scotland

Sir, After projections recently showed the number of pensioners is set to increase by 28 per cent, it is high time the SNP started listening to warnings about an ageing population

The National Records of Scotland has estimated the hike over the next 25 years, which would unfortunately bring with it a rise in conditions such as dementia.

Hospitals across the country are already struggling to cope with increasing numbers of patients, particularly those with diseases linked to living longer.

Shadow health secretary Miles Briggs said the NHS was already struggling as a result of the SNP's failure to plan for an ageing population and he said the problems would only worsen as that demographic increased.

The elderly population has rocketed in the past 10 years north of the border and the growth is even larger in rural constituencies such as here in Argyll and Bute.

In fact, by 2039, the number of over-75s will have gone from 430,000 to a massive 800,000.

In contrast, the population of 0-15-year-olds will rise by only one per cent.

The Scottish Government must act now or the problems for hospital staff

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



'S NEÒNACH MURA ROBH cuid agaihse mar mi fhin a' fhuair mòran tlachd a bhith a' leantainn Farpais Lùth-chleasachd an t-Saoghail air telebhisean thar an t-seachdain seo chaidh. Dhearbhadh gach farpaiseach toradh an cuid spàirn thar bhliadhnaichean ag obrachadh suas chun na h-ìre seo de dh'farpais.

Chan urrainn ach aon neach buanachadh ann am farpais agus tha sin a' ciallachadh briseadh-dùil agus briseadh spioraid dha cuid, mar a chunnaic sinn às ùr anns an fharpais mhòr seo cuideachd.

Ach an robh duine agaihse a' faireachadh gun robh saoghal agus feumalachdan chraoladair ann an cunnart cus buaidh a thoirt air an fharpais seo?

Tha sinn cho èòlach air a' phàtran a' aig prògraman telebhisein le cathraiche agus sgioba de dh'èòlaichean ann an stiùidio a' breithneachadh agus a' fàidheadaireachd air suidheachaidhean de gach seòrsa. Nuair a thig toradh an tachartais co-dhiù tha iad air a bhith ceart neo ceàrr tha

and patients are only going to get worse as the years go on.

There is going to be a heavily increasing elderly population north of the border, who risk being served by an NHS which sadly won't be remotely equipped to provide the help they need and is being centralised to near breaking point by the separatists.

Perhaps if the Scottish Government dropped its obsession with both another independence referendum and centralising everything in sight, it could concentrate on steering clear of this iceberg.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.

Criticism can make a positive contribution

Sir, While it is flattering someone has been tracking all my letters for years (*The Oban Times*, August 10), Kenny McLennan has not woken up to how complaints are actually positive.

Back in the 1980s, some business people were talking at a meeting and one man was having a major whinge about complaining customers. 'But Gus,' said a friend, 'how else do your customers help you to improve your business?'

The penny dropped and he went on to greater success and to retire 10 years early.

This use of customer feedback became standard with the 1990 book, *The Machine that Changed the World* and the story of Toyota. Instead of sacking staff, its lean approach not only satisfies customer needs but also copies best practice ways of doing things from other organisations.

Oban business people though were already alongside Toyota.

Nancy Black saw computerised stock control at an exhibition, realised the benefits and pioneered the use of IT businesses in the town.

Here in 2017, as well as taking telephone bookings, my chiropractor also offers appointment bookings online. The time she saves enables her to see more clients and keep her prices down. For the NHS, instead of being bogged down in routine calls or carrying folders around, staff can spend more time with the patients who need it. Surely this is better for both patients plus staff can enjoy doing what they were trained to do?

So please, Mr McLennan, have a go at Holyrood, not me, for insisting the NHS goes online. And rather than see 21st-century technology as negative, accept my approach is that of an adoptive son chiding his out-of-touch parents – because we love them, we don't like seeing them let themselves go downhill, and we want to see them being part of the modern world through a tablet and the internet.

Mike Foster,
Crannaig a Mhinister, Oban.

Israel contravenes international law

Sir, *The Oban Times* published a letter

from Susan Wallace on August 3 concerning the murder of a family on July 21. It will have caught many people's attention.

Any violence is to be deplored and condemned but this letter provided no context for these hideous attacks.

As a member of Oban Concern for Palestine, I would therefore like to share with your readers the following information received via Amnesty International. This may throw some light on the situation in Israel/Palestine.

In violation of international humanitarian law, two Palestinian civil society leaders have been held in administrative detention in an Israeli prison without charge for many days. Khalida Jarrar is a member of the Palestinian parliament. Khitam Saafin is a women's union leader.

Khalida Jarrar and Khitam Saafin are being represented by lawyers from Addameer, a Palestinian non-governmental prisoner support and human rights association. According to the lawyers, the Israeli military commander issued a three-month administrative detention order against Khitam Saafin on July 9, 2017, which a military judge confirmed on July 12. Khalida Jarrar was given a six-month administrative detention order on July 12, which was confirmed by a military judge on July 18. Although six months is the maximum period of detention for each order, they can be renewed indefinitely. Both women deny accusations of being members of an illegal organisation.

In the early hours of July 2, the two women were arrested by Israeli soldiers during separate raids on their homes. Eyewitnesses reported that between 40 and 50 armed Israeli soldiers conducted a raid at 3.30am to arrest Khitam Saafin. At around 4am that same day, Khalida Jarrar was arrested, and her phone, tablet and the hard drive of her home computer were confiscated.

Both women were first held in Ofer military compound near Ramallah, where they live. That afternoon, they were transferred to HaSharon prison inside Israel. According to international humanitarian law, detainees from occupied territories may not be held in the occupying power's territory.

As in all cases of administrative detention by the state of Israel, the 'evidence' against Khalida Jarrar and Khitam Saafin is secret. In violation of a central principle of fair trial standards, the 'evidence' may not be reviewed either by the detainees or by their lawyers.

The policies outlined above violate basic human rights and international humanitarian law. Israel has nevertheless pursued such policies for many decades.

If they are harmful to Palestinian men, women and children, they also harm the Israeli soldiers, many of whom are young, impressionable men and women, under orders to carry out dawn raids and often to take brutal action against innocent civilians. Most importantly, such policies have failed abysmally to make Israel safe and bring peace to the region.

Margret Powell-Joss,
Oban Concern for Palestine.

Ailean Caimbeul

tuilleadh còmhraidh ma dheidhinn! Ach 's e bha gun fhàgail fhin beagan tàmailteach dha na farpaisich san deuchainn seo gun robh dùil riutha agallamh a dhèanamh cha mhòr sa bhad a bha iad air an fharpais a chriochnachadh, agus glè thric ceist ga chur air feadhainn mu carson a chaidh iad!

Tha a' mhòr-chuid de chleasaichean a' dèanamh farpais leotha fhèin, ag obrachadh daonnan gu an cuid ealantaich a leasachadh gu ìre nas àirde, agus tha fhios is cinnt gum bheil a h-uile farpaiseach ann an leithid Farpais Lùth-chleasachd an t-Saoghail gu bhith a' feuchainn ris an toradh as fhèarr a bhùinnig.

Nuair nach do thachair sin dha feadhainn aca cha b' iongnadh iad a bhith tàmailteach agus fiù 's cuid brònach, agus bha mi fhin a' faireachadh gun robh stiùiriche a' phrògraman telebhisein gun faireachadh agus ceàrr camara a chumail air aon bhoireannach fad còrr air mi-onaid is i gu follaiseach a' rànaich le briseadh-dùil air mar nach deachaidh dhi.

Leis gum bheil na meadhanan a' cruthachadh tòrr den dùil a tha ga chur an urra ri farpaisich chanadh cuid gum bheil e ladarna dhaibh an

uairsin na daoine sin a cheasnachadh fa chomhair a t-saoghail a thaobh carson nach do chòilean iad na bha èòlach a' sùileachadh bhuaip. Chuir èòlaichean amas eadar sia is ochd bonn fa chomhair Bhreatainn agus Eirinn a Tuath san fharpais seo, ach cha b' e dìth spàirn a dh'adhbharach mar a d'fhuair iad am miann.

Ghabh sinn beannachd le Mo Farah agus Usain Bolt bho fharpaisean aig an ìre seo, agus theagamh gun robh mar a thachair anns na rèisean aca san d'fharpais gun robh còir aca sgur na bu tràithe?

WHILE I enjoyed the television coverage of the World Athletics Championships very much, I felt some of the production to be overly intrusive of competitors.

We all fail on occasion but fortunately we don't have to explain our shortcomings to millions of television viewers as some athletes were required to do.

And to hold one obviously distressed competitor in vision for about a minute was, to my mind, totally unnecessary.

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

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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

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Arena

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

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



Making a meal of comic John



The owner of The Little Potting Shed Cafe had a lovely surprise when a celebrity dropped by her vegetarian and vegan cafe in Oban last week, to reply to a tweet she had sent him.

Popular cafe owner Joolz Goodman said that after not using Twitter for a while, she noticed that comedian John Bishop was in Ullapool.

Knowing the famous Liverpoolian was a committed vegetarian, she decided to invite him in to her cafe for a good meal if he was ever in town.

She tweeted: 'If ever you are in Oban, why don't you come to The Little Potting Shed Cafe?'

Little did Joolz know that John Bishop was actually in town for a gig last Thursday.

She continued: 'It has been so busy in the cafe this summer that I have been open until 9pm every single day. I had no idea that John Bishop was playing in the Corran Halls.'

'I told him I couldn't get along to see him. But after he was in the cafe, I managed to get a cancelled ticket from the Corran Halls.'

'I decided to go. I own the cafe, so I could just close for one night. I managed to get a seat in the fourth row and it was great fun.'

Golden leaves idea is a winner



Lucy Gray with some of the golden leaves that will be hidden. 16_133GoldenLeaf01

Hundreds of golden leaves that can be exchanged for prizes are set to be hidden around the Oban High School catchment area in September.

The competition will run the full length of the month and anyone who finds a leaf is to upload a photograph onto social media with the hashtag #1FoundA-H2OGoldenLeaf.

Prizes can then be collected from Atlantis Leisure, where the leaves will be on display. Each leaf can be exchanged for one prize.

Lucy Gray, a sculptor who is running the project, wants to highlight the work that Hope 2 Oban (H2O) does.

H2O is a charity that helps young people. A lot of the work that the charity carries out is done within the high school.

It has a presence in the school most days and runs a weekly lunch club. H2O is very much behind the project. 'It's amazing,' Joane and Beckie of H2O said.

'I think it's a good way to really lift the community and it is a good way to raise awareness.'

During Atlantis Leisure's Summer Sensations, Lucy received some help from Oban High School pupils to make the golden leaves.

'It is good to get the young people involved at this stage,' the girls from H2O added, 'so they can be part of it and they know their leaves are going to be hidden.'

Glasgow Letter

Congratulations, Inveraray and District

It was lovely to hear of Inveraray and District Pipe Band's great triumph on Glasgow Green last Saturday.

They were crowned World Champions after fighting off strong competition from second-placed Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band who have won the Worlds an incredible five times in the past six years.

As usual, the event on Glasgow Green was tremendously busy with 35,000 spectators, 8,000 pipers, and 219 bands in attendance over the course of the two days.

I cannot pretend to be any kind of authority on the world of piping (I follow it only through what I hear from friends who are involved) but it seems to me that Inveraray's year has been round the corner for some time.

Last year, they achieved second place but could not quite topple Field Marshall from the top spot, which they have made pretty much their own over the past few years.

Their achievement this year is even more astonishing when one considers they were formed in 2004 and only entered Grade 1 level in 2010.

Huge credit must go to the legendary Pipe Major Stuart Liddell. I believe Stuart now joins Bill Livingstone as the only pipers in history to have won a Clasp for Piobaireachd at the Northern Meeting and led a Grade 1 band to a World Championship title.

The day was the culmination of a terrific week for the band and Stuart at Piping Live!, where Inveraray won the international quartets competition and Stuart took the Pipe-Major Alasdair Gillies Memorial Recital Challenge.

I welcomed in 2017 with Stuart in

Stirling Castle for the BBC Alba Hogmanay show. Little did I know back then what a fantastically successful year he had ahead of him. It is great to see.

Glasgow bands on top form

I would especially like to send a huge congratulations to the Glasgow Skye Association Pipe Band, who lifted the Grade 2 title. Their drum corps also took the Champion of Champions Award for the second consecutive year. The band, formed in 1968, must surely have made the whole Glasgow Skye Association proud at the weekend. Runners-up in the Grade 2 competition were the Lomond and Clyde Pipe Band. They gave of their time on Thursday night to perform live in the Park Bar, so it was good to see them among the prizes.

A memorable fringe

This year brought another successful fringe for the World Pipe Band Championships. Piping Live! put on its usual programme of exciting events.

I was out of the country all week but I can see how buzzing the city was by photos sent to me from the Park Bar on Sunday. This event has become known as the unofficial 'after-Worlds hangover cure', for which the Park operated an outside bar in an extended beer garden. The sun was shining and I have it on good authority that the craic was great.

Pub scene

Islay Inn
Friday August 18: Crooked Reel
Saturday August 19: The Raggals

BEN CRUACHAN INN

Live Music Saturday 26 August with Crooked Reel

BEN CRUACHAN INN LOCHAWE



Beer Garden NOW OPEN

We serve home made food all day and a great range of drinks, including Scottish gin and whisky and excellent coffee. We have 5 guest rooms. We are wheelchair accessible and dog friendly. Only 2 minutes from Loch Awe Train Station.



We look forward to welcoming you to stay, drink and eat with us
info@bencruachaninn.com Please call 01838 200880



BBC ALBA

A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 17 August - Thursday 24 August 2017

DIARDAIN 17 LÙNASTAL
THURSDAY 17 AUGUST
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
18.35 **Machair** - Gaelic soap based on the Isle of Lewis (rpt)
19.00 **An Là** - News
19.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
19.30 **Stoidhle** - Sandra Murray explores how people create their own individual style (rpt)
20.00 **About Britain: Isle of Skye** - Richard Dimbleby journeys through the Isle of Skye (rpt)
20.45 **Sgeul Seirbheis** - Gaels reflect on their experience of National Service in the 1950s (rpt)
21.00 **Lorgan Linda** - The legacy of Linda Norgrove (rpt)
22.00 **Na Worlds 2013** - Music from the World Pipe Band Championships (rpt)
23.00 **UR|NEW: An Klondike** - Dominion Creek - Drama, 52 Ep1
23.25 **Cuide ri Cathy** - Russell Watson

DIHAIINE 18 LÙNASTAL
FRIDAY 18 AUGUST
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
18.35 **Machair** - Gaelic soap based on the Isle of Lewis (rpt)
19.00 **An Là** - News
19.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
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23.00 **UR|NEW: An Klondike** - Dominion Creek - Drama, 52 Ep1
23.50 **Dhan Uisge** - Calum MacLean swimming in far-flung places (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 19 LÙNASTAL
SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
17.30 **Machair** - Gaelic soap based on the Isle of Lewis (rpt)
17.55 **Binneas** - Cuirm@Celtic:Chicago - Rura perform the song Mary
18.00 **UR|NEW: Scottish Premiership** - Aberdeen v Dundee (rpt)
22.50 **Dhan Uisge** - Calum MacLean swimming in far-flung places (rpt)
22.55 **Scottish Premiership** - Aberdeen v Dundee (rpt)
DIDÒMHNAICH 20 LÙNASTAL
SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
18.30 **Seachd Là** - News Review
19.30 **Alleluia!** (rpt)
20.00 **Dualchas a' Chaisteil** - The story of renovation of the Lews Castle in Stornoway (rpt)
20.30 **Eileanan Fraoich** - Heather Dewar visits Eriskay (rpt)
21.00 **Farpaisean chon-chaorach** - Sheepdog Trials (rpt)
22.00 **Na Worlds 2013** - music from the World Pipe Band Championships (rpt)
23.00 **An Klondike** - Dominion Creek - Drama, 52 Ep1 (rpt)
23.50 **Dhan Uisge** - Calum MacLean swimming in far-flung places (rpt)
DILUAIN 21 LÙNASTAL
MONDAY 21 AUGUST
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Turas a' Bhradain** (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** - History Shorts (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News

20.30 **Stoidhle** - Sandra Murray explores how people create their own individual style (rpt)
21.00 **Trusadh - Eist ri do Chridhe** - A look at why heart disease is still the biggest killer in Scotland (rpt)
22.00 **Bannan** (rpt)
22.30 **Diary of Britain: Shinty Town** (rpt)
23.15 **Sgeul Seirbheis** - Gaels reflect on their experience of National Service in the 1950s (rpt)
23.30 **Cuide ri Cathy** - Michelle Collins (rpt)
DIMÀIRT 22 LÙNASTAL
TUESDAY 22 AUGUST
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.05 **Bailtean Alba** - Looking at the history of Scotland's towns (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** - History shorts (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **Mnathan-Glùine** - Highland Midwives (rpt)
21.00 **Farpaisean chon-chaorach** - Sheepdog Trials (rpt)
22.00 **Trusadh - Eist ri do Chridhe** - A look at why heart disease is still the biggest killer in Scotland (rpt)
23.00 **Craic - Discussion panel** (rpt)
23.30 **Alleluia!** (rpt)
DICIADAIN 23 LÙNASTAL
WEDNESDAY 23 AUGUST
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Turas a' Bhradain** (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** - History shorts (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **Dualchas a' Chaisteil** - The story of renovation of the Lews Castle in Stornoway (rpt)
21.00 **Diary of Britain: Men and Iron** (rpt)
21.45 **Sgeul Seirbheis** - Gaels reflect on their experience of National Service in the 1950s (rpt)
22.00 **Hòro Gheallaidh** - Celtic Music Sessions (rpt)
22.30 **Bannan** (rpt)
23.00 **Brian Wilson** - a profile of Brian Wilson (rpt)
DIARDAIN 24 LÙNASTAL
THURSDAY 24 AUGUST
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.05 **Bailtean Alba** - Looking at the history of Scotland's towns (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** - History shorts (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **Gaisgich na Stoirm** - Storm Heroes (rpt)
21.00 **Clann Pheter Ròraidh** - The achievements of a family from the Isle of Barra, across three generations (rpt)
22.00 **Belladrum 2016**: Cridhe Tartan - set by Turin Brakes (rpt)
22.40 **Ceòl Bho Perthshire Amber** (rpt)
22.55 **UR|NEW: Aghaidh ri Aghaidh** - The rivalry between Elizabeth Arden and Helena Rubinstein
23.50 **Dhan Uisge** - Calum MacLean swimming in far-flung places (rpt)

Arena

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

Entertainment Reviews



book reviews by Sigi Koerner

The Finest Road in the World

by James Miller
(Edinburgh: Birlinn, 2017)

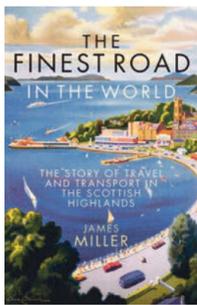
James Miller's new book is about transport and travel in the Scottish Highlands, from the 18th century to the present day.

It is refreshing because it collates stories of travel, rather than travel stories.

Reading the heading of part one – 'the old ways on land and sea' – one might suspect Miller's book to be full of sentiment; it reads something like a furthering of Robert MacFarlane's 2012 travelogue *The Old Ways: A Journey on Foot*.

But this is not the case: Miller's tightly researched book is remarkably un sentimental. Miller works both with and against his title. He plots the triumphs of engineering that constitute Highland infrastructure, while also, through his laconic style and factual bent, denying the existence of a golden age of travel.

The book is not without human interest, however, which Miller's



terse style brings into relief. He gestures towards the human cost of the 18th-century postal system by recording an anecdote of a young post-runner fallen dead on the road in Achnasheen, still clasping his lunch.

Readers might also sympathise with Rev Patrick McDonald's experience of the inns between Connel and Oban in 1792, in which 'rather too much whiskey [was] drunk in all of them'.

Miller's book will be a touchstone for readers and researchers in the field.

The Ghost of Helen Addison

by Charles E McGarry
(Edinburgh: Polygon, 2017)

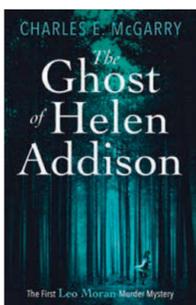
The Ghost of Helen Addison is a crime mystery set in the Loch Dhonn, Argyll.

McGarry's hero, Leo Moran, is larded with not-quite contradictory characteristics: he is a socialist and a connoisseur; an alcoholic and a hypochondriac; a Catholic and a seer of demonic visions.

This heavy characterisation puts him in line with classic figures such as Agatha Christie's Poirot, so that this new mystery will satisfy even the most conservative crime-reader.

But, unlike Christie, McGarry consistently filters his description through Leo's peculiar persona: because Leo likes chess, McGarry describes a short distance as 'a mere knight's move'; because he has taste, McGarry flags up art objects – 'Leo, as ever the aesthete, couldn't help but stare at it in awe'.

This lends the book a distinctly humorous element; the reader can laugh both at and with Leo, and the prose



quickly develops its own gently ironic rhythms. This makes for an unusually reassuring thriller.

Yet, because the reader is drawn so near to the hero, she is also privy to his demonic visions. These slightly horrific passages contrast the novel's more cosy pleasures.

The Ghost of Helen Addison is funny and somewhat frightening. It delivers intimations of demonic presence, while consistently pulling the reader into an affable present. This is the first in what promises to be an entertaining series.

Tobermory makes fundraising fun and raises £4,000

It was thanks to the dedication of the Tobermory RNLI fundraising branch, and the incredible support of the public, that ensured the lifeboat's annual fundraising day was a roaring success.

With all the planning and preparation done, all that was needed was a day of fine weather and visitors.

While islanders are always at the mercy of the weather, the support from the public was, as with previous years, fantastic.

A spokesperson for the RNLI in Tobermory said: 'Many factors make

this annual event a success – the volunteers who help organise and run the event, the fundraising stalls and events. The enthusiasm with which people approach the day with fancy dress and raft race have been key components of the day for many years.

'There is the natural draw of the Severn-class lifeboat Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsay. However, the entire day relies completely on the public, who again turned out in force, helping to raise money for the RNLI with the total so far in excess of £4,000.'



What's on at **The Nevis Centre**

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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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Victory Hall, Benderloch
Saturday, 26 August
Please note
Show Opens 2.00pm
Admission
Adults £2.50, Children £1
Prizes, Raffle,
Sale of Produce from 3pm

Oban & Lorn Horticultural Society Annual Flower Show
Saturday 19th August
Church of Scotland Centre
1.00 - 3.00pm
Entry by donation includes tea
Flowers/veg/ photograph/childrens
Open to everyone

An Comunn Gàidhealach – Meur Chruachain Cruachan Branch
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Fear an Taigh: Donald Harrison Piper: Rowan Bos
Double Gold Medalist – Mary Catherine MacNeil
'The Bum Notes' – Helen Watt, Davy & Audrey Paterson
Tainnuil Gaelic Choir – Conductor – Audrey Paterson
Iain MacAskill - Accordion Helen Jordan – Fiddle
Winnie McNicol - Keyboard The Isla Sinclair Dancers
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malt OF THE month

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I have made two new friends in my little village. They are amazing women who, for some reason, as musicians, have decided to make a life away from the hot glare of the city stage lights.



Aside from being wonderful women who rescue dogs and cats from all over the world, they have renamed themselves Laphroaig.

As I rocked up to their house with a bottle of Oban whisky last week to celebrate Ms Laphroaig's birthday, I decided to commit one of the silliest mistakes I have ever committed, and that was to mix my Oban with a cheeky little pink cava.

I have no idea why I did it – whether it was because I was in the presence of greatness or whether I was just trying to be much more sophisticated than I actually am – but in order to stop anyone else making the same mistake it was, as the French say, 'repugnant'. Feeling the need to rid the taste from my mouth, I decided then to take a bourbon and coke. I was again foraying into uncharted territory.

I returned to the Oban and I was back on safe ground ... or so I thought.

The two Laphroaigs, a neurological nurse called Isla and myself then made our way to a retirement party for a good friend and former police officer.

The Oban whisky continued into the night, making it a joyful and mellow evening.

But we are now hoping for an invite round to Old Boy Brown's for a whole range of whiskies gifted to him to celebrate his retirement that we hadn't heard of, far less tasted.

None of these single malts will be good with cava – I can guarantee that – but lots of them will be good with our new friendship.

PS: apologies for my singing on the microphone at the front of the bus on the way home. Doesn't whisky give me a lovely tone?

Louise Glen

Don't miss last Summer sailing aboard Waverley!

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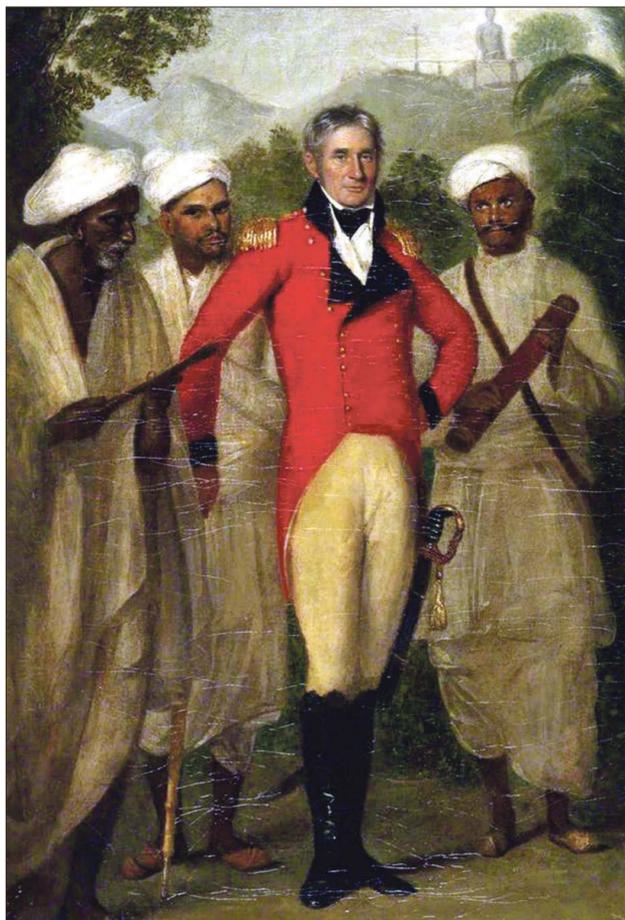
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An Lanntair hosts Colin Mackenzie Collection



Stornoway arts centre An Lanntair has been awarded £59,900 to host the first exhibition of the Colin Mackenzie Collection, 196 years after his death.

Money was given by the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver the project, which will see the exhibition and a vibrant arts festival, Purvai, run at An Lanntair this August, celebrating the Hebrides' South Asian heritage links and Scotland's 2017 Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology celebrations.

The Mackenzie collection is the oldest and largest collection of ancient South Asian art, collected by Colin Mackenzie from Stornoway.

Born in 1754, Colonel Mackenzie left the Hebrides for India in 1783.

He led a remarkable life, culminating in becoming the First Surveyor General of All India in 1815, travelling the subcontinent and building an extraordinary collection of objects.

The collection comprises a range of material, including figures intricately carved in stone, thousands of drawings and sketches from across India and Java depicting ancient monuments, people and customs, maps, coins and old and precious palm leaf manuscripts.

Items from the collection will be on loan from the British Museum, the British Library and the

V&A, and exhibited at Museum nan Eilean at Lews Castle, opening on August 11 and running throughout the autumn until November 18.

Nick Smith, heritage manager at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, said: 'It is extraordinary to think that this important collection has never been shown in Stornoway, Colin Mackenzie's home town.'

'Much of Mackenzie's possessions were purchased by the India Office Library upon his death and are now in the care of national institutions.'

'The high quality exhibition space at Museum nan Eilean at Lews Castle means we now have the opportunity to bring some of this collection to Stornoway for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike, thanks to Catherine Maclean and her colleagues at An Lanntair as well as the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund.'

As well as the Mackenzie collection exhibition, the HLF-funded project will also focus on the heritage and stories of South Asian-Hebridean families who settled in Stornoway.

An Lanntair will work with actor, director and playwright Sudha Bhuchar and photographer and artist Arpita Shah on researching stories of South Asian Hebridean families and their journeys to Stornoway and the islands.



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MONDAY: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11:00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 13:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime, 18:00 Drivetime, 19:00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20:00 John McLuckie's Show, 21:00 David Cullen Show, 23:00 station close, midnight Clyde 2

TUESDAY: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 10:00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13:00 Macky on FM, 15:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 19:00 Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20:00 Elaine Lamb, 22:00 Northern Soul with Gordon Cove, midnight Clyde 2.

WEDNESDAY: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10:00 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 11:00 Comfort Zone, 12:00 Comfort Zone, 13:00 Clyde 2 15:00 Elaine Lamb, 17:00 Drivetime, 17:30 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19:00 Country Meets Rock & Roll with Len & Ken, 21:00 Gordon's Grooves, midnight Clyde 2.

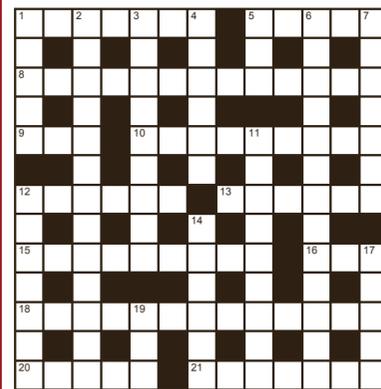
THURSDAY: 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13:00 Elaine's Time Capsule, 15:00 Gordon Covey, 17:00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19:00 Christine's Collection, 21:00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.

FRIDAY: 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Teeny and Tiny, 13:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 18:45 Sports View, 19:00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20:00 Lewis Binham.

SATURDAY: 08:00 Breakfast show with Archie Darling, 10:00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Cosher, 13:00 Clyde 2 18:00 Sports View with the Dream Team, 19:00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20:00 Dave Lewis, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.

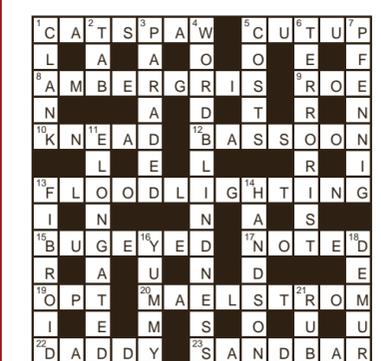
SUNDAY: 09:00 Sunday morning with Breege, 11:00 Sunday Morning with Archie, 12:00 Sunday Brunch, 13:00 Clyde 2 16:30 Archie Darling, 18:00 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 19:00 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 21:00 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott, 23:00 Station close, midnight Clyde 2.

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Relating to bodily fluids (7)
 - 5 Thicket (5)
 - 8 Giver of money (4,9)
 - 9 They're related (3)
 - 10 Ignites (9)
 - 12 Draw (6)
 - 13 Large lizard (6)
 - 15 Able to bounce back (9)
 - 16 Tiny particle (3)
 - 18 Playful trick (9,4)
 - 20 Position with shorter side facing (3,2)
 - 21 Official mission (7)
- Down**
- 1 Diacritical mark (5)
 - 2 Don't get the meaning (13)
 - 3 Correction implement (3-6)
 - 4 The capital of Zambia (6)
 - 5 Stage signal (3)
 - 6 Cowardly (13)
 - 7 Two continents, east and west of east (7)
 - 11 Late dancing venue (9)
 - 12 Small portion (7)
 - 14 Remove from harm (6)
 - 17 Wanting (5)
 - 19 Food container (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



WIN TICKETS

The Oban Times have teamed up with Oban Comedy Night to give away **2 tickets to The Glasgow Trip, Summer Special at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Friday 1st September.** For your chance to win, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, Oban Comedy Competition, PO BOX 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Monday 28th August

Q: The Glasgow Trip is Des and Gary's version of which Sky TV Show

Answer..... Name.....

Address.....

Telephone..... Email.....

Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. No cash alternative.

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Closing date is September 29 2017. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply.

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FARMING NEWS

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Colour and characters are all part of the fun at this year's Islay Show

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

PURPLE sheep, a Stone Age man and a miracle spaniel joined the first-class livestock exhibited at the 171st Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show last Thursday.

Bridgend thronged with prize beasts, exhibitors (numbering 83 this year) and crowds flocking in their hundreds. The public address system reassured anyone stumbling out of the beer tent not to worry if they saw two purple sheep, for 'Little Bo Peep' – Mairi Porter of Bluebell Cottage, Port Askaig – had indeed painted two of her ewes lilac 'just for the craic'. 'Some children asked if they were born this colour,' she said.

Elsewhere, Dangerous Steve juggled chainsaws and knives while straddling a motorbike, and, in the Islay Heritage archaeological project's Stone Age tent, Mesolithic hunter gatherer Will Lord taught audiences how to knap flint blades and rub wood to make fire.

In the sheep section, Suffolk and Texel judge Willie Smith said the showing was very good and very difficult to judge. The overall sheep champion went to a Suffolk tup lamb reared by 14-year-old James Bignal, of Smaladh Farm, Gruinart.

James, in his third year at Islay High School, said: 'We always knew he was a nice tup. He has a nice stance, a big back and big heavy bones.'

James's proud mum, Gillian, added: 'This is the first time he has won overall. He works hard at it. It is a labour of love.'

Beef cattle judge Bruce Dickson said he and the Highland cattle judge could not agree on the overall cattle champion, and so called in an umpire to adjudicate. He said: 'There was a tremendous show of calves, as good as anywhere in Scotland. The Limousin bullock was very

strong – 13 entries, which is better than we will get in any show in Scotland.'

The crown for champion Highlander went to Moira Porter of Carrabus for a homebred three-year-old heifer, but was just pipped at the post for reserve champion of champions by a British Blue cross calf, homebred by John Morris of Knocklearach Farm, Dunlossit Estate.

'This is the first time we have won this,' John said. 'I knew she was good but you do not know what is here until you get here. She's got a good back end and is very quiet. [The judge] said the top line, the back, was tremendous. A great calf right through. The wee one has called her Sparkle.'

John's daughter Lauren, a nine-year-old Bowmore Primary School pupil, won first prize for best young cattle handler, while fellow pupil Jordie Rountree, seven, of Bridgend, won young sheep handler. 'This is farming for the future,' his delighted mum Bizz said.

The champion horse, an Irish sports horse named Lenny, owned by Aphra Mactaggart of Ardtalla Estate and ridden by Shona Isla MacIntyre, was crowned champion of champions and piped in triumph around the show ring.

Shona Isla called the decision 'an absolute shock ... I was not expecting this at all. It has been a big jump for him. He has come from Ingliston Stables and he is living outside. I do not think he had ever encountered a cow or a sheep, so it is a big contrast.' Horse judge Mairi Henderson from Lochgiphead said Lenny was 'an outstanding horse' and 'beautifully turned out'.

Meanwhile, Scarlet Fletcher, 12, of Jura won the £10 first prize in the pet section with her three runner ducks, Canna, Fetlar and Foula, raised from eggs incubated in the family's kitchen.

Arthur and Peggy MacEachern from Keills picked up best exhibit



Mairi Porter, centre, painted her two sheep purple 'for the craic', with Bowmore Primary pupils, left, Amy Stewart, nine, and Josie Rountree, eight. 16_T33_Islay Show_21

in the horticultural section with a double begonia.

Peggy said: 'I am absolutely delighted because the weather was so poor, and they have done so well out of neglect. I could not believe it got best in show. Neglect and bad weather sometimes work.'

Roy Redman, of Tormisdale

Croft, won overall champion in the vintage tractors with a 63-year-old grey Fergusson.

'It has worked on Islay all its life,' he said. 'I bought it from Bridgend about 30 years ago. It has been working hard on the croft. It will be there long after me.'

Duffy MacNeill, of Bowmore,

drove his 1950 Albion Chieftain truck loaded with whisky barrels, while, in a red Rover 2000, his wife Roberta chauffeured their 11-year-old diabetic cocker spaniel Archie, who never seemed to tire of looking out the window after being given the gift of sight again by an expensive lens transplant. 'My husband has a large

whisky collection,' Roberta told us. 'I said, "Sell your whisky and Archie can see again".'

The association's president Eion Brown of Gruinart praised 'the hard-working committee' and a 'great bunch of exhibitors and supporters'.

'The quality was a credit to the exhibitors,' he said, with particu-

larly strong showings this year in the sheep and sucklers.

Another highlight for him was the under-18 young handlers for the sheep and cattle, adding: 'It bodes well for the future of the show.'

For show results and more photographs, visit www.obantimes.co.uk



Horse judge Mairi Henderson congratulates Shona Isla MacIntyre and Lenny, the champion of champions. 16_T33_Islay Show_06



James Bignal of Gruinart was the overall sheep champion with his Suffolk tup lamb. 16_T33_Islay Show_03



Vintage tractors process into the show ring. 16_T33_Islay Show_08



Arthur and Peggy MacEachern of Keills won best exhibit in the horticultural section with a double begonia. 16_T33_Islay Show_29



John Morris of Knocklearach with the cattle champion, a British Blue cross, and his daughter Lauren, nine, who won best young handler in the cattle section. 16_T33_Islay Show_04



Moira Porter of Carrabus follows her champion Highland heifer into the champion of champions judging ring. 16_T33_Islay Show_01

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Overall dog champ Kem, left, with Sophie MacGill of Coull, judge Barbara Scorgie, reserve champ Xena with Samantha MacArthur of Bowmore and, third, Polly with Susannah Reynoldson.



Jane Carswell of Jura with Gracie, three, and a podium for Pirlo the lurcher-Bedlington fox terrier and whippet cross, who won first in the cross breeds.



Jordie Rountree was presented with the cup for best young handler in the sheep section by Roberta MacNeill.



Harry Stansfield, three, tries on a mesolithic outfit approved by his sister Jessica, from the stores of hunter gatherer Will Lord of the Islay Project.



Roberta MacNeill chauffeurs Archie who enjoyed watching the crowds from a Rover 2000, after being given the gift of sight by an expensive eye operation.



As usual, the sheep shearing drew a large crowd who marvelled at the speed and skill of the shearers.



Small Isles Primary School pupil Shian Muir, five, of Jura was presented with the cup for best rider under 12.

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Massey Ferguson 4355, 2002, speed shift, 85HP	£16,995
Zetor 7341 4WD, Hi-Speed, 2001, c/w Quicke Q720 loader, 78HP	£13,995
Case 856 XL Plus 4WD, 1994, c/w Quicke U3 2300, 85 HP	£11,495
Foton Estate 3000 4WD, c/w Loader/bucket and Kilworth Back	£11,495
Case 4240 4WD, 1996, c/w loader, 104HP approx., 2 spools	£10,495
Massey Ferguson 275 4wd, c/w loader, 1886, good example	£8,495
John Deere 2140 2WD, 1981, SG2 cab, 82HP	£7,895
John Deere 2140 XE 2WD, 1985, just of local farm	£6,995
Zetor 5211 2WD, 1992, c/w Allied 394 loader with 5ft bucket	£6,795
International 856 XL Turbo 2WD, 1985, 2 spools, 85HP approx.	£6,795
Massey Ferguson 565 2WD, very good tinwork	£6,295
Kubota B2400, 2006, hydraulic Snow Plough & Salt Spreader	£5,995
Case 695 Stockman Special 2WD, 1994, 72HP	£5,295
Caterpillar 302.5 Mini Excavator, 2008, 2.5 Ton, c/w 3 buckets	£12,795
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FARMING NEWS

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The Mull and Iona Pipe Band performing at the show on Thursday. 16_t33SalenShow04



The winners of the annual Salen Show race. 16_t33SalenShow01



Iain Mackay with his sheep, which was crowned the supreme champion. 16_t33SalenShow16



Hundreds flocked to the Glenaros field for the successful show. 16_t33SalenShow06

Salen buzzing with show success

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcphée@obantimes.co.uk

HUNDREDS of people made their way to Mull on Thursday for the annual Salen Show, organised by the Mull and Morven Agricultural Society. The Glenaros field was jam-packed with people enjoying themselves – both locals and holidaymakers. The show's main attraction was, of course, the livestock. The real ones, that is, not the mechanical bull, which went down a treat with the children. Iain Mackay's four shear St John's Kirk tup, by Castle Grant Jackpot, was crowned the supreme champion on the day, making history in the process. Iain's tup was the first sheep to win the championship in

more than 20 years. The reserve overall champion was Glengorm with its six-year-old Highland cow with calf, Furan Gun Diul 14th of Glengorm. And it was three years in a row for Robert Dickson, who not only took home the baking trophy, but also won the overall trophy for the second year. Jo Weston, secretary of the Salen Show, said: 'I think it has been a brilliant day.' Highlighting all the help that people have given in order for the show to flourish, Jo said: 'It has just been really great. Lots of people have come and lots of people have won prizes. I just want to emphasise that the weather has been great compared to last year. It has been so nice – people have been able to enjoy them-

elves properly.' This is Ms Weston's first year as secretary. She said: 'I have not got much to refer to. However, some things have crept up, but people have stepped up and helped us out.' Visitors to the show had the opportunity to get their hands on some award-winning produce, which was auctioned off towards the end of the day. Carrots, kale and the biggest cabbage on the island were among the first-class vegetables sold to the highest bidder. There were also a number of stalls at the show, with something for everyone – including a vegetarian paella, which was made by the Cooperative Paella Group. For a full list of Salen show results, visit www.obantimes.co.uk



Farmers line up their blackface sheep for inspection. 16_t33SalenShow07

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Roni Macdonald of Roni's Chainsaw Art turns stumps into art. 16_t33SalenShow03



Oban's Kyle McPherson finishes in third place. 16_t33SalenShow11



Sam Lloyd crosses the finish line to win the adult race. 16_t33SalenShow10

Around the markets

United Auctions' sale in Stirling on Wednesday August 9 sold 1,164 store cattle, native bred cattle and young bulls also forward 92 cast cows and 208 breeding cattle

Bullocks (564) - averaged 229.36p to 274.20ppk for a 248kg BAX from Blackthird and £1410 for a 648kg AAX from Wrights houses.

Heifers (475) - averaged 224.82p to 263.00ppk for a 289kg SimX from Dougal Estates and £1335 for a 611kg LimX from Gartantrauch.

B&W Bullocks (104) - averaged 167.01p to 172.80ppkg for a 567kg HFX from Gartantrauch and £980 for a 567kg BFX from Gartantrauch.

Young Bulls (21) - averaged 198.16p to 230.30ppkg for a LimX from Mains of Struie and £1360 for a SimX from Muirmealting.

Cast Cows (66) averaged 139.75p to 204.20ppk for a SimX from Thomanean and £1430 for a AAX from Goddens.

Dairy Cows (16) averaged 113.7p to 159.00ppk for a HOX from Claylands and £945 for a HFX from Wester Lochdrum.

Forward Cattle (10) - averaged 172.55p to 222.90ppk for a LimX from Strawfank and £1560 for a LimX from Strawfank.

Bullocks: Up to 250kgs- Blackthird £680, 274, 20p; 251-300kgs- Muirpark £770, 261, 90p; 301-350kgs- Polquhairn £875, 263, 60p; 351-400kgs- Drumalbin £1020, 258, 20; 401-450kgs- Whiteleys £1130, 262, 28p; 451-500kgs- Derrie £1200, Auchnotteroch 257, 60p; 501-550kgs- High Unthank £1300, 245, 10p; 551-600kgs - Deerpark £1370, 236, 50p; 601-650kgs- Wrights Houses £1410, 222, 20p.

Heifers: Up to 250kgs- Whiteleys £760, 263, 00p; 251-300kgs- Laighpark £830, 249, 20p;

301-350kg- Drumalbin £980, Laighpark 254,70p; 351-400kgs- Challochmun £110, 250, 60p; 401-450kgs- Challochmun £1170, 243, 50p; 451-500kgs- Challochmun £1270, 231, 80p; 501-550kgs- Nether Dalkeith £1270, 231, 80p; 551-600kgs- Kilburn £1310, 222, 80p.

OTM Cows: £ per head- Goddens (AA) £1430; Midlock (Sim) £1310; Harley (Sim) £1270; Easter Frew (Lim) £1190.

PPK- Harley Seeds (Sim) 204, 20p; Goddens (AA) 202, 00p; Wester Cloquhat (Lim) 179, 00p; Denhouse (CH) 162, 50p.

United Auctions' sale in Stirling on Thursday August 10 sold 5,554 Prime Sheep including 3,615 lambs average 191.8p/kg, and 1,939 ewes and rams.

Scottish Texel club show of prime lambs, Judged by Mr H Glasgow, Champion Mr Squair Lower Killernie at £89, Reserve Champion Mr Henderson Auchnrivoch at £101.

Lambs (3615) South Flanders (Suff) £117; Formal (Tex) £107,50; West Park (Bel) £122; £100 ;Shanry (Char) £90; Assloss (Mule) £83.

Lambs (3615) South Flanders (Suff) 246p; Faulds (Tex) 225p; Isle Cottage (Suff) 220p; Humeston (Char) 197p; Assloss (Mule) 182p.

Ewes (1939) - Balmacolly (Tex) £124; Woodhead of Cairness (Suff) £112; Parks of Keillour (Mule) £88; Deuchar (X) £87; Shanry (Chev/Mule) £77,50; Woodhead of Aberdalgie (Bel) £74; Dunruchan (BF) £63

Tups - Kildavig (BFL) £100; Shields (Tex) £95 ; Mosshead (Char) £92. Dunruchan (BF) £80



Emma holds her soon-to-be-crowned overall lamb champion. 16_t33SalenShow12



Alex Craig with the reserve overall champion - a six-year-old Highland cow with calf, Furan Gun Diul 14th of Glengorm. 16_t33SalenShow13



Joe Bullock, 11, with Sky, who was victorious in the dog show, winning the overall non-working dog category. 16_t33SalenShow02



Horse rider Jess O'Rourke at the Salen Show. 16_t33SalenShow05



Some of the produce that primary school children created. 16_t33SalenShow09



The Cooperative Paella Group that served up the only all-vegetarian option at the show, right. 16_t33SalenShow15

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Nominations sought for Scottish Rural Awards

NOMINATIONS for the 2018 Scottish Rural Awards are now open, with businesses across Scotland's countryside encouraged to get involved.

The ultimate benchmark of success in Scotland's countryside, the Scottish Rural Awards are now in their fourth year and are partnered by *Scottish Field* and the Scottish Countryside Alliance, in association with the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland (RHASS).

Thirteen categories are open for nominations, including the coveted Rural Hero award, which recognises those whose contributions to their communities have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Last year's awards drew more than 200 nominees from across the country, with previous award-winners including Walkers Shortbread, North Highland College and Ogilvy Spirits.

Businesses have until Friday October 20, 2017, to put their nomination forward. Businesses can either self-nominate or be nominated by a friend, family member, customer or member of the public.

The full list of awards categories and criteria, along with nomination forms, are available from the Scottish Rural Awards website www.scottishruralawards.org. There is no cost to make a nomination.

Richard Bath, editor of *Scottish Field*, said: 'Showing our readers the joys of the Scottish country-



This year's awards ceremony was a glittering occasion.

side is one of the main aims of *Scottish Field*, so our partnership with the awards is a perfect fit.

'More than ever before, Scotland's rural communities are displaying a remarkable amount of energy, innovation and imagination as they diversify existing businesses and create new and exciting opportunities from scratch.'

'As a magazine, *Scottish Field* is constantly writing about the rural entrepreneurs who are bringing wealth and jobs to the countryside, so it's exciting for us to be able to honour the men and women who are doing so much to make the economy of rural Scotland a true success story.'

Jamie Stewart of the Scottish Countryside Alliance, said:

'Land-based businesses contribute over £2 billion to the Scottish economy. Despite the multiple challenges they face, they are hugely valuable brand ambassadors for Scotland, and many provide vital support to their local communities.'

'These awards give Scotland a chance to recognise the resilience, innovation and

contribution that rurally-based people and businesses make to its success.'

Finalists will be announced at the beginning of December 2017, with winners revealed at the Scottish Rural Awards ceremony and gala dinner, which will take place at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh on Thursday March 22, 2018.

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and you can try before you buy.

You can walk three times with the club before joining. Further information at www.lochaber-and-lorn-ramblers.org.uk. Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk.

Today (Thursday August 17) Gairich, Loch Quoich

This is a relatively easy hill in a wild and isolated setting.

The splendid E-facing headwall above Coire Thollaidh is visible from afar and remains a fine sight throughout the approach.

Start at the dam at the E end of Loch Quoich, NH069024. There is limited parking space here. Cross the dam and follow the boggy path S for about 3Km, to the edge of a conifer plantation. Turn W and follow the path, indistinct or eroded in places, up the shoulder of Druim na Geid Salaich to the summit of Bac nam Foid, 584m. Ignoring an old stalkers' path that leads to the S face, keep to the crest of the E ridge where a hillwalkers' path may be found, and ascend steeply to the summit of Gairich, 919m.

There are a few rocky steps to the summit. The easiest descent is made by reversing the outward route.

An alternative return route adds 6Km to the day: Head SW over easy ground as far as Gairich Beag at 730m. Locate the head of a stalkers' path at NN010988 and follow it down W, zig-zagging on steep ground. It joins another path at the watershed in the glen. Turn SE and head down through Glen Kingie into the forest. Continue E, curving N to emerge from the forest at NN066996 and rejoin the outward route back to the dam.

Distance: 16km. Height to climb 730m.

Meet at Fort William Woollen Mill at 8.50am

Walk leader Sally Cameron, 07810 464994.

Saturday August 19 Arisaig to Borrodale House

A low level walk on good paths visiting a canal, cup-marked stone, a hidden bothy, Prince Charlie's cave (bring a torch) and a dun.

Start from the Post Office at Arisaig where limited parking is available. Walk south and take the minor road at the bend, cross the bridge over the canal and take the track E, which follows it to Mains Farm.

The track turns S to the junction at Glen Cottage. Turn left and follow the track E for 300m to a junctionEX. Turn right and follow

the track S up to a low pass at 60m alt. Look for the cup-marked stone at NM6686384468. Continue S down to the shore at Camas Ghaoidheil.

An easy scramble up a rocky outcrop leads to a small bothy perched above a precipice at the E end of the beach. Retrace steps back over the pass and down to the main track. Turn right and follow it E for 800m, where it joins the metalled road.

Turn S down the road to the head of the tidal inlet of Saideal Druim an DaraichEX. Head SE across the estuary and pick up a path that leads E to Prince Charlie's Cave at NM6906384432. Continue E for 200m, then turn S across a stream on a footbridge and climb up to the Dun at Rubha Aird Ghamhsail. Return to re-cross the footbridge then follow the track N by the stream to Borrodale Ho. Turn E to reach the A830 at NM697850. Transport required.

Distance: 10km. Height to climb 270m.

Meet at Fort William Woollen Mill at 9.30am

Walk leader Dave Kime, 01972 500272.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB
Please see full walk details at www.nevishillwalking.club.

If you would like to go out on the walk please contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email enquiries@nevishillwalking.club.

Sunday August 20 Beinn Fhada

Start from the car park opposite the entrance to Morvich campsite, NG960210.

Head E to the end of the road and cross the bridge over the River Croe. Take the footpath into Gleann Choinneachain and follow it for 4.5km up to a junction at NH007213. Turn S and follow the path into Coire an Sgairne and continue up to reach its rim at altitude 800m. Head up SE, following the rim of Coire Thuill Sgailceich to the summit of Beinn Fhada.

There is an option here to continue to the Munro Top of Sgurr a' Dubh Doire, 962m, at the head of Glen Affric, (additional 4km and 240m ascent). From Beinn Fhada, head W to the Munro Top of Meall an Fhruain Mhor, 954m. A narrow ridge snakes N to the Bealach an tSealgair (The Hunters' Pass), beyond which a short scramble leads to the summit of Sgurr a' Choirre Ghairbh, 864m. The guide continues NE, curving N then W down over Beinn Bhuidhe, 502m.

Continue W down to the bridge over the River Croe and return to Morvich.

Distance: 18km. Height to climb: 1,300m.

Suggested by Ken Stevenson; coordinated by Liz Stevenson.

Mystery of Glen Nevis vitrified hill fort will be revealed

SIGI KOERNER
editor@obantimes.co.uk

THE excavation of Dun Deardail, a vitrified hill fort in Glen Nevis, will open to the public this Saturday, August 19, with a family-friendly archaeological festival.

Vitrified forts such as Dun Deardail are considered some of the most mysterious structures in the UK. To vitrify means to convert something into glass or make something glass-like.

Vitrified forts are not held together with lime or mortar. Instead, their composite stones have been welded together under incredible heat – more than 1,000 degrees Celsius. No-one knows why – or even how – Iron Age settlers vitrified their stone walls.

Andy Heald, managing director of AOC archaeology, said: 'Some people think vitrification was a status symbol, some people think a settlement would be set alight and inadvertently vitrified in the process by attackers and some people think it's a structural thing to do with strengthening the walls of the fort.'

'The bottom line is, we'll never know. That's what's nice about archaeology – different people come away with different interpretations about the history of Dun Deardail.'

Archaeologists have tried to vitrify their own forts, and have largely failed. This has led some people to suspect the use of now-lost pyrotechnics, such as the mysterious Greek fire, which could burn on water or be spat out by archaic flame-throwers.

Vitrified forts also bear symbolic significance, Scotland has one of the highest densities of vitrified forts and it appears that they are to be found in Celtic areas.

There is evidence that vitrified forts were used and reused into the Dark Ages and it has been suggested that



the glass fortresses of Celtic legend and Arthurian romance tenuously refer to these mysterious structures.

Furthermore, Matthew Ritchie, a Forestry Commission archaeologist, has linked Dun Deardail to Deirdre, the foremost tragic heroine in Irish legend, who eloped to Scotland, before being tricked back. Her story can be explored in a new outdoor learning resource on the site.

The festival will include Pictish arts and crafts, ancient story-telling, open-fire cooking and shuttle trips to the dig site, so visitors can see archaeology in action.



Archaeologists carefully expose the secrets of Dun Deardail, which revealed a cross-section of vitrified rocks from the Glen Nevis excavation.

Main picture: Peter Devlin; picture left: Rare Breed Productions

Help needed to understand changes in our countryside

MEMBERS of the public are being invited to join the National Plant Monitoring Scheme (NPMS), the leading long-term habitat-based plant monitoring scheme.

NPMS, which launched in 2015 and has since been adopted by the Scottish Government as a measure for the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, is already

transforming how we understand plant communities and their habitats.

And Plantlife and its partners now need help from anyone who cares about how our countryside is changing so that the survey can continue to go from strength to strength.

Hayley New, Plantlife's NPMS volunteer co-ordinator, said:

'Thankfully, we have a very good understanding of changes in the populations of birds, butterflies and bats.'

'But, despite plants being the very foundation of habitats and ecosystems, we do not currently have a good measure of changes in plant populations across the country.'

'Given that plants fuel the

diversity of life, it is essential that we better understand the changes under way across the countryside at large.'

'From climate change to air pollution, plants face an increasing array of challenges and it is essential that we improve monitoring so that we are able to fill the green gap in UK biodiversity surveillance and

step up conservation efforts. NPMS' 1,100 volunteers are doing an absolutely sterling job monitoring 28 habitats including moorland, grassland and woodland, but now more volunteers are needed to take the project to the next level.'

To become involved, go to www.npms.org.uk/content/how-get-involved.

Each card provides a short description of the route, a detailed map and key information such as time to allow for each walk, distance, elevation, local and natural history and level of difficulty, ranging from easy to strenuous.

Among the recommended walks are the following.

Cowal area:
River Eachaig and Massan Circuit, 5km: a moderate walk featuring woodland paths and the old road along the banks of the Rivers Massan and Eachaig.

Kilmun Heritage Trail, 0.7km: a circular route through the

Guide makes hiking a walk in the park

NEW online walking guides have been published making enjoying a healthy self-guided stroll through Loch Lomond and the Trossachs a walk in the park.

The handy new guides have been created to make it easier for people to enjoy short to medium distance walks in and around the park's stunning and unique natural environment.

The guides focus on walks in the Cowal, Killin and Callander areas and can be easily printed or downloaded to a phone or tablet.

Each card provides a short description of the route, a detailed map and key information such as time to allow for each walk, distance, elevation, local and natural history and level of difficulty, ranging from easy to strenuous.

Among the recommended walks are the following.

Cowal area:
River Eachaig and Massan Circuit, 5km: a moderate walk featuring woodland paths and the old road along the banks of the Rivers Massan and Eachaig.

Kilmun Heritage Trail, 0.7km: a circular route through the

historic village of Kilmun on the Holy Loch returning through a conifer forest.

Killin area:
Sron a'Clachain, 3km: a short but strenuous walk climbing steeply above Killin through lovely oak woods, before opening onto moorland to give fabulous views the length of Loch Tay and down over Killin itself.

Auchmore Circuit, 4km: an easy circular route on minor roads and track exploring the countryside surrounding Killin.

Callander area:
Callander Meadows, 1.8km: a very pleasant level riverside route with lots of wildlife and flowers by the River Teith.

Lower Woods, 3km: a moderate walk along an undulating path through the atmospheric mixed woodland to a viewpoint over the Menteith Hills.

The Glacier Trail, 4.7km: Explore some of the area's geology on the low-level glacier trail, starting near the Roman Camp Hotel at the east end of Main Street and following a short stretch of the River Teith.

To download the new walking route guides go to www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/walking.

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A third of sellers concerned that Home Reports will undervalue their properties

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The biggest concern about the Home Report for Scottish sellers is the potential for their property to be undervalued, according to research from HomeReportScotland, a new site offering instant Home Report quotes.

- 19 per cent of Scottish sellers were worried about the Home Report causing them to lose a sale (rising to 38 per cent of young people aged 16-24).
- 12 per cent of respondents were most concerned about receiving a Category 3 rating.
- 16 per cent of home sellers had no concerns at all about the Home Report process (rising to 27 per cent of over 55s).

Nearly 30 per cent of sellers in Scotland cited the potential for their property to be undervalued as their biggest concern. Similarly, 19 per cent of home sellers were worried about the Home Report causing them to lose a sale (rising to 38 per cent of young people aged 16-24), and 12 per cent were most concerned about receiving a Category 3 rating, denoting urgent repairs or replacements needed in the property. Despite this, 16 per cent of home sellers said they had no concerns at all about the Home Report process (rising to 27 per cent of over 55s).

The results are part of HomeReportScotland's new research among more than 500 respondents, providing insights into Scottish home sellers' perceptions of the Home Report. Powered by Harvey Donaldson and Gibson, the residential surveying firm, HomeReportScotland enables home sellers to get an instant quote online for their Home Report.

Jim Gibson, managing director at Harvey Donaldson and Gibson, commented: 'Our research shows that a significant minority of the sellers have misunderstood the point of Home Reports and their value to people buying and selling homes. For buyers, the advantages are obvious in that you get one report which shows you the condition of the property.'

'And if you're selling your house, the Home Report is a good opportunity to showcase the selling points of your home, and ensure that buyers won't be dissuaded by unforeseen problems that arise during the sale process.'

'The whole idea behind HomeReportScotland is to make it as affordable and straightforward as possible for people to get the information they need if they are thinking about selling their house.'

'If you've maintained the property and kept it in good condition, then the report will reflect this and give assurances to people thinking of putting in an

offer. It could also show things that, with a little work, could add value to your property, too.'

Visit HomeReportScotland at to find out more information: <http://homereportscotland.scot/>



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First-time buyer activity continues to grow in June

On a non-seasonally adjusted basis, UK Finance data shows that mortgage lending in June rose:

- First-time buyers borrowed £5.9bn, up 26 per cent on the previous month and nine per cent on June 2016. This equated to 36,000 loans, up 22 per cent month-on-month and six per cent year-on-year.
- Home movers borrowed £7.8bn, up 26 per cent on May and 15 per cent year-on-year. This equated to 36,500 loans, up 24 per cent month-on-month and nine per cent compared to a year ago.
- Home-owner remortgage activity totalled £6bn, up five per cent by value on May and seven per cent on a year ago. The number of remortgage loans totalled 34,300, up five per cent month-on-month and six per cent on a year ago.
- Gross buy-to-let totalled £3bn, up three per cent on May and up three per cent compared to June 2016. These

equated to 19,700 loans, up three per cent month-on-month and six per cent year-on-year.

On a non-seasonally adjusted basis, UK Finance shows that mortgage lending in the second quarter also rose:

- Home buyers borrowed £34.4bn, up 18 per cent on Q1 and 24 per cent on Q2 2016. This equated to 183,300 loans, up 16 per cent on Q1 and 9 per cent on Q2 2016.
- Within this, first-time buyers borrowed £14.8bn, up 18 per cent on last quarter and 10 per cent on Q2 2016. They took out 91,400 loans, up 15 per cent quarter-on-quarter and six per cent year-on-year.
- Home movers borrowed £19.6bn, up 19 per cent on Q1 and 21 per cent year-on-year. This equated to 92,200 loans, up 17 per cent quarter-on-quarter and 13 per cent compared to a year ago.
- Home-owner remortgage activity

totalled £16.9bn, down 11 per cent by value on Q1 but up one per cent on a year ago. The number of remortgage loans totalled 96,900, down 12 per cent quarter-on-quarter and one per cent on a year ago.

- Gross buy-to-let totalled £8.4bn, down six per cent on Q1 but up five per cent on Q2 2016. This equated to 55,400 loans, down six per cent on the previous quarter but up five per cent year-on-year.

Paul Smee, head of mortgages at UK Finance, said: 'June's figures show a busy month in the mortgage market, with home movers having their highest monthly activity levels for over a year and an especially high number of loans for first time buyers.'

'Buy-to-let activity remains subdued compared to its 2015 peak but consistent month-to-month since stamp duty changes in April 2016. But there are also signs of a softening market.'

CALLS FOR GREATER ENERGY EFFICIENCY REGULATIONS FOR SCOTLAND



time to place higher obligations on private landlords to achieve this. The Scottish government's plans to introduce minimum standards on EPC D simply don't go far enough.'

World Wildlife Fund Scotland has backed Labour's calls for tougher standards. Sarah Beattie-Smith, senior climate and energy policy officer at WWF Scotland, said: 'Improving the energy efficiency of Scotland's homes is a win-win. It creates healthier places to live, tackles fuel poverty, creates jobs and fights climate change.'

With increasing pressure from the government to improve energy efficiency and for them to lower greenhouse gas emissions nationally, it is only a matter of time before minimum EPC banding will come into force.

For landlords, improving the energy efficiency of your rental property can have other advantages; we have experienced some tenants moving out because a property was expensive to heat or cold in winter, meaning shorter tenancies and increased costs. Sometimes, investing in upgrading the heating system or insulation can yield long term benefits and improve retention of good, long term tenants. If you would like expert advice on your rental property, call a member of our Lettings team today.

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PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET

KILBRANDON COTTAGES, ISLE OF SEIL

- Terraced cottage with garage
- 4 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Quiet residential situation
- Close to the sea
- Easy maintained front and rear garden
- EPC Rating - D66

OIRO £210,000

7 Kilbrandon Cottages - A charming terraced cottage situated in a quiet residential area only a stone's throw away from the sea. The property has been maintained in excellent order throughout with manageable front and back gardens. The ground floor boasts a practical layout with a large lounge, complete with fireplace and patio doors leading to the rear garden. The well-proportioned kitchen diner boasts plentiful cupboard space and dining area.

MCCALLS TERRACE, OBAN

- Semi Detached House
- 2bed/2 bath
- Long Term Let
- Furnished
- EPC Rating - 66
- Landlord Registration Pending

PCM £625

Beautiful 2 bedroom, semi-detached house, located in a quiet cul-de-sac just a few minutes' walk from nearby supermarkets, train station and town centre. This main door house benefits from on-street car parking and a large garden to the rear of the property. Deposit and full references required. Viewings available w/c 14th August 2017.

COMRAICH, TOBERMORY

- Spacious Detached House
- 3 bed/1 bath
- High Standard Fixtures & Fittings
- Private Well Maintained Garden
- Potential B&B/Holiday Rental
- EPC Rating - C75

OIEO £285,000

A spacious 3 bedroom detached house located above the town of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. Built 8 years ago by the current owners the accommodation comprises a spacious hallway, large lounge, dining room, kitchen/diner, utility and master bedroom with en-suite bathroom. Upstairs there are 2 further generous bedrooms with en-suite shower rooms, large store cupboard and study. The property is tastefully decorated throughout with quality fixtures and fittings.

MORAY PLACE, FORT WILLIAM

- Top floor flat
- 3 bed/1 bath
- Furnished or Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating - E (52)
- LL REG.
- 453035/27019181

£625 PCM

Top floor, three bedroom flat with stunning views out towards Loch Linne. The property is in a highly desirable residential area of Fort William and is within easy walking distance of town centre & Lussers primary school. Recently refurbished to a good standard with modern & neutral décor throughout. The property consists of large hallway, 2 large double bedrooms, 1 smaller double bedroom, lounge, kitchen/dining area, bathroom with shower over bath & separate WC room. Available September.

TARBAT HOUSE, BUENESSAN

- Detached House
- 4 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Far reaching views
- Established Holiday Let
- Low maintenance garden
- EPC Rating - D68

OIRO £210,000

A spacious 1 1/2 storey 4 bedroom detached house with far reaching views near the village of Buenessan. Built 12 years ago by the current owners, the property is currently run as a holiday let averaging 25 weeks per year. The ground floor accommodation comprises a small porch, hall, modern kitchen diner complete with gas hob, a bright lounge with patio doors to the garden, utility room and two double bedrooms (1 en-suite) both with built in storage. Upstairs there are two large bedrooms with large Velux windows where far reaching views can be enjoyed towards the sea and Ardmearach peninsula.

BELLVUE APARTMENTS, OBAN

- Top Floor Flat
- 2 Bedrooms
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating - G(8)
- Landlord reg: 14397/130/10230

PCM £580

2 Bedroom, unfurnished top floor flat located in Oban Town Centre. The property comprises 2 spacious double bedrooms, kitchen, living room with views across Oban bay and modern bathroom with shower. One car parking space available with the property. Deposit and full references required. Available September.

13 BALVICAR, OBAN

- Terraced Slate Miners Cottage
- 1 Bedroom/1 Bathroom
- Popular Island Location
- Private Garden
- Short walk from Balvicar Bay
- EPC Rating - F

£120,000

A traditional one bedroom terrace cottage in the village of Balvicar, Isle of Seil. The cottage is nestled in a row of traditional slate miners cottages and enjoys views across fields and a 9-hole golf course as well being only a short walk from the Seil Sound. The property comprises a small hallway which leads to a cosy lounge, complete with storage heater and an open hearth fire. Beyond the lounge, the extension to the rear of the cottage, is a dining area and kitchen which overlooks the private garden.

WATERFRONT COURT, TOBERMORY

- Top Floor Flat
- 2 Bedrooms
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating - G(8)
- Landlord reg: 14397/130/10230

PCM £400

A single studio flat in Tobermory town centre. Accommodation is unfurnished and comprises of living area with fold down metal frame bed and mattress, kitchen area and shower room. Electric heating with key meter. Double glazing throughout. Long or short term lets available. References and deposits required. DSS accepted. Rent excludes council tax (Band A) & utilities. Available now.

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We are looking for Customer Experience Managers to join us across Fort William & Oban. As a CEM you will attend pre booked appointments with customers in their own homes, collecting loan repayments as well as issuing manageable sums of money. As the face of Provident you will need exceptional customer service skills and be a reliable and dependable person, with good levels of organisation and an ability to work in a standardised way. You need to be available to work full time, including some evenings and weekends on a shift pattern. Having your own car is essential but we will pay mileage expenses for all business miles and give you a smart phone to perform your role. Please visit www.providentcareers.co.uk to apply or contact 01274 351554 for more information.

KAMES FISH FARMING LIMITED
Require a
Marine Fish Husbandry Person

We are currently recruiting for Marine Fish Husbandry Persons at our Loch Melfort & Loch Craignish sea sites, where we produce selected sea strain Rainbow Trout. This is a great opportunity to contribute to a successful and growing team which is producing fish of the highest quality.

The successful applicant would ideally have fish farming experience with formal boat training, operational qualifications and licences. They will be enthusiastic, self-motivated and able to demonstrate experience of working effectively within a small team. Duties include fish welfare, sampling, grading, treating, moving and harvesting fish and other general fish farm tasks.

Applicants should also have a full driving licence.

Competitive remuneration package dependent on experience, skills and knowledge.
Closing date 23rd August 2017
Please send your CV with qualifications and accompanying letter to:-
Jamie McAndrew
Kames Fish Farming Limited
Kilmelford, Oban PA34 4XA
fish@kames.co.uk
Tel: 01852 200286

The Scottish Salmon Company

Your Career Right Here

Marine Operative x 2
Isle of Mull
Salary: £17,510 - £20,163 plus overtime

We are currently recruiting for Marine Operatives to join our teams based in Loch Na Keal, Mull.

Applicants will be enthusiastic, self-motivated and be able to demonstrate prior experience of working in small teams. Duties will include all the day to day operations of the site including fish welfare, sampling, grading and moving of stock, site maintenance and boat handling. The successful applicant must be committed to high standards of Health & Safety and understand the importance of environmental issues.

Applicants must have good practical and problem solving skills and ideally have marine experience. Previous fish farming experience would be useful, but not essential as training will be provided. A full clean driving licence is also essential for this position.

To request an application form/or detailed job specification, please use the contact details below.

Angela Gibson
The Scottish Salmon Company
Ardringlas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH
Tel: 01499 600 430
angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date: 24 August 2017
www.scottishsalmon.com

Part Time Vacancy
Practice Manager Port Appin Surgery

We have a vacancy for a part-time Practice Manager.

We are a small Medical Practice. The role will be to lead and manage the Reception team and will require IT, employment law, accounts and VAT experience and skills. The successful applicant will also have general reception and dispensing of medication duties.

Previous experience of General Practice Management would be desirable.
Salary negotiable depending on experience.
Informal enquiries welcome on tel no.01631730271.
Please forward your CV to linda.macgillivray@nhs.net
Closing Date for applications Friday September 1st.

University of the Highlands and Islands Argyll College | Oiltigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean Coasta Earra-Ghàidheal

Kitchen Cook
Temporary, fixed term.

Part time cook required for student and staff cafe in the college centre in Oban.
Hours are 8am to 3pm, Monday to Friday during the 34 week college term.
£11,304.15
Oban Centre
Closing date for applications: 24/08/2017
To apply please visit www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk/staff/vacancies/

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Senior Social Care Worker
£29,574 - £33,317
Ardfenaig Residential Home Ref: HAW00462
01546 604334

Closing date: Friday 25th August 2017.
To apply visit our website

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Carers Direct Limited
are an independent provider specialising in care at home.

We are looking for Carers to work in the Oban Area.
Rate of pay from £8.70/hour – variable hours.

Alternate weekends essential. Car driver essential SVQ 2 preferred, training provided.
Application forms from 01631 569 550.
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MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

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APPLY:-
HARRY ROSS,
TEL: 07919 214995
OR e-mail - lil@mkmacleod.co.uk

MACLEOD
MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

ASSISTANT REQUIRED FOR OUR ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT EXPERIENCE PREFERRED BUT NOT ESSENTIAL

Application or C.V. by e-mail to lil@mkmacleod.co.uk

Ceannard Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis (Gàidhlig Riatanach)
Head Teacher Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis (Gaelic Essential)
Tuarastal £53,187

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' sireadh Ceannard-sgoile air stèidh mhaireannach airson Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis. Thathar a' cur fàilte air tagraidhean bho luchd-teagaisg le teisteanasan is eòlas iomchaidh, a tha fileanta a' bruidhinn na Gàidhlig agus a leughas is a sgrìobhas i cuideachd.

The Highland Council seeks to appoint a permanent Head Teacher for Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis. Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced Teachers who are fluent Gaelic speakers and who can also read and write Gaelic.

Faodar ceistean neo-fhoirmeil a chur gu Coinneach Moireach, Oifigeir Foghlaim na Sgìre, air 01463 702074.

Cuiribh a-steach IARRTAS AIR-LOIDHNE aig www.myjobscotland.gov.uk. Mura h-urrainn dhuibh iarrtas a chur a-steach air-loidhne agus sibh airson pasgan iarrtais far-loidhne fhaighinn, cuiribh fios gu Business Support HR Hub C&L, Fòn: 01349 868640 (post-gutha 24 uair) a' toirt seachad àireamh fiosrachaidh na dreuchd.

Mus tèid an neach-dreuchd a dhearbhadh, feumaidh tagraichean soirbheachail ballrachd a ghabhail ann an Sgeama Dion nam Buidhnean So-leònte.

Tha pasgan ath-shuidheachaidh cuimseach aig a' Chomhairle agus dh'fhaodte gum bi seo ri fhaotainn dhan tagraiche shoirbheachail airson dreuchdan maireannach.
Ceann-latha: 28/08/2017

Personal Assistant

An opportunity has arisen for the above position within the thriving Oban office of Bell Ingram. We are looking for someone with extensive experience of rural land and property matters, an excellent understanding of all current and future legislation surrounding all aspects of property, including both the rental and sale sectors. The successful candidate will be good with people and have an ability to work on several projects at any one time. They will be able to deliver and conclude projects in a timely manner, along with delivering effective support to the whole office.

Salary will be dependent upon experience. A closing date for applications has been set for 31st August 2017. To apply for this position please email your CV to Roanna.Agate@bellingham.co.uk. All applications received will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

North Argyll Eventide Home

Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG

We have vacancies for:
Senior Care Officer, part-time permanent night duty post. Minimum qualifications SVQ level 3 in Health & Social Care. Ideally candidates should have experience in Care of the Elderly, £12.61 per hour.
Care Assistant, full-time permanent post.

For an application form contact manager Morag A Telfer. 01631 562168
Email info@northargyllhouse.org

Loch Melfort Hotel
COUNTRY HOUSE BY THE SEA

Duty Manager required to join the management team at the Loch Melfort Hotel.

You will be required to work flexibly across all operational departments, delivering very high standards of guest service. This is an excellent long-term career opportunity for a proactive/experienced Duty Manager. Salary 21K-25K per annum, plus weekly tips and meals on duty. Live in or out. Part time applicants will also be considered.

Contact Samantha Erskine, for more details: 01852 200233 or manager@lochmelfort.co.uk

Scottish Sea Farms

Scottish Sea Farms are an internationally recognised farmer of superior quality Scottish salmon. We pride ourselves in providing industry leading and highly personal development paths which build into fulfilling professional careers. If you are committed to developing our industry and are driven to put your strengths to work we would very much like to hear from you.

Modern Apprenticeship – Engineering
Based in Barcaldine, Argyll Salary: £14,000

This is a 4 year programme consisting of a combination of theoretical learning and practical 'hands on' experience. The Modern Apprenticeship is delivered in partnership with Inverness College UHI.

The successful candidate will attend college on a block release basis in the first year. Throughout the programme you will build a comprehensive portfolio and will be monitored through continuous assessment.

Upon successful completion of the apprenticeship you will be awarded an NC in Engineering Practice, SVQ 2 and SVQ 3.

To be successful for this role you will hold Scottish National 4 Grades in English, Maths and a Science.

In return Scottish Sea Farms will offer an attractive remuneration package including pension scheme, life cover, occupational health support, subsidised gym membership and cycle to work scheme.

To find out more please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator on 01786 445521 or email angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack.
Closing date for applications: Friday 25th August 2017

KMF
MECHANICAL SERVICES

Full Time Motor Mechanic (time served)

Ability to work on their own initiative as well as working within a small team. Experience with diagnostics.
Full UK Driving License is essential.
Wages negotiable.
CV to Mr K Macfadyen
Unit 1 & 2a Caol Ind Est, Caol, Fort William, PH33 7PH
Email: kmf@kmfcars.com

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The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
17/03300/FUL	Allt A'Mhuilinn, Spean Bridge		Siting of shepherds hut for holiday letting
17/03621/FUL	13 Upper Scotstown, Strontian, Acharacle		Dwelling to replace a de-crofted property generally on the footprint of the original building
17/03632/FUL	Braomisaig, Knoydart, Loch Nevis By Mallaig		Erection of house (retrospective)
17/03633/FUL	Land 1870M SE of Invermudale Cottage, Altnaharra		Construct new forest access to facilitate forest management & harvesting of commercial timber
17/03660/FUL	Site 3130M NE of The Tattie House, Isle of Rum		Marine Fish Farm - Atlantic Salmon - New site comprising 12 x 120m circumference pens and feed system

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

MARINE FISH FARM - ATLANTIC SALMON - NEW SITE COMPRISING 12 X 120M CIRCUMFERENCE PENS AND FEED SYSTEM AT SITE 3130M NE OF THE TATTIE HOUSE ISLE OF RUM

The Council has received an application from Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd for Marine Fish Farm - Atlantic Salmon - New site comprising 12 x 120m circumference pens and feed system at Site 3130M NE of The Tattie House Isle of Rum (17/03660/FUL). The application is supported by an Environmental Statement.

The application, the accompanying Environmental Statement and its addendum are available for public inspection at The Post Office, The Village Hall, Isle of Rum PH43 4RR and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using the application number 17/03660/FUL)

Copies of the Environmental Statement can be purchased for £50.00 for paper or free for Electronic. Please contact Claire Lumley-Holmes, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Stob Ban House, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William PH33 6RX, tel: 01397 715078.

Any person who wishes to make a representation on the application, Environmental Statement and addendum can make them online by visiting <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> or by writing to The Head of Planning and Building Standards, ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. The deadline for receipt of comments is 28 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Council will acknowledge receipt of comments but is unable to respond individually to points or questions raised. Please note that your comments will be published online. Please quote the application reference number in your correspondence.

J. Stuart Black
Director of Development and Infrastructure

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TELEPHONE: 01631 568 000
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

**CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA
CROITEARACHD
DECROFTING
APPLICATION**

*1 Larg
1 Caoles, Tiree
0.051 ha - site for an agricultural shed
81668

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 14/09/2017 - Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

*The Commission will consider any expressions of demand when deciding whether to issue a Direction.

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

C Jamieson
7 Dalnabreck, Arisaig & Moidart
77025
0.220 ha
Reason - Site for a dwelling house
Condition - Fencing
Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

PROPOSED LET OF A CROFT/PART OF A CROFT

Ishbel Wilson is applying to let the tenancy of part of croft at 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16 Unachan, Achmahanate, Kilmorivag to Richard Peter Mitchell, 51 Lochiel Road, Inverloch, Fort William.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@croftingscotland.gov.uk by September 14, 2017.

Argyll and Bute Council

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended

ADVERTISEMENT UNDER SECTION 67(2) OF THE MAKING OF A REVOCATION ORDER or MODIFICATION ORDER

Planning Permission for Installation of wooden ramp - retrospective at Dundonald, North Connel, Oban, Argyll and Bute, PA37 1RE
REFERENCE NUMBER: 09/00983/DET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Argyll and Bute Council have made an order under section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to revoke the above planning permission.

The Council have been notified by the owner or lessee (if any); the occupier of the land, and all persons who in the Council's opinion will be affected by the Order that they do not object to the Order.

Any person who will be affected by the Order and who wishes for an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by the Scottish Ministers, must give notice in writing to The Scottish Ministers, Planning and Architecture Division, Planning Decisions, 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ not later than 14th September 2017.

If no such notice is given by that date the Order will take effect by virtue of the provisions of Section 67(7) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 on 28th September 2017 without being confirmed by The Scottish Ministers.

Date 17th August 2017
Charles Reppeke, Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead

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Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 - 13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
17/02069/PP	Alterations and change of use from former shop to hot food takeaway including installation of flue	56A Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7BD	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
17/02034/PP	Demolition of dwellinghouse and erection of replacement dwellinghouse and ancillary building	Dhiseig Gribun Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA68 6EJ	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
17/01997/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, associated out-buildings and greenhouse and installation of 2 sewage treatment tanks	Kilchoan House Kilmelford Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4XD	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
17/02049/PP	Erection of detached dwelling house, detached workshop and installation of sewage treatment plant	Plot 2 Land West Of Cuan Beag Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dervaig
17/02082/PP	Formation of private access	Land North East Of Oban Livestock Centre Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4SD	Oban Area Office
17/01889/PPP	Site for the erection of 4no flats	Land To The Rear Of Falls View Apartments North Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1QX	Sub Post Office Connel
17/02070/PP	Installation of replacement windows including alterations to window and door heights, installation of conservation roof light and formation of 2no front and 1no rear dormer windows	Braeside Main Street Bowmore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA43 7JJ	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
Mr M. Whitmore/Sea Source Units**

Notice is hereby given that Mr M. Whitmore has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of installation of 2 sea source units at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Grianan,	56° 15.882 N	5° 37.878 W
South Cuan,	56° 15.876 N	5° 37.878 W
Luing	56° 15.876 N	5° 37.854 W
	56° 15.882 N	5° 37.854 W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Luing Stores & Post Office, Cullipool, Isle of Luing, Oban, Argyll PA34 4TX

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to: Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: MCMS No. 06455

Applicant: Mr M. Whitmore

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of the business community read the regional press



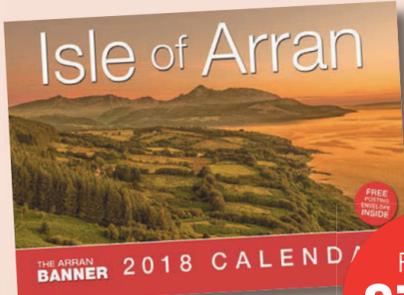
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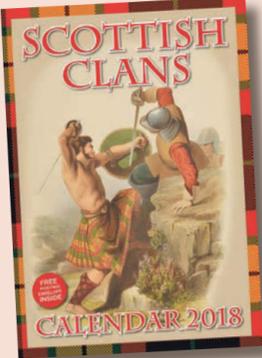
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CALUM HENRY
 Graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a B.Ed (Hons) first class in Primary Education. Calum is the son of Sheila and Ian Henry and grandson of Mairi and Norman MacLeod, Oban. He is a former pupil of Rockfield Primary School and Oban High School. Calum will shortly begin his teaching career in Glenrothes.



IAIN NEIL JORDAN
 Graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University in Master of Science in Occupational Therapy with Distinction. Iain is a former pupil of Lochnell Primary and Oban High School.



LORNA MACPHERSON
 Graduation from the University Of West Of Scotland with a Bachelor of Accounting with Second Class Honours, Upper Division. Lorna is the daughter of John and Sharon Macpherson, Balliemanoach Farm, by Dalmally. Grand daughter of Iain and Rena Macpherson, and Frank and Lucy Beaton, Taynuilt. Lorna is a former pupil of Ardchnonell Primary and Oban High School



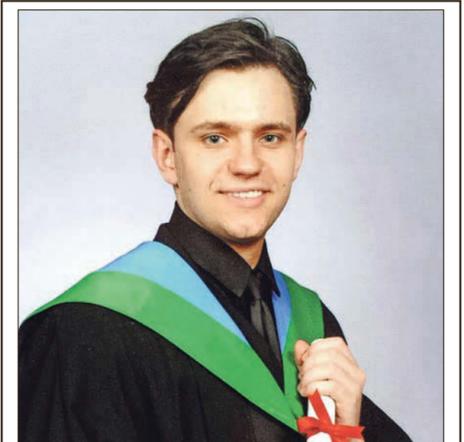
MICHAEL GILES HORSNELL
 Graduated from the University of Aberdeen with the degree of Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Mechanical Engineering. Michael is the son of Janette and Adrian Horsnell, and grandson of Ann Margaret Mouat and her late husband Harry Mouat. He is a former pupil of the British International School of Al Khoobar (Saudi Arabia), Taynuilt Primary School and the High School of Glasgow.



ALISON CLARK
 Graduated from Stirling University with a BA First Class Honours Degree in History. Alison is the daughter of Sam and Margaret Clark, Ballachulish.



IONA GILLIES
 Graduated from University of Dundee with MA (Hons) Education with First Class Honours. Daughter of Lorna and Donald Gillies, Glasgow and granddaughter of the late Alasdair and Katie Gillies, Glasgow and Dingwall, and the late Angus and Helen Campbell, Burnbank, Alma Road, Fort William.



KYLE MACLEAN
 Graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University with a BSc (Hons) in Construction Management. Kyle is the grandson of Jimmy and Rena MacLean, Pulpit Drive, Oban and Andy and Bella MacFarlane, Glenaros Isle of Mull. Kyle is a former pupil of Salen Primary School and Tobermory High School.

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DIAMOND WEDDING

COWAN - At Battlefield East Church, Glasgow on August 14, 1957, James to Rosalyn (née Fraser). Now living in Newton Mearns.

DEATHS

CHRISTIE - Mary Stewart, born October 15, 1928, in East Laroeh, Ballachulish, passed away quietly in her sleep on the April, 4 2017, at the age of 88. The interment of her ashes on August 25, 2017 at 11.30 a.m at St John's, Ballachulish. She will be sadly missed by all her family.

CRAIG - On August 11, 2017, peacefully, at Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, Dr Ann MacKenzie Craig, in her 90th year, beloved wife of the late Dr Leslie Craig, much loved mother of Alasdair, dear mother-in-law of Diane and dearly loved grandmother of Andrea. Funeral service at Cumlodden Parish Church, on Friday, August 18, at 12.00 noon, interment thereafter at Kilkenny Cemetery, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Cumlodden Parish Church.

DUNCAN - Suddenly but peacefully at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on August 11, 2017, Maurice McMillan, best friend and dearly loved and loving husband of Jeanmarie McLellan. Loved and loving father of Scott, Andrew and Ruairidh and loving Grumpy to Heather and Aria.

MACCALLUM - Peacefully, at home in Bunnisan, with his family, on Monday August 14, 2017, Sandy MacCallum in his 67th year, beloved husband of Christine, father of Fiona and brother of Stephen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DODDS - John and the family would like to thank everyone for the many kind expressions of sympathy received following the death of Margaret and to all who came and paid their respects at her service in the Moorings Hotel. Donations on the day went to Moss Park Care Home.

MACEWAN - The family of Alistair would like to thank family and friends for all their visits, phone calls, cards and messages at this sad time, we appreciate it very much. Thanks to Bishop Kevin Pearson, the doctors and nurses at Lorn Medical Centre, Renal Unit at the Beaton and D&A Munn for professional services. Retiring collection for Beaton Cancer charity totalled £699.49.

MACMASTER - The Family of The Late Ewen MacMaster RIP would like to thank Everyone who attended The Funeral Mass at Our Lady of The Angels, Mingarry, Moidart - including all Family, Ian Quelleron & Sons Alan and Derek, Parish Priest Fr.Stan Pamula and 7 Diocesan Clergy, Organist Mike Whitten, Soloist Margaret Ford, Piper Margaret MacMaster, The Holman Family, Mike McFall Funeral Directors, The Pallbearers:Kenny Morrison,Alec Thompson,Allan McColl,Duncan

McLean,Alastair Cameron & Hugh Cameron. All Mourners who crossed over to St.Finnan's Isle for the Burial, John McAuley and Boat Crews, all Bearers who carried Ewen to his final resting place. Kenny Morrison and Burial Party, Cord Holders, Fr Stan,Rev Fiona Ogg and Canon Iain for Funeral Rites and Prayers. Special Thanks to John MacMaster,Stuart MacLennan,Alec Thompson,Ronnie MacMaster and Kenny Morrison who carried out preparatory work on The Island. We thank you for your many expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards, messages, Mass Cards,Fergie MacDonald for his quiet kindness to Ewen in life, Linda Johnstone Loch Shiel Hotel for Refreshments. All the Caring Services, Care Homes,the Acharacle & Kingussie Medical Practices. Finally our brother Ronnie who cared for Ewen so diligently over the past eleven years. The Collection for Macmillan Nurses Lochaber raised £525. Thank you for such wonderful generosity! Sincere thanks from all the family - Canon Iain,Margaret,Ronnie & Elizabeth. 9 MacNaughton Crescent, Acharacle PH36 4JR

MCINTOSH - John, Jackie and family would like to express their sincere thanks and gratitude to all friends, relatives and neighbours for their thoughtful messages of sympathy, cards and letters following the sad loss of Margaret. Special thanks to the doctors, nurses and staff at the Belford Hospital who looked after her with such dedication, love and kindness during her illness and also for looking after the family in our hour of need. A special thank to Rev Morag Muirhead and Rev Richard Baxter for their comforting support and for the funeral celebration service. Thanks to Mike McFall and staff for their kindness and professional handling of the arrangements and a very special thanks to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside and who very generously donated the sum of £1,070 in Margaret's memory. This sum will be gift aided and given to the Belford Hospital to be divided between the Combined Assessment Unit and Ward 1. Finally thanks to the management and staff at the Glen Nevis Restaurant for their excellent catering.

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.

CRUICKSHANK - In loving memory of Flora, August 22, 2103 and Duncan, August 15, 2015. Much loved parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. Never forgotten and forever in our thoughts - Love Catherine, Duncan and families.

GALBRAITH - With loving and everlasting memories of my mother and friend Annie MacDougall Galbraith, who passed away August 17, 2015. - David.

HOGG - Peter John, died August 19, 1997. Remembering you is easy dad I do it every day. Twenty years have passed dear dad since you went away. - Margaret, John and family.

OWEN - In loving memory of our dear mum, gran and great gran who passed away on August 18, 2016. We are sad within our memory. Lonely are our hearts today. For the one we loved so dearly Has forever been called away. We think of her in silence. No eye may see us weep. But many silent tears are shed. When others are asleep. - Tom, Lily, Elizabeth and families.

OWEN - In memory of my dear sister Jean who passed away August 18, 2016. Quietly today your memory I treasure. Missing you always. Forgetting you never. - Agnes.

ROBERTSON - In loving memory of my dear wife Heather. Behind a smile there's many a tear. For one I loved and lost so dear. To a beautiful life came a sudden end. She died as she lived everyone's friend. - Donald.

ROBERTSON - Heather. Gone from our lives. But not from our hearts. Miss you sis. - Morag.

WELLS - Remembering our dear son and brother Gary, who passed away August 19, 2014. Loved and missed so much by - Mum, Dad, Sharon, Dawn, John and Aine. The tears in our eyes. We can wipe away. The aches in our hearts. Are here to stay. Love and miss you always dad, - From Lewis, Robert, Jack and Niamh.xxxx

WYLIE - In loving memory of Robert Magnus (Bob) who died August 18, 2014, dearly loved husband, dad and granda. Death leaves a heartache. No one can heal. Love leaves a memory. No one can steal. - From Catherine, Diane, Maree, Lorna and Rebecca.

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Thank you

Ettie and I would like to say a huge big 'thank you' to everyone who has supported us in the exceptionally difficult days since the loss of our beautiful daughter Kayla. We would like to give a special mention to all of the emergency services who attended the tragic accident, Donna and Ian MacInnes and the staff at D&A Munn Ltd, who have shown exceptional care and compassion, the parish church, Louis Barrow, Clare Jordan and the Rev J McCormick for the services both in Oban and Cardross, Amanda and the staff at the Argyllshire Gathering for the beautifully decorated hall, helpfulness and spread provided, the Print Shop, Angel, who briskly flew Kayla's family from Tiree to be with us, close friends and family who have come to support us in numerous ways, everyone who has taken time to send us messages, cards, flowers and very kind monetary donations, and Bossards Patisserie along with many, many others have shown such kindness during our darkest days. We are overwhelmed by the numbers who turned out to pay respects and join us in celebrating the life of our Princess Kayla, we would like to thank each and every one of you who travelled from near and far to be with us. The love and support you have shown to us both individually and as a community will always be appreciated and remembered by us in the challenging days ahead.

All our love, Ettie, Karina, Ruairidh and Ronnie.

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Coping with *bereavement*

LOSS happens to everyone at some time. Most people expect this to happen later in life, perhaps to an elderly relative, and loved ones have an idea that they are going to be faced with loss. But even though they know a loved one is dying, when it happens it comes as a great shock, and they are overwhelmed by unexpected feelings. And sometimes the loss of a loved one is sudden and unexpected.

Research has shown that in order to grieve in a healthy way, those suffering bereavement need to spend time grieving for the person and somehow continue to live and to function. If a person spends all of his time grieving and not engaging with life, or all his time pushing the grief away, he may have trouble moving forward and recovering.

Experts give several tips for those undergoing the bereavement process.

Talking to close family and friends, especially those who understand, can help feelings of loneliness by recounting memories and sharing stories that summed up the character of the person no longer with them. Such discussions remind everyone why the person was so loved in the first place.

In a similar vein, some may consider making a tribute of some kind to help pay their respects in a symbolic way. Finding ways to continue the bond with the deceased person can help ease grief, such as engaging in activities they used to do, or participating in an event they would have liked - for example, a charity walk.

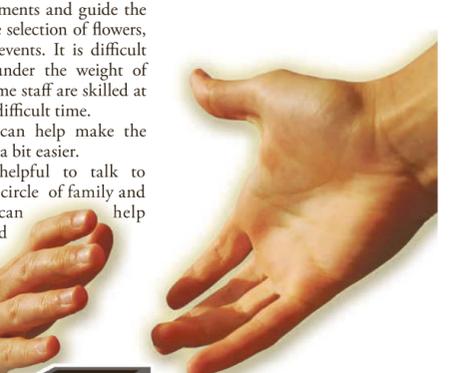
Going back to work too soon can hamper the bereavement process, although some people find it helpful to keep busy - as long as they don't push their feelings away and keep them bottled up.

The funeral can be one of the most

important parts of the grieving process. The funeral offers a chance to say goodbye while sharing memories, experiences and anecdotes with friends and family - a true celebration of a person important to so many. Funeral directors will take care of the practical arrangements and guide the bereaved through the selection of flowers, music and order of events. It is difficult to make decisions under the weight of grief, and funeral home staff are skilled at assisting during this difficult time.

Grief counselling can help make the bereavement process a bit easier. Sometimes it is helpful to talk to someone outside the circle of family and friends. A counsellor can help make sense of and help to normalise feelings. In addition,

bereavement groups can help one through the process by providing an outlet to talk about difficult feelings, while acting as a social hub for those who have something in common.



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Thought for the week

'God is spirit and his worshippers must worship him in spirit and in truth.'
John 4:24

GOD has been pictured in many different ways and under many different names. We find it difficult to imagine a spirit responsible for the creation of all that we see but also capable of a constructive and loving influence on all of our lives.

It is our loss if we ignore this influence as we can see all too plainly in situations around us where the higher authority of the spirit of God has not been accepted. However, through prayer, study and worship, millions of people all around the world have found their lives transformed by recognising their need and looking for the sensitivity to the gift of God's spirit which can inspire, enlighten and heal and add a new dimension to life.

Geoff & Janet Fairbairn

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& West Highland Times

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Lochnell Football Club's 2008 team are 'fired' up for the new season thanks to the generosity of a local craft business. Barcaldine-based Argyll Pottery sponsored the team with a complete set of strips in the striking club colours of yellow and blue. Business owners Carol Livingstone and Hugh MacTavish took time away from the potter's wheel to present the players with their kit at the pottery showroom. Lochnell FC caters for primary-aged boys and girls from the Oban and Lorn area and hold their club nights on Wednesdays at Lora View pitch, North Connel. More details can be found at www.facebook.com/lochnellfootballclub/.

Oban Lorne Ladies attract new players with successful come and try sessions

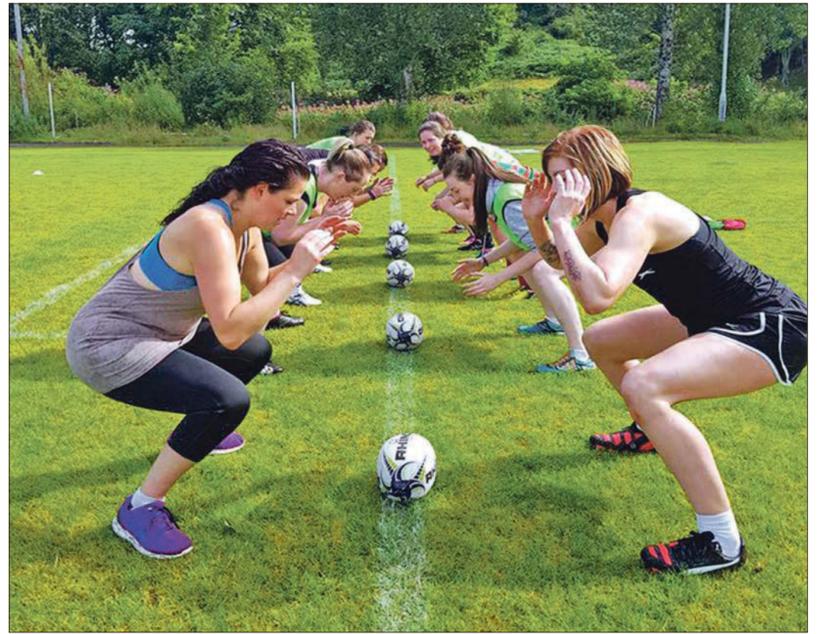
Women's rugby

THE LADIES' rugby section at Oban Lorne RFC have been running a series of come-and-try taster sessions over the past few weeks at Glencruitten with the aim of recruiting some new players ahead of the 2017/18 season.

Four sessions delivered by head coach Corrie Louw and assisted by Ellie MacNiven over the past months have attracted a healthy number of new ladies who will hopefully progress to turn out for the team this season.

Oban Lorne Ladies are full of confidence ahead of the new season under the guidance of captain Laura McCormick. The team kick off their competitive season on Sunday September 17 at Glencruitten where they welcome Aberdeenshire Quines.

After a close promotion fight last season with eventual champions Annan RFC, Oban Ladies will be hoping to go a step further this season.



Oban Lorne Ladies get down to some serious fitness training at one of the come-and-try taster sessions organised by the club.

MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAIN RODGER

BJJ
Oban BJJ is reintroducing mixed martial arts classes on Tuesdays at 7pm. This is focused on the fundamentals of striking, wrestling and BJJ. The other classes continue to focus on competition BJJ. This is to enable the club members who are competing on September 3 in Glasgow to get in the best shape possible. Beginners BJJ is on Fridays at 7pm. This continues to teach from the MNBJJ curriculum and is the perfect first step into groundwork for any martial artist.

For club information, contact Coogie on coogiepots@gmail.com

Kyokushinkai Karate

The Oban club has young Darryl McLaughlin in training for his participation in the British Open, the UK's biggest knockdown karate event which is held at the K2 Centre in Crawley. Darryl will be taking part in the cadet (16- and 17-year-old) section and will be up against the top young fighters in the country. Darryl is likely to be the only Scottish competitor at this prestigious event, which regularly sees competitors from all around the world.

This is the perfect time to start training in Kyokushin Karate, which is so much more than a sport. The valuable lessons learned about yourself in training can be carried forward into your everyday life. Beginners are welcome up until the end of September, after which time there will be a closed three-month period for those already training to concentrate on their next grades. The classes work to a national syllabus and grades are recognised throughout the world.



Oban BJJ has re-introduced mixed martial arts classes for beginners.

For more information contact Iain Rodger on 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk

Shukokai Karate

The Argyll martial arts classes are due to resume on August 22 after a short summer break. New starters are most welcome at this time.

Anyone thinking of taking up this martial art should contact Kenny Gray on: kenni.gray@btinternet.com

Kickboxing

Classes continue as normal at the following times:

Wednesdays at 6.30pm for juniors and 7.30pm for seniors, Sundays at 11am for juniors, noon for seniors and women-only sessions at 2pm.

For more information, contact Wullie Rodger on: shihanwill@gmail.com

Dreams come true at first Kilmartin Horse Show

KILMARTIN Fields was the perfect venue for the first Kilmartin Horse Show organised by Argyll South Pony Club and British Showjumping (Argyll and Bute).

The three judges – Melanie Scott, Sheila Thom and Rosemary Brown – praised the setting and organisation as well as the standard of competition in their respective rings.

Organisers Anne McArthur, Sheila MacCallum and Liz Macnab were delighted with the response and turnout on the day for this new event in the Argyll equestrian calendar.

Kate McIntyre from Benderloch, with her pony Kaydene, won the Shane Trophy – presented by the Geddes family – in the Working Hunter Championship, and Campbelltown vet Marije Terpstra and Mini took the O-Fish-Shell salver as reserve.

In the Riding/Pony Club Horse/Pony Class Championship, Toni Stewart and Affane Lass won the McArthur Salver and Kate McIntyre with Kaydene added the Joker Plate to their spoils as reserve.

Showing section results: Class 1, 13hh and under pony club pony: 1 Willow Ryan, Minstrel; 2 Willow Ryan, Ryan; 3 Alan Boase, Rhapsody.

Class 2, 13hh-15hh: 1 Kate McIntyre, Kaydene; 2 Marije Terpstra, Mini; 3 Katie MacKay, Eeva; 4 Jadie Baillie, Cruise; 5 Selagh Oakes, Pery; 6 Dianne Smith, Corrybrough Fergus.

Class 3, over 15hh riding club horse: 1 Toni Stewart, Affane Lass; 2 Josephine Boase, Valerie; 3 Miriam Mackay Tarn, Jigsaw; Julie McLeish, Eclipse.

Champion Toni Stewart, Affane Lass; Reserve Kate McIntyre, Kayden.

Class 4, over 15hh working hunter: 1 Karen Dixon, Into The Red; 2 John Brailsford, Rocky; 3 Alexis Stewart, Kenna's Pride; 4 Roanna Clark, Local Hero; 5 Patricia O'Reilly, Eammon; 6 Kathryn Hemerson, Rockafella.

Class 5, novice working hunter: 1 Heather Dixon, Blossom Hill; 2 Fabienne Renfrew, Jigsaw; 3 Laura Olds, Dancing

Showjumping

in the Dark; 4 Josephine Boase, Valerie; 5 Toni Stewart, Affane Lass.

Class 6, 13hh-15hh working hunter: 1 Kate McIntyre, Kaydene; 2 Marije Terpstra, Mini; 3 Jadie Baillie, Cruise; 4 Fabienne Renfrew, Colourville Arizona; 5 Rosslyn Smith, Corrybrough Fergus; 6 Lauren Johnson, Saint Sallut.

Champion Kate McIntyre, Kaydene; Reserve Marije Terpstra, Mini. Argyll Points Cup Marije Terpstra, Mini.

Showjumping section results
70cm horse: 1 Josephine Boase, Valerie; 2 Morgan Sinclair, Jilly; 3 Laura Olds, Dancing in the Dark; 4 Niamh Reppke, Perry; 5 Antonia Stewart, Affane Lass.

70cm pony: 1 Rebecca Baillie, Brooklyn; 2 Lauren Johnson, Saint Sallut.

80cm horse: 1 Gillian Rennie, Barney; 2 Laura Olds, Dancing in the Dark; 3 Kathryn Henderson, Rock a Fella VI; 4 Karen Dixon, Into the Red IV.

80cm pony: 1 Marije Terpstra, Mini; 2 Lauren Johnson, Saint Sallut.

90cm: 1 Marije Terpstra, Mini; 2 Alexis Stewart, Kenna's Pride; 3 John Brailsford, Rocky; 4 Karen Dixon, Into the Red IV; 5 Fabienne Renfrew, Colourville Arizona.

1m: 1 Debbie Hay Thorburn, Urban Legend; 2 John Brailsford, Rocky; 3 Fabienne Renfrew, Colourville Arizona.

Kyles Athletic play Newtonmore in Macaulay Cup final on Saturday



Kyles Athletic.



Newtonmore.

Shinty

ALL SHINTY eyes turn to Oban this coming Saturday for the much-anticipated Artemis Macaulay Cup final between Kyles Athletic and Newtonmore at Mossfield.

Grant Irvine and Roddy MacDonald both grabbed hattricks in Kyles Athletic's first round win over Bute, while Glen MacKintosh scored twice as Newtonmore defeated Skye Camanachd 3-1.

A Dunkie Kerr brace gave Kyles a 2-0 quarter-final win over Glasgow Mid Argyll at Tighnabruaich, while Glen MacKintosh scored twice for the second time in the tournament as Newtonmore edged out Fort William 3-2 at An Aird.

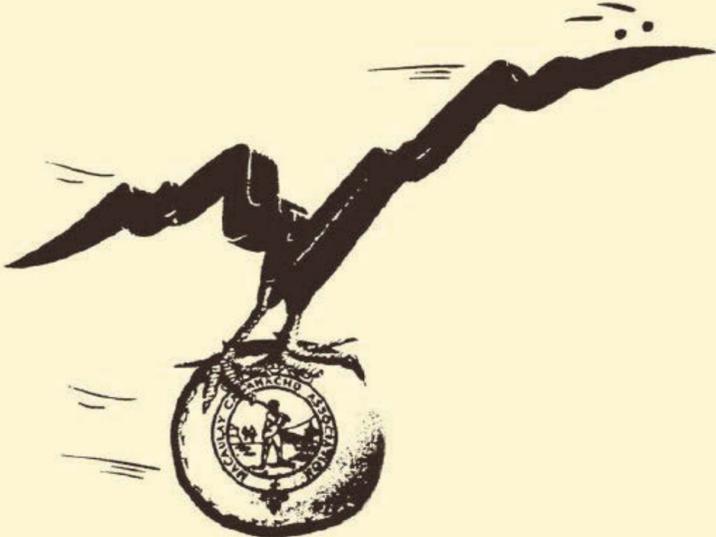
Kyles Athletic were 2-0 semi-final winners against Oban Camanachd at Mossfield, with Colin MacDonald bagging a brace early in the game.

It took three extra-time goals for Newtonmore to get past Lovat in their semi-final tie at Braeview Park. Jamie Robinson scored twice and Michael Russell got the other to set up a first Artemis Macaulay Cup final meeting between the sides since 2014 when Newtonmore were 2-1 winners thanks to Fraser MacKintosh's goal six minutes from the end of extra time. Danny Macrae had put 'More ahead before Dunkie Kerr's leveller.

Robert Baxter is the referee for this weekend's final at Mossfield and this 2pm throw-up will be broadcast live on BBC 2 Scotland.

Admission is £7 (£4 concessions) and there will be a licensed bar and a burger stall.

PROFIT hunting isn't the only pursuit where a good shot can reap *considerable* rewards.



We'd like to wish good luck to the teams pursuing the Artemis Macaulay Cup. But if it's Profits not prizes you're more interested in pursuing, why not talk to our experts about our next Profit hunting expedition? Just call 0800 092 2051 or visit www.artemisonline.co.uk



Saints struggle in first game of the season

Hillington	2
Oban Saints	0
SAFL Premier Division	

OBAN Saints kicked off their 2017-18 Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division campaign with a disappointing away defeat against newly-promoted Hillington at Glasgow Club, Drumoyne, last Saturday.

Injuries, retirements and unavailability of players dictated the Saints line-up would contain just five survivors from the starting 11 which put four goals past Hillington in last season's Jimmy Marshall trophy semi-final.

With a number of key players missing for various reasons, manager Alex Craik was forced to call up three of the club's youth players.

And a late call-off from Keith Millar had the gaffer searching the kit bag for his own boots to make his first start in eight months.

Saints kicked off attacking down the slight slope and into the stiff breeze where they made the most of the early running but lacked the guile to find a way through the Hillington defence.

Good work on the right by Daniel Croarkin and Matthew Kelly created a fifth minute opening for Dean Smith who saw a decent effort well blocked by Scott Caskie. A well-timed 14th minute run from Matthew Kelly took him in behind the Hillington back line on the end of a Fraser MacFarlane pass.

From 20 yards, Matthew attempted to chip the advancing goalkeeper but Gordon Phillips extended himself fully to make a fine save and keep the scores level.

Saints' bright start to the match began to fade as the hosts came more into the match, making good use of set-pieces and long throws to put the Saints back line under pressure. A 21st minute long

throw-in from Hillington right back Ross McQuilten caught the Saints defence out completely with Thomas Cunningham ghosting in behind to send a terrific opportunity wide of Sugar's left hand post.

Willie Gemmell had a 27th minute opportunity to show his prowess with the dead ball after Mark McAllister had halted a Dean Smith run just outside the Hillington box. Willie's effort caught the top of the Hillington wall with Fraser MacFarlane's shot from the loose ball also blocked and cleared.

Saints survived another let-off at the hands of Thomas Cunningham when the Hillington striker moved in unmarked at the back post and guided a Paul McDonald ball along the six-yard line into the grateful arms of Graham Douglas.

At the other end, Dean Smith's perseverance finally won him a clear sight of goal in the 34th minute but he couldn't capitalise on it and sent his shot from 16-yards just over the top of the Hillington crossbar.

Stuart Ashton and Steven Cunningham both sent snap shots well wide of target for the hosts before referee John McNab blew the half-time whistle.

As in the first half, Saints made the better start but were again unable to find a way past the well-organised Hillington defence.

Scott Caskie was on his toes 60 seconds later to head behind a Willie Gemmell ball over the top.

A flurry of Saints' corner kicks followed, which the Hillington rearguard successfully repelled.

The home side got their noses in front in the 60th minute, severely punishing a misplaced Saints pass on the half-way line. Ashton again broke forward on the left and sent an inviting ball along the six-yard line which skipper Scott Gold knocked home sliding in at the



Dean Smith and Martin O'Connor in an aerial joust during last Saturday's match against Hillington. Match report and photos: Derek Black.

back post. Saints responded with Craig MacEwan collecting a Willie Gemmell pass and cutting in from the right before curling a left foot shot wide of target.

Manager Alex Craik made his first change in the 64th minute bringing in an end young Nathan Allan's competitive debut replacing him on the left of the back three with the experienced David Smith.

The gaffer added further fresh legs in the 67th minute with Daniel Croarkin and Dean Smith making way for Cameron Kerr and Shaun MacIver.

Disappointed
Youngster Kerr, another making his senior competitive debut, made an early contribution playing in Craig MacEwan who was disappointed not to make better contact with his shot sending an excellent chance wide of the keeper's left hand post.

With 15 minutes remaining, Hillington's Scott Caskie made a vital interception taking the ball off Craig MacEwan's toe from a Fraser MacFarlane cut-back after the Saints wide man had made a good run on the right wing.

From the resulting corner kick, Gordon Phillips spread himself full length to his right to turn a Scott Maitland shot from 18 yards around the post.

Craig MacEwan's frustrating afternoon continued in the 76th minute when he failed to make the desired contact with Willie Gemmell's bouncing through ball, allowing Gordon Phillips to make another save.

When Saints finally managed to beat Phillips in the 78th minute referee John McNab, who had a good game, correctly ruled out Shaun MacIver's effort for offside.

Willie Gemmell was handed an ideal 87th minute free-kick opportunity 22-yards out and slightly left of centre. Willie successfully guided his effort on target with Gordon Phillips only able to parry the ball after it bounced six yards in front of him. Cameron Kerr reached the loose ball but could only steer it wide of target under pressure from Steven Cunningham and Martin O'Connor.

Mr McNab gave the benefit of an extremely close off-side call to the home side in the 88th minute with Craig MacEwan through one-on-one with goalkeeper Phillips.

With time ebbing away, Hillington began knocking the ball into the corners to run down the clock, a tactic which produced an unexpected bonus in the first of the four minutes added by Mr McNab. Marc Maccallum regained possession from Paul McDonald



Shaun MacIver has the ball in the net, but his effort was offside.

and knocked the ball back to Graham Douglas on the right edge of his penalty box. Sugar's clearance caught the top of Thomas Cunningham's head severely reducing its effectiveness. The ball looped perfectly onto the instep of Hillington skipper Scott Gold ten yards inside the Saints half who cushioned a delightful volley into the unguarded net to seal the win for his team.

Saints kept plugging away in search of a consolation goal and had a Shaun MacIver header from a Fraser MacFarlane corner saved before Fraser fired a decent opportunity into the side netting with the last kick of the game.

Despite having so many players missing, manager Alex Craik will be bitterly disappointed with the poor showing of his charges getting a poten-

tially difficult season off to the worst possible start.

Already at the wrong end of the table in what has all the makings of an extremely competitive league campaign, Saints will be hoping for encouraging news on the injury front to bolster their threadbare squad ahead of next Saturday's visit by Motherwell Thistle.

The South Lanarkshire men, who were 3-2 winners on their only previous visit to Glencruitten, began their season last week with a convincing 3-0 Centenary Cup win over Kings Park Rangers and will be looking to continue their good start with another victory in Oban.

The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is Jimmy Litster.



Golf news

Glencruitten
GRAHAM MacColl won the Glencruitten Open on Saturday with a score of 65. Ryan McGlynn and Cameron Milne were runners up with scores of 67.

The Chrysler Sunbeam Trophy was won by Martin Tait with a score of 70-7 = 63 (bih). Runners up with net scores of 63 were Ian McCuish, Donald MacVicar and Aidan McCuish.

The Wellpark Trophy was won by Finlay MacKay with a score of 77-15 = 62. Runner up was Donald McGill with a score of 81-18 = 63.

On Saturday August 19, a Par 3 Open is to be held. This is a new competition at Glencruitten and entries are still available.

Tobermory

MENS section: August medal - 1 Donald Brown snr 75-10-65; 2 David Honeyman 95-26-69; 3 Graham Davidson 77-08-69.

Ladies section: August medal - 1 Doris Hargreaves 52-18-34; 2 Jennifer Jack 44-11-47; 3 Kathy McAdam 58-11-47.

Glensy Clegg Trophy - 1 Doris Hargreaves 19 points; 2 Jennifer Jack 15 points; 3 Rosalind Reid 12 points.

Taynuilt

RESULTS of the S & S Services-sponsored Gents Open played on Sunday August 13.

Handicap: 1 Thomas McCulloch (Taynuilt GC) 61 (15); 2 Graeme MacKechnie (Dalnally GC) 62 (07); 3 Iain MacDonald (Inveraray GC) 62 (09).

Scratch: 1 Alan MacKie (Glencruitten GC) 67 (BIH); 2 David Howie (Taynuilt GC) 67; 3 Cameron Milne (Glencruitten GC) 68.

Longest Drive at 1st/10th - Graham MacColl (Glencruitten GC). Nearest the Pin at 3rd/12th - Thomas McCulloch (Taynuilt GC). Nearest the Pin at 8th/17th - Paul Walton (Taynuilt GC).



Saturday saw Oban Bowling Club's annual open pairs competition sponsored by Carpet and Flooring Services Oban Ltd. After ten rounds of competition, four teams emerged to contest the semi finals. They were Maureen and Bill Goldie from Oban who played the Tarbert pair of Peter MacLean and Adam Ronald. After six ends, the Tarbert boys squeezed through. The other semi was between two Oban teams of Helen and Donna MacLean who continued their unbeaten run by edging out John and David McLaren. The final was a tense affair but the Oban team of Helen and Donna came out on top to take the trophy which was presented by Ian McPherson of Carpet and Flooring Services Oban Ltd.

Athlete Claire adds Euro crown to her world title

MID ARGYLL can boast a new European and world athletics champion.

Former Ardrishaig woman Claire Thompson travelled to Arrhus in Denmark with team GB to compete in the 20th European Masters Championships.

The event was held between July 27 and August 6, and Claire was one of 22 Scottish Veteran Harriers Club athletes travelling as part of a 408-strong Great Britain team. Claire won the W40 2,000 metres steeplechase event in a time of 7:41.04 to become European champion, adding to her world title at this event.

She also picked up a bronze medal in the 4K cross-country event before winning a second bronze in the W40 5,000m race last Tuesday.

Athletics

Claire is originally from Ardrishaig and attended Lochgilphead High School before moving to Glasgow. She began her athletics career as a member of Mid Argyll Athletics Club.



Claire celebrates her win.



Some of the prizewinners at the Taynuilt Gents Open.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2300

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

C Smith
Lunga Road
Oban

J Cullen
Nant Drive
Oban

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Please tape your £1 coin here

Name

Address

..... Tel No.



SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Debut boy Marc KOs Camanachd with last gasp goal

LOVAT are through to the Tulloch Homes Camanachd cup Final, the Kingussie second team won the Strathdearn Cup and Kyles Athletic top the Marine Harvest Premiership on goal difference following the shinty action on Saturday August 12.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi final

Oban Camanachd 1 Lovat 2

Lovat are through to the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final after an injury-time Marc MacLachlan strike gave them a 2-1 victory over Oban Camanachd in their 4pm throw-up at An Aird.

Oban Camanachd manager Iain Hay welcomed Garry Lord back into his side following suspension but the tie came too soon for injured pair Daniel MacVicar and Matt Rippon, although the former is back in training. Daniel Cameron started at full forward with youngsters Daniel MacCuish, Lewis Buchanan and Evan MacLellan joining reserve keeper Cameron Sutherland on the bench.

Injury ruled out Lovat's Scott MacKenzie, whilst Lorne MacKay started a two-match suspension for passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

Marc MacLachlan, recently signed from Beaufoy, was given a debut at full forward, whilst Duncan Davidson, who rejoined the club after a spell with Bute, was one of the substitutes.

Lovat played with the blustery wind in the first half, however, Oban Camanachd enjoyed the early pressure with a Malcolm Clark shot going narrowly wide.

Lovat passed up a great chance on 10 minutes when Lewis Tawse swept a Calum MacAulay pass into the path of Marc MacLachlan, but he lifted the ball over the bar.

Daniel Grieve was the first player to be booked for challenging Daniel Cameron after the Lovat defender had dropped his caman.

Scott McKillop fell awkwardly after chasing a wide ball with Greg Matheson and seemed to twist his knee but continued after treatment.

Malcolm Clark drilled a strike over and Greg Matheson shot wide at the other end as the contest reached the midway point in the first half.

Lorne Dickie needed patching up after Callum Cruden's caman caught him on the forehead.

Malcolm Clark tugged the ball wide after a neat move on the Oban left and Gavin Stobbert turned away a Greg Matheson shot following a Lewis Tawse free-hit.

Gary McKerracher was booked

for playing on after dropping his caman with five first half minutes remaining.

In a half of few attempts on target, Greg Matheson turned and drove a shot wide of Gavin Stobbert's right post.

Scott McKillop went down in a challenge during first half stoppage time and was replaced by Daniel MacCuish, with Willie Neilson dropping back into defence.

Oban Camanachd finished the half on the attack and edged the first 45 minutes.

Malcolm Clark forced a good Stuart MacDonald save with a low shot a couple of minutes after the restart.

Stuart MacDonald then made an even better save, throwing himself to his right to parry a fierce Daniel Cameron effort. And Aidan MacIntyre stabbed the ball past the post from inside the 'D' following the resultant corner.

A determined Andrew MacCuish run ended with the ball forced out for a corner and Oban Camanachd were on the ascendancy.

Lovat made their first change as Calum MacAulay came off with Duncan Davidson taking over. Lewis Tawse dropped back into midfield.

Oban Camanachd's Garry Lord picked up what was to prove to be a costly booking on the hour mark. Referee Deek Cameron blew for a foul when Lord pushed Greg Matheson in the back.

However, with Matheson on the ground, Lord struck the ball after the whistle had gone, hitting the Lovat forward.

Oban Camanachd went back on the attack and Stuart MacDonald got his hand to an Andrew MacCuish shot. Referee Cameron took the sensible option, speaking to Drew Howie and Daniel Cameron following an off-the-ball tussle.

A rare Lovat attack saw Gavin Stobbert save with his feet from Duncan Davidson but the shot lacked power.

A lovely Oban Camanachd passing move saw Daniel MacCuish run onto an Andrew MacCuish flick but Stuart MacDonald was quickly off his line to smother the danger at the edge of the 'D'.

Marc MacLachlan set up Danny Kelly but his shot from a central position whistled past Stobbert's right post.

Oban Camanachd seemed the more likely to score and they did just that following a disputed free-hit on 73 minutes. Andrew MacCuish played the ball back to Daniel Cameron and MacCuish held off Drew Howie at the edge of the 'D' as he took a return pass before beating keeper MacDonald, low at his right post.

Scott MacMillan was booked for bringing down Duncan Davidson and although Marc MacLachlan fired the loose ball into the net, the referee's whistle had already gone. The incident set off a series of events which would see the roof fall in on Oban Camanachd.

The ball from the free-hit went wide to Greg Matheson on the Lovat left and Garry Lord blocked Matheson's initial effort but lost his stick in the process.

When Lord continued to play on without his stick, attempting to get in the way of Matheson's shot at goal, referee Deek Cameron had no option but to flash a second yellow card and Oban Camanachd would have to play the final 15 minutes a man down. Daniel Cameron dropped back into defence and Oban Camanachd played with three forwards.

When the resultant free-hit was eventually taken, Greg Matheson ran across goal to get on the end of Marc MacLachlan's short pass and, on his backhand, Matheson crashed the ball into the roof of the net to make it 1-1 with 77 minutes played.

Gavin Stobbert escaped a booking for getting involved in the play at the edge of the 'D' after dropping his stick and Danny Kelly went close from a similar Marc MacLachlan free-hit to the one that set up the Lovat goal.

Lovat now had their tails up but Oban Camanachd took the chance to regroup when there was a break in play to allow Martin Mainland to be treated for a head knock with Bailey MacKay coming on in his place.

An Oban Camanachd break-away saw Andrew MacCuish get free of Drew Howie but MacCuish was hauled back as he made for goal, an act which earned Howie a yellow card.

With three minutes of extra-time played, and extra-time looming, Lovat launched one final attack on the Oban Camanachd goal.

Ryan Ferguson's long ball into the goal area from the left of the Lovat midfield caused problems for the Oban defence who struggled to clear their lines and Lovat forward Danny Kelly showed great awareness, picking out Marc MacLachlan who had found a yard of space at the left of the 'D' and MacLachlan gave the keeper no chance as he tucked the ball low into the net, beating Stobbert at his right side.

2015 Camanachd Cup winners Lovat knew they were in the final again and referee Cameron blew for time seconds after the restart.

Lovat's Craig Mainland was selected as man of the match by BBC Alba pundit Garry Reid.

On another day, it could have been Oban Camanachd who were looking forward to a second consecutive Camanachd Cup appearance and with 15 minutes remaining, it looked as if that would happen.

However the Lovat forward line can never be discounted. Greg Matheson played a captain's role and Marc MacLachlan has given Fraser Gallacher's side an added dimension and, with Lorne MacKay and Scott MacKenzie still to return, there will be competition for places ahead of next month's final.

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toss of a coin to guarantee a large local support. Newtonmore's Cameron McNiven, who scored three times against Glangarry in the semi-finals, missed out through suspension.

Kingussie fielded a young side with veterans Kevin Thain and Rory Fraser unused substitutes.

Kingussie had the wind advantage in what was a largely uneventful first half.

Roddy Young gave them the lead on 21 minutes and Ruaridh Anderson made it 2-0 on 28 minutes.

The second half was action-packed as play raged from end to end.

Newtonmore reduced the deficit a minute after the restart when John MacKenzie scored.

However, James Falconer restored Kingussie's two-goal advantage on 72 minutes.

Craig MacLeod made it 3-2 on 79 minutes but a second from Roddy Young on 83 minutes completed the 4-2 win.

Kingussie captain Sorley Fraser lifted the trophy. Scott McNeil was the match referee.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kyles Athletic 7 Glenurquhart 0

Kyles Athletic go top of the Marine Harvest Premiership on goal difference after beating Glenurquhart 7-0 in their 3pm throw-up at Tighnabraich.

Glenurquhart journeyed south without the suspended John Barr and Andrew Corrigan.

Barr started a three-match ban so he won't be available again until Glenurquhart's final match of the season against Kinlochshiel at Kirkton, whilst Corrigan served a one-game ban for passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

Glenurquhart's other absentees included Fraser Heath who hasn't played since being accepted to join the Marines. Grant Irvine gave Kyles the lead on 17 minutes and Glenurquhart's task became harder when referee Graham Cameron red-carded defender Lachie Smith with 20 minutes played.

Kyles took advantage and Roddy MacDonald on 23 minutes and a second from Grant Irvine on 33 minutes made it 3-0 at the break.

Roddy MacDonald got his second three minutes after the re-start and completed his hat-trick on 68 minutes.

Dunkie Kerr made it 6-0 on 71 minutes and Grant Irvine completed his hat-trick, making it 7-0 with nine minutes remaining.

With only three league matches remaining, Glenurquhart are now only a point off the relegation zone and will be keen to add to their points tally starting with this weekend's home match against Oban Camanachd.

They finish their season with a home meeting with Glasgow Mid Argyll before travelling to Kirkton to play Kinlochshiel.

Newtonmore 4 Glasgow Mid Argyll 2

Newtonmore came from two goals down to beat Glasgow Mid Argyll 4-2 in their noon throw-up at The Eilan.

Drew MacDonald and Chris Sellar remained on the Newtonmore injury list.

GMA's Mark Bain was free of suspension, but John Don MacKenzie was on holiday.

Jamie MacFadyen gave GMA the lead on 23 minutes with the only goal of the first half.

When Mark Bain made it 2-0 on 52 minutes, a shock result looked a possibility.



Marc MacLachlan, making his debut for Lovat, in a duel with Oban Camanachd's Gary McKerracher.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.

However, for that to happen, the Glasgow side could have done with holding their two-goal advantage for a bit longer than the 60 seconds it took Newtonmore's Jamie Robinson to pull a goal back.

When Glen MacKintosh made it 2-2 on 63 minutes it looked as if normal service had been resumed.

However it took Newtonmore until 10 minutes from time before they finally went in front, with Evan Menzies getting the goal.

Iain Robinson made it 4-2 a minute from time.

Newtonmore remain four points off the top of the table with five league games remaining but their attentions will now turn to this weekend's Artemis Macaulay Cup Final against Kyles Athletic at Mossfield.

The GMA performance will give their players confidence ahead of the final games of the season as they battle to beat the drop, beginning with a trip to Kirkton to face Kinlochshiel this Saturday.

Kilmallie 3 Lochaber 2

Kilmallie collected two valuable points when they beat Lochaber 3-2 in their 1pm throw-up at Canal Parks.

This was a relegation four-pointer and it was an even game throughout.

Kilmallie went in front on the half-hour mark when Daniel Stewart sent a great strike into the bottom corner of the net.

There was more to come from Kilmallie and Michael Rodger made it 2-0 with a good finish into the top corner of the goal.

Lochaber came back into it though and a quick-fire Neil MacDonald double on 58 and 59 minutes made it 2-2.

Lochaber knew that a win would probably guarantee their top flight status for another season and they pushed for a winner.

However the deciding goal came at the other end when referee Archie Ritchie penalised a 'kick' inside the 'D' and awarded the hosts a penalty. Michael Rodger kept his cool and thumped the penalty into the roof of the net to make it 3-2.

This was a huge win for Kilmallie and they are now only a point behind eighth-placed Glenurquhart with a game in hand.

Lochaber have two league games remaining - at home to Lovat and Newtonmore - and are just two points off the drop zone.

Marine Harvest National Division

Inverness 0

Skye Camanachd extended their lead at the top of the Marine Harvest National Division following their 2-0 win over Inverness at The Bught Park.

Inverness absentees included the injured Kenneth Loades and the suspended David Campbell but there were places for former Skye players Ian Munro, Somhairle MacDonald and Dougie Rankin. The latter took to the field 30 years to the day since he played his first senior shinty match and it was fitting that Skye, one of his former clubs, would provide the opposition.

Iain Nicolson returned for Skye and started on the bench. Will Cowie gave Skye the lead on 15 minutes when he got on the end of Iain MacLellan's cross-come-shot and took a trip around keeper Ian Munro before steering the ball into the net.

The Skye centre line struggled to get into their usual rhythm in the first half but manager Willie Cowie moved John Gillies into a midfield role with five first half minutes remaining and the switch made a difference.

Iain MacLellan made it 2-0 on 57 minutes with a low finish into bottom corner of the net.

Skye's James Pringle had a goal ruled out by referee Calum Girvan as Will Cowie was off-side after he'd put a block in on Inverness keeper Ian Munro.

Next up for Skye is title rivals Fort William's visit to Paic nan Laoch, Portree, this Saturday.

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Skye's Will Cowie and Arran McMaster chase down the ball during their National Division game which resulted in a 2-0 win for the islanders.

Photograph: Donald Cameron.



Inveraray's Ally Munro tries to get his block in on Caberfeidh's Craig Morrison during the National Division game at the Winterton last Saturday. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

Skye's Will Cowie and Arran McMaster chase down the ball during their National Division game which resulted in a 2-0 win for the islanders. Photograph: Donald Cameron.



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

and Seamus Gall were still injured.

This match was a close affair and both teams passed up chances in front of goal.

Both keepers – Ally MacAdams for Strathglass and Fort William's Paul MacKay – were in top form, making outstanding saves in both halves.

Fort William had a chance to take the lead on 10 minutes when the ball fell to Jack Fraser around 15 yards from goal, but he shot wide of the keeper's left-hand post.

Paul MacKay then saved a Darren Reid piledriver with 38 minutes played.

The only goal of the game came on 50 minutes. A great Jack Fraser shot was brilliantly saved by Ally MacAdams. However the Strath defence were unable to clear their lines and the ball fell to Graham Campbell and, from 12 yards out, he placed the ball just inside the post to make it 1-0.

Strathglass came close to a leveller but Paul Mackay pulled off a superb save from a Scott Douglas effort from 20 yards out.

The game was played in good spirits but referee John Angus Gillies had to diffuse a flash-point by delivering a few stern words to Fort William's Mark Grant and Scott Douglas from Strathglass.

Strathglass substitute Colin Burnie had a chance to score in the final minute but he hit the ball wide of the post from the edge of the 'D'.

Ally MacAdams played really well in goals for Strathglass, as did Ross Balharry in midfield.

Paul MacKay in the Fort William goal was outstanding and the visitors were also well-served by James Tangney at buckshee back.

Fort William are five points off a promotion place with two games in hand over second-placed Caberfeidh.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Skye Camanachd 3 Beauly 2

The Skye Camanachd second team played their final home league match of the season, beating the Beauly second team 3-2.

A neat Skye move after nine minutes broke the deadlock. Martin Pringle played the ball down the middle to Shockie MacLennan and his first-time pass set up Kenny MacLeod on the Skye right who thumped the ball high into the net to make it 1-0.

Skye doubled their lead on 25 minutes. Martin Pringle's shot was saved by Beauly player/manager Kyle MacDonald but Skye player/manager Kenny MacLeod stroked the rebound into the net to make it 2-0.

Skye had keeper Ryan Morrison to thank for a brilliant save, blocking a Daniel Lamont effort above his head, so Skye stayed 2-0 ahead at the break.

Beauly came quickly out of the blocks at the start of the second half and wing centre Daniel Lamont burst through the centre of the Skye defence to pull a goal back within a minute of the restart.

A superb Callum Flynn strike, following a one-two with Pete Dickson, made it 2-2 on 73 minutes.

Skye keeper Ryan Morrison saved well with his hand from Kieran MacTavish as the outcome remained in the balance.

The winning goal came three minutes from time when Kenny MacLeod took the ball around the keeper following a goal hit which was intercepted by Skye's Daniel Morrison.

Skye play their final match of the season this weekend at Kingussie whilst Beauly still have five fixtures to go.

Glenurquhart 2 Fort William 2

The Glenurquhart reserves and the Fort William reserves shared the points in a 2-2 draw at Blairbeg.

Fort William's David Wright was free to play but will miss

their next match through suspension.

The first half ended goal-less and David Smart, who has been helping the Glenurquhart seconds after missing much of the season through injury, put Glenurquhart ahead after 58 minutes.

Scott Henderson levelled on 62 minutes but Glenurquhart regained the lead on 65 minutes through Jed Stoddart.

Fort William drew level for a second time with three minutes remaining when Bobby MacMillan scored from the penalty spot.

Fort William's Cameron Grant was sent off by referee Brian MacKay.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Lochside Rovers 6 Kilmory 0

Lochside Rovers and Kilmory agreed to schedule their league meeting for Wednesday August 9 with the hosts running out 6-0 winners.

With Mossfield out of action ahead of the Argyllshire Gathering, the match was played at Ganavan.

Lochside fielded a strong side and manager Gareth Evans included Garry Lord at buckshee back.

The defender hadn't played through suspension since the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter-final win over Inveraray on Saturday July 8. He also missed an earlier part of the season through injury so he was given much-needed game time ahead of the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-final against Lovat.

Craig MacDougall got Lochside off to a great start when he scored at the second attempt on five minutes.

Lochside keeper Cameron Sutherland was called into action, making a good save from a looping Alex Cunningham shot which would have dropped into the top corner of the net.

A good ball from Craig MacMillan picked out a darting Craig MacDougall run on 12 minutes and MacDougall notched his second goal of the game with a low finish.

Lochside raced out of sight after scoring four times during the five-minute period bridging the half-time interval.

Evan MacLellan put in another man of the match performance for Lochside and grabbed a deserved goal on 43 minutes when his 40-yard lob on goal dipped just under the crossbar.

Daniel Sloss made it 4-0 on 44 minutes. Mark MacQueen's turn and shot forced a save from Kilmory keeper Ally MacLennan but Sloss scored from the rebound.

Lewis Buchanan added a fifth a minute after the re-start. A half swing from Chrissie MacMillan brought another MacLennan save but Buchanan flicked the rebound home.

Craig MacDougall completed his hat-trick on 48 minutes when his neat half-swing from just outside the 'D' sent the ball low into the corner of the net.

Lochside were playing well but the six-goal margin was harsh on a determined Kilmory side.

Lochside made a number of changes, including withdrawing Garry Lord after an hour, and tried out players in different positions.

They pushed Michael MacQueen forward and he forced a couple of good saves from Ally MacLennan.

The match was well refereed by Des McNulty.

Ahead of the Saturday fixtures, the win left Lochside a point clear at the top of the table with two games in hand.

Taynuilt 0 Lochside Rovers 2

Lochside Rovers recorded their second win of the week, beating Taynuilt 2-0 in their noon throw up at Taynuilt Sports Field.

With Lewis Buchanan and Evan MacLellan on first team duty, and Keith Burnett injured, Lochside gave some fringe



Drew Howie and Daniel Cameron in a tussle for the ball during the Camanachd Cup semi-final at An Aird. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

players a chance to impress and made the short journey for this derby with a squad of 15 players.

Lochside were not at their best in the first half.

They had more than their share of pressure but never looked like scoring.

The closest they came to a goal during the first 45 minutes was a ball to the back post which found Taynuilt's Ewan MacCorquodale. But the former Lochside player's strike was expertly saved by Lochside keeper Cameron Sutherland with his caman above his head.

Lochside manager Gareth Evans swapped full centre Michael MacQueen and full forward Daniel Sloss on the hour and the switch paid dividends when the Oban side took the lead on 64 minutes. Daniel Sloss played the ball to Michael McQueen who found the back of the net with a good finish, sending the ball low into the net to make it 1-0.

Michael McQueen got his second on 76 minutes to clinch a deserved win. Lochside substitute Callum Kirsop threaded a neat pass to MacQueen and, from 25 yards out, blasted a great shot into the top corner of the net to make it 2-0.

After the match, Lochside keeper Cameron Sutherland dashed to Fort William to take a place on the bench, providing goalkeeping cover for Oban Camanachd's Gavin Stobart for the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-final tie against Lovat.

Glenorchy 1 Aberdour 6

Aberdour stay in the title race following their 6-1 win over Glenorchy at Mart Park.

The conditions underfoot were tricky with thick grass on a heavy pitch. Glenorchy made the better start to the game, however Aberdour eventually settled into the match and talisman Roddy MacColl fired them in front on 25 minutes.

A David MacKenzie shot deflected into the home net off Glenorchy's Duncan Smith on 28 minutes and David MacKenzie had an effort ruled out for offside shortly after.

Glenorchy had their share of pressure but Aberdour keeper Tom Bowerman mopped up everything that was thrown at him.

Andy MacLean took advantage of hesitancy in the Aberdour defence to make it 2-1 on 62 minutes.

Glenorchy went all out for a leveller but it was the visitors who extended their lead through Roddy MacColl on 68 minutes.

Roddy MacColl completed his hat-trick a couple of minutes later and there was only going to be one winner.

Angus Thorburn made 5-1 on 77 minutes before youngster Aodan Burns played in Roddy MacColl to score his fourth goal of the afternoon with five minutes remaining.

With their second team game called off, Aberdour added some youngsters to their squad and Iain Fullerton took the opportunity to show his potential.

Aberdour stay a point behind league leaders Lochside Rovers but they have played two games more.

Bute 6 Col Glen 1

Bute recovered from an early set-back to beat Col Glen 6-1 at The Meadows.

Neily Mcnaughton gave Col Glen the lead in three minutes but that was as good as it got for the visitors.

Ian McDonald equalised on 10 minutes and it then turned in to the Robert Walker Show as the Bute forward scored five times on 15, 25, 52, 62 and 78 minutes to complete the 6-1 win.

The win lifts Bute into third spot in the league.

Kyles Athletic P Ballachulish P

The noon throw-up between the Kyles Athletic second team and Ballachulish at Tighnabruach was postponed on Friday evening as the pitch couldn't take two games.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Lochaber 3 Caberfeidh 1

The Lochaber reserves stay second in the league after they saw off the Caberfeidh reserves 3-1 at Spean Bridge.

Stuart Krzyzanowski scored for Caberfeidh but Keith Neville, James MacRae and Lachlan Campbell gave Lochaber the win.

Lochaber's Andrew MacDonald was sent off by referee Innes Wood.

The result favoured leaders Glengarry who are favourites to lift the title.

Lovat 4 Lochcarron 1

The Lovat colts continued their good run, beating Lochcarron 4-1 in their noon throw-up at Balglate.

Lovat's James Fraser served the second match of a two-game ban.

Raymond Rennie gave Lovat the lead after five minutes with the only goal of the first half.

James White scored on 57 and 60 minutes to put the home side 3-0 ahead.

Lance MacCuish reduced the deficit on 79 minutes but Lovat went back on the offensive and Ruairidh Buchan made it 4-1 a minute later.

Lovat stay fifth and Lochcarron drop to seventh.

Kilmallie 11 Lewis Camanachd 1

The Kilmallie reserves turned in a strong first half performance to beat Lewis Camanachd 11-1 in their 3pm throw-up at Canal Parks.

Scottish international Liam MacDonald lined up for Kilmallie after taking a break from the game to recover from injury.

Kilmallie scored seven goals in the opening 20 minutes and led 8-0 before Conor MacDonald scored his first goal for Lewis. But the hosts added another to make it 9-1 at the break.

Kilmallie substitute Bryan MacKay made it 10-1 with a shot from distance and Aaron Sandison dribbled in to complete his hat-trick and make the final score 11-1.

The other first half goal scorers were Ross MacKenzie, 2, Liam

MacDonald, Dean Williamson, 2, Stuart Smillie and an own goal.

Kilmallie draw level on points with fifth-placed Lovat with two games in hand.

Strathglass 2 Boleskine 1

The Strathglass seconds came from a goal down to beat Boleskine 2-1 in their noon throw up at Cannich.

The match took a while to get going with few chances during the first 45 minutes.

The second half started at a quicker pace and Boleskine came close to taking the lead on 47 minutes when Graham Black found Ross Anderson but the youngster's shot came back off the post.

Two minutes later, Ross Anderson dribbled past a defender and fired a shot past Strathglass keeper Ally MacAdams to give Boleskine the lead.

Strathglass came close to equalising on 52 minutes when Robert Geddes shot just wide of the post.

The home side found an equaliser in bizarre circumstances on 55 minutes.

A Boleskine goal-hit only went as far out as the penalty spot and Robert Geddes accepted the gift and fired a shot into the roof of the net.

The game then flowed from end-to-end with both teams having chances to go in front.

The winning goal came when Eoghann Stewart lobbed a ball from the right wing to Ciaran Melons on the edge of the 'D' who shot past keeper Peter Tinney to win the game with 10 minutes remaining.

Both teams contributed to a good game with Strath's Eoghan Stewart playing a demanding role at full centre.

Inverness v Glengarry W/O

The Inverness seconds were unable to raise a team for their noon throw-up against Glengarry at The Bught Park so Glengarry have been awarded the points.



Lochside's Craig MacDougall and Kilmory's Iain Robertson in a race for the ball during the South Division One match on Wednesday August 9. Lochside were convincing 6-0 winners.

Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Strachur 0 Inveraray 4

Match of the day in Marine Harvest South Division 1 was the trip by league leaders Inveraray seconds to Strachurmore to play Strachur.

This was the second meeting between the sides on successive Saturdays with Inveraray winning 3-0 in the previous week's Bullough Cup Final.

Throw-up was 1.30pm and, with just two fixtures remaining, Inveraray are within touching distance of the title following their 4-0 triumph.

Strachur were missing Ian Wilson whilst Inveraray made the short journey without Andrew McMurdo, Euan McMurdo and Russell McKinlay. Work commitments meant David Robertson started on the bench. Scott MacIntyre, Andrew Fraser and Andy Stewart all started.

Strachur made the better start to the game and player/manager Graham MacPherson again proved his worth in the Inveraray goal.

However Inveraray changed things when David Robertson arrived and one of his first acts was to set up Campbell Watt for the opening goal on 19 minutes.

Campbell Watt got his second on 35 minutes to make it 2-0 at the break.

David Robertson made it 3-0 on 64 minutes and Campbell Watt completed a well-taken hat-trick a minute later.

One point from their final two games – at home to the GMA seconds and away to Dunoon – will confirm Inveraray as champions.

In the unlikely event Inveraray lose both their final matches, coupled with Strachur winning both of theirs, Inveraray and Strachur will play-off for the title.

Glasgow Mid Argyll 3 Dunoon Camanachd 0

The Glasgow Mid Argyll second team go third in the division following their 3-0 win over Dunoon Camanachd at Yoker.

Angus MacInnes gave GMA the lead after 15 minutes and Josh Souter made it 2-0 with three first half minutes remaining.

Angus MacInnes got his second a couple of minutes from time to seal the 3-0 win.

Aberdour P Oban Lorn P

The match between the Aberdour reserves and Oban Lorn at Silversands will be rescheduled.

Oban Celtic shinty bingo night

The Oban Celtic squad are hosting a bingo night in the Masonic Hall, Albany Street, Oban, on Saturday August 19.

It's £10 to play and there will be cash prizes and a raffle. The fun starts at 7.30pm.

Fixtures

Saturday August 19

Artemis Macaulay Cup Final

Kyles Athletic v Newtonmore
Robert Baxter - 2pm
Mossfield Stadium, Oban

Marine Harvest Premiership

Glenurquhart v Oban Camanachd
Martin MacLean - 3pm
Kilmallie v Lovat
Andy MacLean - 3pm
Kinlochshiel v Glasgow MA
John Angus Gillies - 3pm

Marine Harvest National Division

Caberfeidh v Inveraray
Innes Wood
Strathglass v Beauly
Graham Cameron
Skye v Fort William
Archie Ritchie

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Kingussie v Skye
Brian MacKay
Kinlochshiel v Beauly
John Matheson - noon
Glenurquhart v Aberdeen Uni
Steven MacLachlan - noon

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Bute v Glenorchy
Deek Cameron - 3pm
Ballachulish v Kilmory
Lachie Wood
Lochside Rovers v Taynuilt
Willie MacDonald - noon

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Glengarry v Lovat
Scott McNeil
Kilmallie v Caberfeidh
Graham Fisher - noon
Lewis v Strathglass
Henry MacInnes
Lochaber v Boleskine
John Wood
Lochcarron v Strathspey
Iain Kennedy

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Bute v Dunoon
Neil MacDonald - noon

All throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated.

Results

Wednesday August 9

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Lochside Rovers 6 v 0 Kilmory

Saturday August 12

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi final
Oban Camanachd 1 v 2 Lovat

Strathdearn Cup Final

Kingussie 4 v 2 Newtonmore

Marine Harvest Premiership

Newtonmore 4 v 2 Glasgow MA
Kilmallie 3 v 2 Lochaber
Kyles Ath 7 v 2 Glenurquhart

Marine Harvest National Division

Inveraray 2 v 0 Caberfeidh
Inverness 0 v 2 Skye
Strathglass 0 v 1 Fort William

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Glenurquhart 2 v 2 FortWilliam
Skye 3 v 2 Beauly

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Bute 6 v 1 Col Glen
Glenorchy 1 v 6 Aberdour
Kyles Ath P v P Ballachulish
Unplayable field
Taynuilt 0 v 2 Lochside Rovers

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Inverness P v P Glengarry
Inverness unable to field a team, points to Glengarry
Kilmallie 11 v 1 Lewis
Lochaber 3 v 1 Caberfeidh
Lovat 4 v 1 Lochcarron
Strathglass 2 v 1 Boleskine

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour P v P Oban Lorn
To be rearranged
Glasgow MA 3 v 9 Dunoon
Strachur 0 v 4 Inveraray

John McPhee's Austrian Grand Prix comes to a premature end

CONNEL'S John McPhee pulled a fast one in qualifying for the Austrian GP, going fifth quickest in the chaotic session after some good pace all week-end.

Moto3

Doing 15 laps in the session with a best of 1:36.790, the Scot was only 0.075s behind the fourth fastest time and was looking to push for a podium charge on race day if he could get a good start – with the laptimes all incredibly close at the top.

From his solid fifth place in qualifying, it was looking good for the British Talent Team rider as he moved immediately up into the lead by Turn 3 on Lap 1 to prove his pace on race day.

Battling in the front group thereafter, McPhee fought hard to take another podium finish and was in the mix until finding his race prematurely cut short after contact with another rider.

With nine laps to go, McPhee was collected into Turn 1. Escaping unharmed, John was then sadly forced into the pitlane to retire.

After the race John said: 'I'm obviously angry and disappointed with the outcome today but really there was no avoiding what happened behind me.'



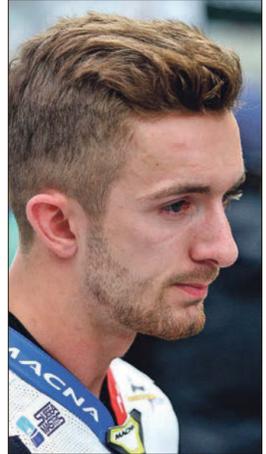
John McPhee, No 17, in action during the Austrian Grand Prix. Photographs: Bonnie Lane

'I felt strong throughout the race and was able to attack in all areas of the track which was a nice feeling. 'All weekend I've been fast so

that makes it hard for myself and the team not to come away with a result – but on a positive note it's really nice to be heading to my home race in Silverstone

feeling so good with my bike. I hope to turn things around and claim back the missing points on home soil.'

Next up for the Connel rider is the British Grand Prix at Silverstone on August 27 with the home crowd sure to create a good stage for him to use in his mission to bounce back quickly.



A pensive John McPhee after the Austrian Grand Prix

Nominations for sporting heroes Awards

SPORTSCOTLAND, the national agency for sport, has launched its 2017 coaching, officiating, and volunteering awards and is calling for locals to nominate coaches and volunteers for their key role in helping people of all ages and abilities achieve their sporting ambitions.

Stewart Harris, Chief Executive at sportscotland, said: 'Whether you have an inspirational coach or know someone who dedicates their free time to volunteer or officiate, sportscotland is encouraging everyone to take this opportunity to celebrate family or friends who are committed to making a difference in the world of sport.'

The deadline for nominations for this year's awards is on Friday September 15. For more information about the awards including how to nominate, please visit <https://sportscotland.org.uk/coaching/cov-awards-2017/>.

The 13 categories are: Young Coach of the Year, Young Person's Coach of the Year, Young Volunteer of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Lifetime Volunteer of the Year, Technical Official of the Year, Community Coach of the Year, Disability Coach of the Year, Performance Development Coach of the Year, High Performance Coach of the Year, Lifetime Coaching Achievement Award, Coach Developer of the Year Award, Coaching Chain Award

Sean makes the arrows fly Archery

SUNDAY August 6 was the date of Lorn Longbows' traditional archery competition on the ancient field of Lona'Chuspair at Ardmaddy Castle, and is part of the Scottish series.

Competitors from as far afield as Somerset came to compete in a Western Round (48 arrows at 60 yards, 48 arrows at 50 yards, under British Longbow Society rules) for the prestigious Saighdean Latharna trophies and BLBS medals, in very windy and wet conditions.

Barcaldine archer Sean O'Byrne was the overall winner and local archers Martin Ward finished in fifth place and Duaine Wylie finished 10th.

Thanks go to Charles and Minette Struthers for their continued support and encouragement.

Shinty referees hold AGM

Shinty

THE CAMANACHD Referees Association's AGM will be held on Sunday, at 12.30pm in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William.

All who are interested in shinty are welcome to attend, but only fully paid-up members will have a vote at any part of the proceedings

Green Machine lose out in pre-season friendly

Oban Lorne 26
Hillhead Jordanhill 52
Pre-season friendly

OBAN Lorne RFC stepped up their preparations for the upcoming 2017/18 season with a home friendly fixture against National Division 3 side Hillhead Jordanhill RFC.

A mixture of 1st XV and 2nd XV players were fielded by Oban head coach Corrie Louw with a number of players looking to further impress after success at the Tower 10s tournament the previous weekend.

The home side fielded a fairly strong side despite a number of players being unavailable either due to injury or work commitments. The game was played in four 20-minute quarters to give both sets of coaches a chance to feedback to the players on the pitch.

Hillhead kicked off in perfect conditions at Glencruitten and made a storming start to the game. Oban lost control of the ball at the kick-off gifting the visitors possession in the Oban 22. A couple of quick phases of play were completed before the helpless Oban defence crumbled to give away the first try of the day after only a minute of play.

Oban were left shocked by their lacklustre start and were again on the back foot as Hillhead raced through some poor tackling on the fifth minute to soar into an early 12-0 lead.

At this stage things were looking worrying for the home side, a big step up in performance

was required to prevent a heavy scoreline.

Oban replied well to their disastrous start and marched their way into the Hillhead half thanks to successive penalties being awarded their way by referee Willie Malone.

The scoreline was narrowed on 15 minutes with Lorne MacLachlan powering over from short range after a period of pressure on the tryline. Scrum half Finlay Carmichael converted narrowing the score to 12-7.

Hillhead though hit back with their third score of the game increasing their lead to 19-7. The scoreline remained the same at the end of the first quarter with the Oban side growing into the game but however wasting a couple of try scoring opportunities in the process.

Oban's improvements continued into the second quarter with a second try of the game coming from scrum half Finlay Carmichael. The home side were on top in terms of territory and possession aided by the visitor's poor discipline at the breakdown. Carmichael dived over from the back of a ruck after a barrage of attacks on the line by the Oban forwards.

The men in green were impressing at this stage of the game with some good attacks and retaining the ball well from a well oiled lineout. The usual dominance at scrumtime was missing however for the hosts who came up against a formidable Hillhead front row.

At half time the score stood at

21-14 to the visitors with Oban pleased with their performance so far despite their slow start.

Halftime changes were made with Daniel Broderick replacing Craig McGuire at hooker while Calum MacLachlan and Dave McCabe were also introduced into the backline.

Lorne had arguably their best period in the game going into the third quarter. Dave McCabe's influence in midfield was proving to be a difference in attack as two well-timed passes setup Oban captain Craig Wright for two tries in quick succession. The two tries finished off from just inside the Hillhead half gave Oban a 26-21 lead.

The home side held onto their lead until the final play of the third quarter when an individual error over the tryline resulted in an easy touchdown for the on-rushing Hills players. With the score tied at 26-26, Hills missed the resulting conversion in front of the posts meaning the sides would go into the last quarter level on points.

Unfortunately for Oban the last 20 minutes of the game proved to be a one-sided affair as the visitors ran in four unanswered tries against a tiring home defence.

The final score recorded a convincing 52-26 win for Hillhead Jordanhill despite a spirited performance from Oban Lorne.

Player/coach Corrie Louw was happy with his teams performance overall with more positives than negatives to be taken from the game.

Rugby

Oban Lorne RFC would like to thank Hillhead Jordanhill RFC for travelling for the game and wish them well for the season ahead in National Division 3.

Oban Lorne: C. Louw, C. McGuire, D. Kemp, L. MacLachlan, A. MacDougall, J. Strachan, S. Povey, V. Mihov, F. Carmichael, I. Rhys-Roberts, A. Wright, T. Harrison, C. Wright, V. Borisov, D. McLaughlin.

D. Broderick, R. Morrison, D. McCabe, C. MacLachlan

Garnock
Oban Lorne
Regional Shield – Preliminary Round

OBAN Lorne kick off their 2017/18 season on Saturday with a tough away fixture to fellow BT West Division 1 opponents Garnock RFC in the West Regional Shield.

The two sides have been familiar opponents over the past few years with Oban recording a narrow 10-7 win in their last meeting in February.

A win on Saturday would setup a home fixture against the winner of a fixture between Argyll rivals Helensburgh RFC and Division 2 side Cumbernauld. This potential fixture would be played on Saturday August 26 at Glencruitten with a 3pm kick off.

Oban Lorne and Garnock will meet again on Saturday September 2 at Glencruitten for the first West Division League game of the season.



Oban Lorne RFC player/coach Corrie Louw and club stalwart Neil MacKechnie take a break from power washing outside the clubhouse.

Clubhouse clean-up at Rugby Force Day

Rugby

OBAN Lorne RFC took part in Scottish Rugby's annual RBS Rugby Force Day on Sunday by hosting a clubhouse work day.

A team of hard working volunteers completed various tasks including clearing gutters, fixing drainage pipes, indoor cleaning, power washing, maintenance to clubhouse car park and a litter pick. Work was also carried out to cut back trees and shrub around the Rugby pitches.

The club will receive £200 from Scottish Rugby as part of

the Rugby Force initiative as well as improving the standards of the clubhouse and playing area at Glencruitten.

The club would like to thank local contractor JAM Drilling for their assistance in providing a powerwasher and digger for use on the day. They would also like to thank MacQueen Bros for their help in moving the clubs storage containers.

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WEATHER

Thursday Light rain showers
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.

Friday Light rain showers
Winds moderate west south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

Weekend Light rain on Saturday
Outlook Light rain on Sunday
Winds moderate westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.

FRIDAY

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday August 17, 2017** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm										
Thur	01.27	3.1	07.25	1.5	14.01	3.1	20.05	1.5	Ardrisaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	02.59	3.2	08.39	1.3	15.20	3.3	21.28	1.3	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	04.00	3.4	09.44	1.1	16.12	3.6	22.32	1.0	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	04.49	3.6	10.37	0.8	16.55	3.9	23.22	0.8	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	05.29	3.8	11.25	0.6	17.33	4.1	***	**	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	00.06	0.7	06.05	3.9	12.09	0.5	18.10	4.2	Ferry Crossings/Sea States			
Wed	00.48	0.6	06.40	4.0	12.50	0.4	18.46	4.2	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)

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also
in this
week

Campaigners demand action on Fort William traffic chaos

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

TWO LOCHABER men are calling for action on the A82 as Fort William endures another gridlocked summer.

Frustrated by the lack of response from local and national authorities to traffic congestion in Lochaber, Elliot Brown and Mike MacGruer launched two separate petitions this week – amassing more than 2,000 signatures between them – in an bid to bring about change.

Buoyed by public support, the pair have now joined forces and are calling on the Scottish Government, Transport Scotland and the Highland Council to take action and upgrade Lochaber roads.

The high volume of traffic in the town this summer has meant that three-mile south-bound journeys through the town have sometimes taken up to an hour.

‘The petition arose,’ Elliot explained, ‘after experiencing the issues myself and reading countless posts on Facebook about the state of the traffic and calling for someone to do something. So I thought I’d start the petition. It has taken off, with more than 1,600 signatures



Mike MacGruer, left, and Elliot Brown at the Lochy Bridge, a traffic pressure point. Photograph: ABrightside Photography.

already. Support has come in from not just Fort William but Skye, Inverness and many surrounding areas.’

Mike MacGruer, whose original petition was aimed at the Scottish Government, says he is delighted with the response

from the public so far and hopes it continues. He said: ‘Hopefully this support can be sustained with action taken and decisions made by the Scottish Government for both the short term and for the future. The town is going to suffer financially if commerce

and tourists cannot move freely and our emergency services are not able to respond as quickly as they would like, which could ultimately lead to the loss of life.’

The pair met with Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes this week to discuss potential solutions to the

“

It is an absolute joke and completely unacceptable to spend 30 minutes travelling under a mile into town

Kate Forbes

traffic problems. In a joint statement released after Tuesday’s meeting with Miss Forbes, Elliot and Mike said: ‘Together we’ve drawn up a number of points to proceed on and a solid plan to go forward. We will continue to maximise the petition and encourage anyone who hasn’t yet signed it to do so.’

‘We discussed some lower cost, quick solutions to speed up traffic like cutting back foliage and improving signs. We will not give up until we see progress.’

Kate Forbes told the *Lochaber Times*: ‘I was pleased to meet with Elliott and Mike to discuss their concerns and the petition.

Spending a lot of time in Fort William this summer, I am fully aware of the congestion through the town.

‘It is an absolute joke and completely unacceptable to spend 30 minutes travelling under a mile into town. Bluntly, a town cannot operate with this level of congestion. It restricts all movement and means people think twice about travelling during the summer.’

With the number of tourists visiting Lochaber increasing each summer, many feel the traffic problems could affect tourists’ experience when visiting the area.

When asked about the impact on tourism, Chris Taylor, a director at VisitScotland, said: ‘We appreciate that for residents and for other visitors, it is frustrating when journeys take a bit longer during the peak summer months when visitor numbers increase. However, looking more broadly and in terms of the local visitor economy, this is a positive sign the area is thriving and visitors want to come, spend time here and visit local attractions.’

Mr Taylor continued: ‘Our research also showed that overall visitor satisfaction, which includes scores for ‘ease of getting around’, is extremely high.’

Community groups act on land ownership

MORE than 100 community groups in the Highlands now own their own land, figures from the Scottish Parliament Information Centre have revealed.

Just under 500 community groups in Scotland have benefited from recent land reform policies that help enable communities control their destiny. The majority of beneficiaries are in rural areas, but there is now a push to see a similar trend develop in urban communities.

Kate Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said: ‘While it’s fantastic Scotland’s land reform has brought over half a million acres of land into community ownership, it’s even more impressive when you consider the human impact of this reform with nearly 500 community groups now in charge of their own destiny in Scotland.’

‘People are well and truly at the heart of land reform efforts that enable communities to thrive and make decisions about places that would often otherwise be lying derelict. In the Highlands, land reform has empowered 124 community groups to bring community assets into community ownership. Anything we can do to reverse the depopulation trend in Scotland and encourage more people to live and work in Scottish communities should be encouraged.’

BEAR seeks public opinion on major A828 roadworks

BEAR Scotland and Transport Scotland are consulting on proposals to carry out more than £700,000 of road works on the A828 from Ballachulish to Connel.

The work involves 14 schemes

including resurfacing, drainage upgrades, safety barrier installations, cycleway improvements, landscaping and other repairs between September 11 and 28 with proposals for up to ten day-time road closures in two phases.

BEAR Scotland says it is conscious of the impact of roadworks on users and is asking the public to provide feedback. The first stage of consultation is already under way with discussions between bus operators and the local

authority to ensure public and school transport is maintained.

BEAR Scotland is now launching a wider consultation to residents and local businesses, with a dedicated consultation email address set up to allow this

feedback to take place – A828 consultation@bearsotland.co.uk

Commenting on the proposals, the north west representative for BEAR Scotland, Eddie Ross, said: ‘This is the first time we have proposed carrying out a

programme of major investment using this method. These roadworks are essential to improve the safety of the trunk road, but we want to gauge feedback from the public with regards to the proposed timing of these schemes.’



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Fort William shortlisted for most beautiful High Street

FORT WILLIAM has been shortlisted as one of Scotland’s most beautiful high streets.

Fort William Town Team announced this week that the High Street has been shortlisted, along with nine other Scottish town centres, for the prize of Scotland’s Most Beautiful High Street.

Town Team secretary Sue Keen said: ‘We are absolutely thrilled to announce that our entry into the Scottish Towns Partnership competition has been shortlisted. Our High Street might not be the most architecturally stunning in Scotland, but the Town Team thinks it’s a fantastic place to be.’

After receiving a high number of entries, a judging panel of representatives from Scotland’s Towns Partnership and Keep Scotland Beautiful has drawn up a shortlist of 10 finalists. The winner will be decided by an online public vote, which will be open until October 1. To vote, go to scotlandstowns.org.

Fort William Town Team, the group behind Fort William’s entry into Scotland’s Most Beautiful High Street, next to one of their planters in the High Street. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

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One 'heavy' puts his weight behind the throw.



Spectators join in The Tug of War.



The popular parade of the Isle of Skye Pipe Band.

Crowds lap up sunny Skye at 140th Highland Games



Action from the junior Highland Dancing.

SARA BAIN
fort@obantimes.co.uk

MORE than 4,000 locals and visitors ascended on The Lump in Portree on Wednesday to watch the spectacle of the 140th Skye Highland Games.

Athletes, dancers, pipers, drummers and heavies turned up to the natural arena overlooking the bay to compete in the games while sailors took their boats to the waters around the harbour in the hope of winning the single race for all classes of yacht.

In glorious sunshine throughout most of the day, the event got off to a flying start with the crowds cheering on their local heroes in the field and piping competitions.

The Highland Dancing events were well-attended with competitors taking part from around Scotland and as far away as New Zealand and the USA. Isle of Skye Pipe Band, along with French visitors Piperade SWPA and the Skye Youth Pipe Band, provided the rousing sounds of a

massed pipe parade, while brave audience members teamed-up in the afternoon for a fun tug of war.

Heavies took to the field to provide the main attraction of the day and competitors, both local and from as far away as the Czech Republic and Poland, pitted their strength against each other in the traditional Highland competitions.

Events included tossing the caber, putting the stone, throwing the hammer and hurling a 56lb weight over a high bar.

At the end of the day, Bernisdale's Martin Munsie won the Rosemary Nicolson Trophy for best competitor in local heavy events.

Best all-round local athlete was Ewen Bradley. Originally from Staffin, Ewen took home the Ronnie MacLean Memorial Cup for best all round local jumper; the Robertson Memorial Challenge Cup for the best all-round local athlete and the MacDonald of Seafield Cup for winner of local eight lap race.

The competitions ended with

the Skye Hill Race, a 200-metre climb up Suidh Fhinn. Dean Nicolson from Portree took the Talisker Quaich for first local in the hill race while Uig's Christina Rankin won the ladies race and the Dunvegan Castle Quaich for first local lady.

Honorary secretary of Skye Highland Games Allan Stewart said: 'This year's games were a great success. We had more than 4,000 people through the gate and, although this is not a record, was an excellent turnout.'

'We also had a good number of contestants in the heavy field events, which included some of the top athletes in Scotland.'

'The games take a lot of organising and commitment from our volunteers and we are very grateful to them for their help in the organisation and running of the event. We would also like to thank our sponsors for their generosity and everyone who turned up to support us: the competitors, the judges and the audience. We look forward to seeing you all next year.'



In perfect harmony in the Highland Dancing.



Skye's Christina Rankin wins the ladies' race. Christina is the first lady to finish the Hill Race for the 11th successive time.



Gemma Taylor from Portree.



Piper Malin Lewis, 17, from Bernisdale impresses the judges in the local Piobaireachd 16 years and over competition.



Winners of the Under-13s Highland Dancing competition take a bow.



The heat is on: Anthony Daffurn, Ewen Bradley, Stewart Clark and John MacKenzie race to the finish line.



An eager contestant gives his all in the long jump.



Stewart Clark clears the high jump bar.



The men's race was a tight affair.



The sun came out for the crowds during the women's race.



A 'heavy' competitor successfully throws the 56lb weight over the bar.



Girls from the Isle of Skye Pipe Band.



Falkirk's Jamie Gunn makes it look easy.

Photographs by Sara Bain. Full results at www.lochabertimes.co.uk

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Ballachulish care worker struck off by social services council

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A CARE assistant employed at the Abbeyfield home in Ballachulish has been struck off after physically and verbally abusing residents.

A Scottish Social Services Council panel decided Maya Manalova's fitness to practice was impaired, as defined under council rules, and removed her from its register for practitioners in a care home service for adults.

A council report said there was sufficient evidence to show

that on or around August 21 last year, at Abbeyfield Ballachulish (Care Home) in Ballachulish, Manalova pushed and pulled one of the residents, causing injury and distress; referred to the female resident when speaking to another member of staff in abusive terms, within the resident's presence, and raised her voice to another resident.

The panel said residents had the right to expect to be treated with dignity and respect and that the care they receive from social service workers, in whom they place their trust and confidence, will

protect them from harm, adding: 'Your behaviour was a misuse of the power and trust placed in you as a social service worker and represents a complete misunderstanding of the fundamental relationship between social services workers and residents.'

'It is in the public interest because the allegations call into question your fitness to practise as a social service worker. Given the allegations against you, we are not currently satisfied that your fitness to practise is not impaired.'

'The allegations are extremely

serious. You have behaved in a physically and verbally abusive manner towards vulnerable service users. The behaviour is not easily remediable and there is little evidence on your part of any insight, regret or acknowledgement of wrong-doing on your part.'

The panel said Manalova had not provided sufficient reassurance that such behaviour was not likely to be repeated and it was of the view she would pose an on-going risk to vulnerable residents if a finding of no current impairment was made. The Scot-

tish Social Services Council was created in 2001 by the then Scottish Executive to protect people who use services, raise standards of practice and strengthen and support the professionalism of the workforce.

Having been advised of the consequences, and recommended to take legal advice, Manalova admitted the facts and that her fitness to practice was impaired, and she accepted the order removing her from the register last month.

According to the Abbeyfield Society's website, its Ballachulish

home offers a range of accommodation – supported housing, nursing care and independent living – for 32 older people. Adjoining the property are nine supported housing apartments where tenants can live independently or, if they choose, use facilities offered in the main home.

Asked by the *Lochaber Times* if he wished to make a statement in response to the Scottish Social Services Council panel's findings and decision, Abbeyfield Ballachulish office manager Dominic Duffy said the charity did not wish to comment at this time.

College students' exam success

HEADS of the West Highland College have hailed the success of its students after exam results were released this week.

Academic bosses at the west coast branch of the University of Highlands and Islands said they were pleased with not only the number of students who choose to take Highers with the college, but also the rising pass rate.

Sue McFarlane, vice principal for academic affairs, said: 'The latest round of exam results show that in the 2016/17 session we had 135 entrants taking Higher exams, 45 per cent higher than last year, who achieved an 81 per cent pass rate, compared to 76 per cent last year, across all subject areas. We congratulate all of our students and wish them every success for the future. So far, enrolments for Highers for 2017/18 are very promising, demonstrating that more and more learners are choosing to take up the challenge of adding to their qualifications and choices for the future.'

Body found in hunt for tourist

POLICE Scotland have confirmed they recovered the body of a man from Cliff beach on Lewis on Saturday. A member of the public alerted police at around 3.25pm. Officers, assisted by the Coastguard, attended.

Formal identification is yet to take place, however, the family of missing German tourist Torsten Kulke has been informed. The 48-year-old was reported missing from his home in Germany on Monday July 31 and was last seen near Aird Uig on Lewis at 6pm on Friday July 28. There is not thought to be any suspicious circumstances and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

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Resident locked in garden access row with council

A CAOL resident says she is bitterly disappointed at the way she claims she has been treated by Highland Council in a row over access to her rear garden following construction of the village's new primary school, writes Mark Entwistle.

The row between the local authority and Caol resident Monika Niezbecka, who lives in Glenkingie Street with her husband and young child, has been going on since December last year.

Ms Niezbecka told the *Lochaber Times* that when the new school was being built, she was assured by a council official she would not lose access to the back garden of her property.

'I have a gate in the fence at the rear of my house and this is where my oil and wood get delivered,' said Ms Niezbecka, who has lived in the house for five years. 'I don't have enough space at the front of the house to get things like this delivered, plus my oil tank is in the back garden. But I was told there would be at least a gap of two metres between

my fence and the boundary of the new school car park. The gate at the back lets me get my pram through as well. The front door does not have enough space to get the pram through.'

Ms Niezbecka claims she was repeatedly promised there would not be an access problem.

'Every time I mentioned it, someone from the council told me not to worry, that everything would be fine. I was told it would just be grassed at the back. But then the council planted bushes all the way along. Now the school has been built, I have been told I have no legal right to come in through a gate in the fence at the back. I pay a lot of Council Tax and this is just not fair.'

But Highland Council says it has tried to help Ms Niezbecka retain easy access to her garden by removing some of its newly-planted bushes from a strip of ground close to the new school.

Quizzed about the row, a council spokesman said originally, the proposal for the new school boundary was to be hard against

the rear boundaries of the properties on Glenkingie Street.

'However it was agreed we would leave a 2m grass strip between boundaries in recognition of the fact a number of houses along this stretch had installed gates which used to lead onto the rear of the old community centre. This was only to be a grass strip and never a formal adopted path,' the spokesman said.

He added: 'Council staff have met with Ms Niezbecka on a number of occasions and have explained this arrangement to her. It also has been pointed out to her that as she is in a mid-terraced house the property deeds have provision for a right of access around the end block house to access her rear garden.'

'To our knowledge no permission has been granted for access from the rear across the former community centre site. Despite this, to assist Ms Niezbecka, we have removed some of the planting which stopped her from following the fence line.'



Monika Niezbecka at the fence which separates her back garden and the controversial grass strip in Glenkingie Street, Caol. F33 Monika Caol garden 1F

Sheriff court hears of threats to firebomb police officers' homes

SHERIFF Eilidh MacDonald called for a report on all sentencing options after hearing how a Fort William man had assaulted police officers and threatened to firebomb other officers' homes.

Edward Thomas Richardson, of Castle Drive, Lochside, appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court on Monday.

Richardson, 43, had pleaded guilty that in the early hours of June 10, at the Volunteer Arms pub in Fort William High Street, he had behaved in a disorderly manner and would not leave the premises when asked by two police officers.

Richardson also admitted assaulting one officer by kicking him on the head and causing injury; and did resist, obstruct and hinder this officer and his colleague, lashing out with his legs and injuring the other officer on the hand.

Richardson also admitted that in a police vehicle travelling to the town's police station he had behaved in a threatening

or abusive manner likely to cause fear or alarm by shouting and swearing and threatening police officers and their families.

Richardson's pleas of not guilty to a charge of behaving in a threatening or abusive manner likely to cause fear and alarm by shouting and swearing at the Volunteer Arms and to a charge of failing to provide his name and address to the police officers without a reasonable excuse, were accepted by the Crown.

The court heard Richardson had been highly intoxicated and refusing to leave the bar when the two police officers arrived.

'The accused was aggressive and threatening to the two police constables and he had to be placed on the ground to be handcuffed,' explained Procurator Fiscal Depute Martina Eastwood.

In order to get the struggling Richardson into the police vehicle, the two

officers tried to get leg restraints on but this proved impossible with Richardson continuing to kick out. It was then one officer got kicked on the side of his face and the other got kicked on the hand.

The court also heard how Richardson had threatened to firebomb the homes of two off-duty officers that he knew the names of, as well as threatening the lives of one of them and the officer's young child.

Sheriff MacDonald said it was not a pretty narrative to listen to and even Richardson's defence agent, solicitor Gerard Sweeney, called it 'appalling'.

Sheriff MacDonald said she would call for a Criminal Justice Social Work report into all the sentencing options, adding: 'This is more serious than might first appear.'

Richardson had his bail extended and sentence was deferred until September 11.

Free public wi-fi in town a step closer

COUNCILLORS are to be asked to approve plans to install free public wi-fi in 14 towns across the Highlands, including Fort William.

The City Wi-Fi project, led by the council and funded by the Inverness and Highlands City Region Deal, aims to create free public wi-fi across the Highlands for visitors and residents and a report detailing the plans will go to the Highland Council's places committee this week.

Councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of the places committee, said: 'As a bed and breakfast operator, I know the first thing visitors ask for is wi-fi.'

'We want to give visitors the experience they'd get going to any other town. Locals will also benefit.'

Increasingly such digital connectivity is seen as essential if the Highlands are to be innovative and keep their competitive place in the tourism market.

The creation of a wireless infrastructure in a town centre allows other innovative technology, such as smart traffic management technology, to be used.

Ghillie 'should have known better'

A GHILLIE was told by Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald this week that someone with his experience should have known better than to leave a gun cabinet open with a weapon visible, one loaded, and to have kept ammunition in an unlocked bedroom drawer.

David MacKenzie, of Roadside Cottage, Stronchreggan, Treslaig, had already pleaded guilty at an earlier court date at Fort William Sheriff Court that at his home on June 17, being the holder of a firearms certificate, he failed to comply with conditions to securely store firearms and ammunition as described above.

MacKenzie, 28, also previously admitted driving an unregistered telehandler on the A861 road near Treslaig, on the same day, with a breath alcohol level of 78 mcg in 100ml of breath – the legal limit being 22 mcg.

MacKenzie, who has worked as a ghillie for nine years, appeared at court on Monday after sentence had been deferred for the preparation of background reports.

His pleas of not guilty to other charges that he had attempted to pervert the course of justice by trying to evade police officers and that he had left the gun cabinet unsecured with weapons visible while he was not in the property contrary to the Firearms Act, had already been accepted by the Crown.

MacKenzie's defence agent, solicitor Gerard Sweeney, agreed it was surprising someone of his client's experience would

have fallen foul of firearms legislation. 'His employment is now in extreme jeopardy and, in truth, Mr MacKenzie doubts his employment will survive and there may well be cataclysmic changes to his life as he also lives in a tied house.'

Mr Sweeney said his client did not pose any kind of long-term risk to the public and up until this incident, his behaviour had been exemplary.

'It is only to be hoped that he can in good time regain his driving licence and hopefully regain his firearms licence, subject to losing it today,' said Mr Sweeney.

'He is exceptionally embarrassed by what has happened and is very contrite and I would ask that you deal with him as leniently as possible.'

Fining him £1,200 on the firearms offence and £600 on the drink driving charge, Sheriff MacDonald told MacKenzie the firearms charge was a serious offence.

'I have taken note what was said in the report and from Mr Sweeney, but holding a firearms certificate is a privilege and one that comes with responsibilities and you of all people, given your employment, should know better.'

'Given the other grave consequences that will probably come as a result, I will impose a financial penalty of £1,200.'

MacKenzie was also banned from driving for a year for the drink driving offence and had his licence endorsed.

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FW

Blackface ewe sweeps the boards at Sunart Show

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

JOHN NUDDS' blackface gimmer swept the boards at a sunny Sunart Show on Saturday, picking up the overall title at the popular Strontian event.

This was the ewe's fifth winning outing for John, a shepherd at Ardtornish, who also runs his own flock of 40 ewes at Torr-na-Faire on Morven.

Out of a Drumgrange ewe by 60,000 Auldhouseburn, as a ewe lamb last year she was reserve overall at Sunart and Lorn, to which she added the 2016 sheep champion title at Lochaber, where her mother was also reserve champion.

John was delighted to have gone one better this year at the Strontian event, but says he always knew the animal was something special.

'I knew an hour after she was born that she was going to be special and that's why her name is Special.'

'She's a fantastic ewe and I am really pleased with the win today,' said John.

'This is always a really nice show to come to and it's been a very enjoyable day.'

John intends taking Special

to Lochaber later this month as well as Dalmally. And John says he intends to continue showing Special for as long as possible: 'I'll keep showing her as long as she lets me,' he laughed.

Pipped for the overall show champion title were a Lodge Hamlet Limousin calf shown by Robert and David Wright, from Woodend at Clovullin on Ardgour, which took the cattle title, and the equestrian champion, a Cob called Duke ridden by Olivia Sexton, from Salen on Mull.

Robert and Olivia, the latter taking part in her first Sunart Show, were delighted with their success.

'We've been showing here since the 1950s and it's always a great wee show,' Robert said.

Olivia added: 'I'm really happy to have won, especially as it's my first time competing at this event.'

In her second year as show secretary, Nikki Robertson said organisers were pleased with this year's gate numbers, adding: 'The weather has been great considering what it was like yesterday. It's been a very good size of crowd and I think going by the gate money taken numbers will definitely be up on last year.'



Above: John Nudds with his overall champion blackface gimmer Special. This was the ewe's fifth winning outing for John.

Visit www.lochabertimes.co.uk for full show results



Best horse in show, a Cob called Duke ridden by Olivia Sexton, from Salen, Mull.



Above: Members of Sunart Community Company did a roaring trade at their burger stall.



The sheep judging gets under way at Sunart Show.



A fine example of a stalking pony at Sunart Show.



Sunart farrier Neil Turnbull at work during the show.

Casting an eye over the sheep stalls at Sunart Show.



Rab Lewis of Acharacle Re Use takes a break.



A young farmer enjoys the show.



Dylan Callander meets Bubbles the clown.

WHAT'S ON

MS BLACK Watch, an 820-passenger cruise ship, will be dropping anchor in Loch Linnhe tomorrow (Friday) with hundreds of visitors expected to spend the day in Fort William. The ship will arrive in early in the morning with passengers disembarking and being transferred to shore from 9am. Black Watch will set sail again in the afternoon, leaving Loch Linnhe at 3.30pm.

GLENFINNAN Highland Games will be held this Saturday, August 19, on the games field in the centre of the historic village.

There will be piping, dancing, athletics and children's competitions and events. Spectators can enjoy a licensed beer tent, food stalls, side shows and a variety of stalls with locally crafted goods for sale. The games start at 11am.

LOCHABER Yacht Club's annual regatta gets under way this Saturday, August 19. For more information call 01397 706307 or visit the Lochaber Yacht Club website.

LOCHABER Women's Aid is looking for women with a passion for its cause to join its board.

If anyone is interested and would like to know more, drop-in sessions will be held at Lochaber Women's Aid's premises on Mary Street, Fort William.

Sessions will be held on Wednesday August 23 from 5pm to 7pm; Monday August 28, noon to 2pm; and Wednesday August 30 from 5pm to 7pm.

For more information call 01397 705734 or visit lochaberwomensaid.org.

THE NATIONAL Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music is welcoming former students back to Plockton for two shows.

Sally Simpson and Catriona Hawksworth have joined forces with Joseph Peach and Becca Skeoch on a tour, performing Plockton Village Hall on Monday August 21 at 7.30pm. Eddie Seaman and Luc McNally are also on the road to back up their acclaimed album 'Tirade'. Eddie and Luc will appear at Plockton Village Hall the following night, Tuesday August 22, at 7.30pm. Both shows feature support from current students of the music school.

Entry is £8 and £5 concessions on the door.

YOUNG dancers are invited to attend open auditions for the Eden Court pantomime on Sunday August 27.

This year's show is Snow White and Eden Court are looking for children aged nine to 16 years to take part in the junior chorus.

The production runs from December 5 to January 7 2018. For more information call 01463 234234.

4X MOUNTAIN bike racing is returning to its birthplace in Fort William for a special night of riding, music, coaching, food and fun. Run by #4xWednesdays and Descent-World, the event takes place on Saturday August 26, starting at 4pm.

An open water swim will take place in Loch Leven, Glencoe, this Saturday, August 19. Swimmers can swim different distances from 500m up to 5kms.

The event, hosted by the Isles of Glencoe Hotel and Leisure Centre, starts at 11am and will finish by mid-afternoon. Full details available at www.glencoeopenwaterswim.com.

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View from the Chamber

WITH the new academic year fast approaching, DYW West Highland would once again like to encourage businesses to become involved with the Developing the Young Workforce programme.

By engaging with education, you can help create a generation of young people who are equipped with the knowledge and skills to make informed choices about their future careers.

Make young people aware of the employment opportunities that are available within your organisation by inviting them along to see how your business operates from day to day, by providing a meaningful work placement or by visiting schools to share your expertise.

Many businesses see the benefits of employing young people for their enthusiasm and willingness to learn. Recruiting young people has also been shown to increase commitment and loyalty, meaning that they are more likely to stay with your business, which helps maintain productivity and reduce recruitment costs.

DYW's headline aim it to reduce youth unemployment by 40 per cent by 2021 and your business could play a vital role in achieving this.

For further information on how you can get involved, please contact the DYW team on 01397 705765 / info@dywesthighland.org

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Sanday residents to crowdfund island's first road

SANDAY islanders hope to raise enough money to build the island's first road.

Isle of Canna Community Development Trust (ICCDT) has launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise £14,708 to provide Sanday with a road.

On its JustGiving fundraising page, an ICCDT spokesperson explained: 'Our project is to build a track across Sanday so islanders can get to and from their homes and businesses when the tide is in. When the tide is out, vehicles can cross the bridge and use the extremely rocky and uneven track to the houses and school. When the tide is in, this track is blocked and travel is only possible by foot or quad bike.'

The islands of Canna and Sanday are connected by a bridge that can take vehicles, but there is currently no road. The proposed road will stretch from the Canna bridge to St Edwards church, approximately one and a half miles long and three metres wide, all built using locally sourced materials.

Although the population of Sanday barely reaches a dozen, many locals work between the two places and the primary school on the island serves communities on both Sanday and Canna.

The spokesperson continued: 'The road will enable islanders to travel from the pier on Canna to home on Sanday, carrying shopping, fuel for heating and for getting back and forth to work on Canna. Creating this track will be life-changing for residents and vital to encouraging new people to settle on the island.'

The campaign is 25 per cent of the way to reaching its target. To find out more or donate, go to justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sanday.

Kilmallie dancers in full swing

'STRICTLY' came to Kilmallie Community Centre last weekend at the annual old time dancing event.

The evening attracts like-minded people from across the UK to come together to enjoy dancing in various old styles.

Normally spread over a couple of days with dance classes from well-known teachers, this year's event was scaled down to a Saturday evening dance, raffle and buffet, which still attracted quite a crowd who had a great time.



Union chief's call to scrap West Coast ferry tendering

THE HEAD of a transport workers' trade union insists lifeline ferry services on the West Coast should not be put out to tender again after visiting ferry ports at Mallaig and Armadale.

Transport Salaried Staffs' Association (TSSA) general secretary Manuel Cortes has been touring the West Coast, meeting CalMac workers in Mallaig and Armadale as part of a campaign to prevent the re-tendering of lifeline ferry services.

Mr Cortes said: 'I will be using my visit to hammer home the message to the SNP that the Scottish Government must scrap any future tendering of Scotland's lifeline ferry services.'

On Friday he visited Mallaig Harbour to reinforce the union's hard stance against private ownership of transport services in the Highlands, before being ferried across to Armadale.

Both ports provide a vital link to the mainland for people living on the Small Isles, Skye and other remote communities.

In an interview with the *Lochaber Times*, Mr Cortes explained: 'The Scottish Government and previous administrations repeated that lifeline routes need to be put out to tender.'

'The TSSA maintains this is a smokescreen to hide the government's intentions to privatise ferry services.'

Mr Cortes claimed 'the cat

is out of the bag' after the EU Commission confirmed lifeline ferry services do not need to be tendered.

He continued: 'The government sought the EU's opinion on this and the commission responded by telling them that lifeline services cannot be made into cash cows.'

'The government's stance is utter nonsense.'

'No-one I've met on my trip around the West Coast wants taxpayers' money to line shareholders pockets.'

'Instead, they want that money to provide reliable and affordable services.'

'Our members at CalMac deeply value this service and are an integral part of it.'

'They feel privatisation will lead to increased fares and reduced services.'

The TSSA has 100 members that work for CalMac at onshore ports, including those at Mallaig and Armadale.

Although only a small proportion of the union's approximate 22,600 members, Mr Cortes stressed how important ferry services in the Highlands are to their work as an organisation, saying: 'These lifeline ferry services are a huge boost to local economies and employment in the remotest parts of Scotland.'

'The benefit to local communities is impossible to quantify. Some of these communities wouldn't be here without such a ferry service.'



Manuel Cortes, General Secretary of the TSSA union.

Police rubbish TV advice claims

POLICE have dismissed claims by the BBC that officers are encouraging tourists not to visit the Isle of Skye.

As part of its news coverage on the busy summer tourism season on the island, a BBC report claimed Police Scotland were advising visitors to stay away from the island unless they have reserved accommodation.

Sergeant Bruce Crawford, based in Portree, said in response: 'I would never advise people against visiting our beautiful island but I would ask people to use common sense before travelling without booking accommodation in advance.'

'Like everyone else, we want visitors to have the best experience possible but I would encourage people, who travel from around the world to see Skye, to plan ahead unless they want to spend a night in their car.'

Cinema plans to be showcased

PROPOSALS to build a new cinema in Fort William will be showcased next week and Lochaber residents are being urged to give their views.

Lochaber Cinema Group (LCG) will be holding a drop-in event next Saturday where proposals to build a new cinema in Fort William will be revealed.

The consultation meeting will take place at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church on Saturday August 19 from 1.30pm until 5.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. For further enquiries call 01397 701126.



Act now on roads upgrade to clear traffic gridlock

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP John Finnie has called for early action to upgrade Lochaber's transport infrastructure after a summer of gridlock and disruption on the roads.

Following complaints from constituents about delays on the A82 in and out of Fort William and the recent problems with the Corran Ferry, Mr Finnie has sought a meeting with Transport Minister Humza Yousaf to discuss the issues.

Mr Finnie said: 'The Scottish Government and all my Highland Parliamentary colleagues support £6 billion being spent on dualling the A9 and A96; £70m on a link road in Inverness

and £50 million for a flyover at the Kessock Bridge - huge sums that do nothing to assist Lochaber constituents spending 40 minutes getting in and out of the Fort or residents in Ardnarmurchan forced to take a lengthy detour around the lochs.'

'There is nothing new about the challenges of motorists being funneled through the narrow corridor into Fort William or the challenges faced by residents on the Ardnarmurchan Peninsula, so what's required is changed priorities.'

Mr Finnie's call for action adds to the mounting pressure on local and national authorities to find a solution to the prob-

lems on Lochaber roads and transport services. Locals have already started campaigns appealing to the Highland Council and the Scottish Government to confront the issues.

He continued: 'I have no fixed view on the options to relieve either situation believing local people can suggest the best solutions to both.'

'What's needed is for the Scottish Government, with the open support of the other opposition parties, to bring an end to the vanity projects supposed to serve the Highland capital and start properly maintaining and upgrading the West Highlands' infrastructure.'

Broadcaster praises Skye Ferry restoration efforts

THE ROMANCE of travelling over the sea to Skye would have been lost if the world's last sea-going, manually-operated, turntable ferry had not been restored and kept in operation, according to broadcaster Nicky Campbell.

Mr Campbell, who has had a house on the island for more than 20 years, was guest of honour at last week's ceremony on the Glenelg slipway to mark completion of the final phase of restoration of the *MV Glenachulish*.

The ferry company and the Glenachulish Preservation Trust (Skye Ferry Charity) staged an event to celebrate the hanging of the vessel's bell and the completion of work on her new, state-of-the-art wheelhouse.

A barbecue and live music kept locals and ferry supporters from all over the world entertained.

Mr Campbell was joined by trustees of the charity and the skippers and crew from the ferry company. 'It was a great turnout. Seeing the bell re-hung had a real sense of occasion about it,' said Mr Campbell. 'The ferry is a wonderful piece of engineering and it has been an amazing effort from all these people who have put their hearts and souls into making this project such a success. Something very special



A ceremony to re-hang the bell was held last week.

would have been lost if the ferry had stopped. The whole romance of 'over the sea to Skye' would have vanished.'

Almost 50 years old, *MV Glenachulish* sails on what is the

oldest crossing from the mainland to Skye.

The restoration cost £80,000 with some of the money coming from supporters around the globe.



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Agricultural staff take on Great Glen Challenge

TRAINING is in full swing as agri-business staff from Skye and Lewis limber up for the Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RSABI) Great Glen Challenge.

SAC Consulting in Portree has joined forces with Skye and Stornoway NFU Mutual Agencies to take on the gruelling multi-discipline race on Friday August 25.

The intrepid individuals from Team Won and Team Too will race along the Great Glen between Fort Augustus and Fort William running, cycling, canoeing and walking to raise money for RSABI's work relieving rural poverty.

Jake Sayles, agent and group secretary, NFU Mutual Agencies Skye, Lochalsh and Western Isles, is taking part. He said: 'The RSABI is a unique charity that supports the agricultural communities in times of real need. We are very happy to be supporting them. We've raised more than £940 already and have a target of £2,000.'

The RSABI is a charity based in Inghliston, Edinburgh, offering financial and practical support to farmers and crofters in the Highlands and Islands. It recently joined forces with the National Farmers Union of Scotland to set up a new initiative in the Western Isles.

The initiative was launched at the Skye Agricultural Show in Portree recently and aims to encourage those working and living in a rural community to post an easily-identifiable sticker with RSABI's confidential helpline number somewhere prominent on the farm or croft.



Janette Sutherland, Jennifer MacKinnon, Aofie Gould, Jake Sayles, Nina Clancy and Karen MacRae get ready for the Great Glen Challenge.

Bright future for derelict Glendale schoolhouse

A COMMUNITY group on Skye plans to turn a dilapidated schoolhouse in Glendale into affordable housing, with help from the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT).

The Glendale Trust has appointed HSCHT to provide professional services to renovate Borrodale schoolhouse in the village.

Borrodale Primary School, on the road to Neist Point, closed in 2007. The derelict site includes a school house and school buildings.

The property was bought with funding from the Scottish Land Fund and through community consultation, detailed proposals have been developed for the school and house.

The aim is to bring the old schoolhouse back into use as a community-owned and operated affordable rented property. Planning consent and a building warrant are in place for the renovation work.

Working with the HSCHT, the trust will need to apply for funding for the project.

Speaking on behalf of the Glendale Trust, director Dominic Houlder said: 'As highlighted in the Glendale growth plan, affordable housing is essential to the sustainable growth of Glendale. It is great to again be making progress on the Borrodale school project. The trust has developed detailed plans for the school and we have every faith working with HSCHT will deliver the affordable housing element of the project.'

'The community of Glendale can look forward to owning, operating and benefiting from a much-needed asset being brought into use.'



Volunteers at the Lochaber Autism Support Group serving customers in the Station Cafe. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Glen Nevis

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roseanna Cunningham visited Glen Nevis last week to learn about a programme to enhance and protect the unique biodiversity, geology, history and heritage of this important natural site.

Ms Cunningham planted a Scots Pine tree to support Glen Nevis native pinewood regeneration. The five-year, £4m Heritage Lottery Funded programme is a partnership between Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Forestry Commission Scotland, John Muir Trust, Highland Council and the Nevis Partnership, which will host the programme and employ the six staff to deliver 19 projects.

Work will include planting pine seedlings, removing non-native conifers within the pinewood area that out-compete native trees and improving habitat for species including black grouse, pine marten, barn owls and red squirrels.

Ms Cunningham said: 'It's great to see such a broad range of projects managing the balance between conservation and visitor pressures. I hope the community spirit at the heart of the initiative will inspire others to follow their lead and I was pleased to have the chance to do my bit by planting one of the pine seedlings.'

Two of the programme's key projects, Future Forests and Pinewood Restoration, are focused on improving the Caledonian forest in upper Glen Nevis. These projects, led by Nevis Landscape Partnership with input from local and national groups, form part of the Scottish Government's aim to see a quarter of Scotland under woodland.

West Highland Museum plans future

WEST Highland Museum is embarking on a mission to remodel itself for the 21st century and it needs your views.

Museum manager Colleen Barker said: 'We want to ensure, as we look to the future, the museum reflects the priorities of local people, visitors, researchers and everyone with an interest in the history and heritage of the West Highlands.'

'To help us do that we have designed a short survey

which you can access here: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WestHighlandMuseum

Colleen continued: 'Already one of the most popular visitor attractions in Lochaber, the museum, in Cameron Square, Fort William, is also an important heritage resource for local people and researchers from around the world.'

'The museum has a renowned collection relating to Bonnie Prince Charlie

and the Jacobite cause, but it also holds a wealth of curious and fascinating displays and objects on less well-known aspects of the lives of the people of the West Highlands. Since removing its admission charge, the museum has seen attendances grow rapidly and it now welcomes around 50,000 visitors a year.' Contact the museum for more information at info@westhighlandmuseum.org.uk



Ross from Nevis Cycles goes through basic bike repairs.

Bike care lessons for Ardgour cyclists

ARDGOUR residents learned how to repair and maintain their bikes at an event organised by Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG).

Bike mechanics Ross and Neil from Nevis Cycles set up a makeshift workshop in Ardgour Hall where 15 locals learned how to fix a puncture, brakes and gears, clean their bike and carry out pre-ride safety checks.

The class last Thursday was one of a series of workshops being held in Lochaber to teach basic bike repair skills.

The free events are funded through the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund to help people get the most out of

their bikes. Everyone who took part in the class said they felt more confident carrying out repairs on their bikes and maintaining them.

One participant said they would be using their bike more as a result of the class: 'It was a great course with fantastic instructions from the guys. It should keep me from taking the car out of the garage on sunny days for a while.'

More repair classes are planned and anyone interested should contact Christine at Lochaber Environmental Group at christine@lochaberenviron.org.uk or 01397 700090.

Fèis an Eilein continues programme

THE MUSIC, people and culture of the Highlands dominates the stages of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig next week as the Skye Festival - Fèis an Eilein - continues its August programme.

Tomorrow, Friday August 18, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig joins forces with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland for a day of academic collaboration and a concert featuring Eliza Ross' Raasay.

An evening recital will recreate the 19th century drawing room of Raasay House to celebrate the music of Lady d'Oyly of Raasay's Original Highland Airs (1812).

The penultimate concert of this year's Fèis plays out on Tuesday August 22, when Adam Sutherland, fiddle, Mairead Green, accordion, Anna Massie, guitar, and Hamish Napier, flute and whistle, take to the stage of the college's main hall.

A SEALL spokesperson said: 'This will be an unforgettable evening of world-class Scottish traditional music by some of the country's top musicians featuring slow airs, fast-paced tunes and surprising musical interludes. The event is sponsored by Fearann Eilean Iarmain.'

For tickets and a full programme visit www.skyefestival.scot or phone 01471 844207.

Running alongside the Fèis is a lively festival fringe with house concerts, Gaelic quiz nights, family fun activities, cèilidh dances and charity cafés.

Today, Thursday August 17, SEALL will be holding a fundraising café in Ardsvar Hall from 11am to 2pm.

All proceeds will go towards bringing quality educational theatre to pupils of Bun-sgoil Shlèite.

Author of the Year at Skye Book Festival

ONE OF the main events at this month's Skye Book Festival features one of Scotland's most distinguished literary talents, Graeme Macrae Burnet.

Graeme's critically acclaimed novel *His Bloody Project* was short-listed for the prestigious Man Booker Prize in October last year, leading to him being named Author of the Year 2017 at the Sunday Herald Culture Awards.

Graeme told organisers: 'It is particularly exciting to speak at an event so close to the setting of *His*



Graeme Macrae Burnet.

Bloody Project as I expect the conditions under which the crofters live in the book will be of particular interest to the audience there.'

The event in Skye will be particularly interesting as it will be chaired by Graeme's uncle, the critic and academic Alasdair DF

Macrae, who was brought up in Lochcarron.

Alasdair Macrae, now retired as senior lecturer in English Studies at the University of Stirling where he taught for more than 30 years, has written a literary life of W B Yeats and his book on the life and work of the prolific poet Norman MacCaig, published in 2011, is recognised as a classic of its kind.

Skye Book Festival runs from August 31 until September 2 and is a project of Cleas, a charity for the encouragement and provision of the performing arts in Skye and Lochalsh.

RETRO Roamer

More late summer 1980s musings
PICTURE the scene: a grassy slope in Ardnamurchan, no-one to be seen for miles except for John and a couple of towrists. Just as well they were there, as they came to the rescue of a sheep trapped under a mangle. Aye, a mangle, on the site of the former folk museum. Not one mangle, but two. One had fallen on top of an inquisitive sheep, trapping it by the neck, till John and co came to the rescue.

SHEEP are figuring prominently in this column these days and they caused plenty mirth at Saturday's match between Fort William and Cove Rangers. Shortly before the interval, two ewes wandered onto Claggan Park amid much ribaldry it was high time Henrijk sent on a couple of subs anyway. Fort were 3-0 down at this stage. Then John Sandison, groundsman and Good Shepherd, put in an appearance and showed red cards to the sheep. So by the end of the 4-2 reversal, Fort didn't look too sheepsish.

EARLIER on there had been more mirth at Claggan Park. Not with the match right enough, but with the usual banter in the stand. It had been a 2.15pm kick off, but Colin MacDonald appeared at 3pm. After a quarter of a century as a time-served joiner, surely it's about time someone presented Colin with a watch?

WHILE on the sporting tack, I gather Fort William Golf Club is to make life easier for members and visitors as the three monster-length holes on the course are to be shortened. They are to be cut from more than 500 yards to around 400. That should make the clubhouse a lot busier, with one round finished early enough to order up another one.

DAMNED with faint praise in the sports pages of the Sunday Post were the stalwarts of Lochaber shinty team. After beating Skye 6-3 to climb a rung or two up Division 1, players were none too pleased to read the scoreline and report which referred to Lochaber as Fochabers!

YOU JUST can't keep Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team - or, in this case, Willie Anderson - out of the news. When team members reached that stranded 13 stone Great Dane last week, Willie had an easy time of it. He was 'carried doon in the dug's mooth, ken'. Then there was a shout to rescue a bulky chap on the Ben. Donald decided four stalwarts would be sufficient to cope with this one. Willie, however, was stood doon or, as the LMRT record books have it, 'drapped oot the dug's mooth'. The bulky casualty was so delighted with the way the team came to his aid that he wanted to repay them for their efforts. As is universally known, the LMRT members adjourn to the Nevis Bank after completing their good work. Now it so happened the bulky person was staying in the hotel. 'Give these lads anything they want,' said he to management, 'and put it all on my Room 12 bill.' And to think Willie missed that. Aye, he was a bit pit out.

NOTICED in an alleyway in the higher reaches of the town at mid morning on Saturday, one set of false teeth, apparently in good condition, with one careless owner. Anyone requiring a stiffer upper lip should take a wee walk up by the Highland Hotel.

Dear Roamer, did you hear about the young Lochaber man who went into a bank in Fort William to withdraw £30? He was a bit uncertain whether to write 'thirty' or 'therty'. To save himself any embarrassment he drew out £40. He stays in my road in Caol, at number 30.

IN CASE you've had to look twice at the sign on the wall which straddles the covered-over burn that runs between Invernevis and Belhaven, I shall confirm its wording. It says 'Victoria Court'. You might think it should read 'Craiglea Court', which was the name accepted by Lochaber District Council's housing committee. But that was overruled at the meeting of the full council and Victoria Court it has become. All very logical when you consider the sheltered housing complex is situated opposite Victoria Park, which subsequently became King George V Park, which became the Town Park, which became, aye, the Swimming Pool & Leisure Centre. Incidentally Belford Road, across from Victoria Court, frequently resembles an outdoor swimming pool after a shower or two of Fort William rain.

ALL THIS 'inspired betting' on a confirmed sighting of the Loch Ness Monster has caused a few local punters to ask for odds for the 'treble of the year'. That would combine the surfacing of Nessie with the arrival of the abominable snowman and the reappearance of the vanishing cottage in Loch Mullardoch. But the betting boys were invited to 'disappear' by the Ladbroses staff.

THESE big soters of spuds being grown at Bohenie have certainly caused a stir in the Braes and beyond. Can anywhere else come up with a two and a quarter pound tattie - or larger?

I NOTE the courthouse clock is an hour out again. No doubt it will catch up sometime. Till then, it'll be just like the old town hall clock - right twice a day.

YOU CAN take a white horse anywhere, which probably explains why this large, greyish mare was galloping along Kilmallie Road on its lonesome on Monday afternoon. No bridle. No saddle. No owner. No nothing. Just it. I would reckon it was looking for the soon-to-be reinstated pasture land at Camaghale.



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Leisure and libraries staff set to be transferred to new trust

TV star Gordon visits CHAS

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

LIVE Argyll, the new leisure and libraries trust for Argyll and Bute, will see a general manager in post next month, with legal documents in place for a transfer of 264 members of staff by October 2.

In papers due to be discussed in Kilmory council chamber today (Thursday August 17), a management fee of between £1.7 million paid from October 1, and £3.5 million or slightly more paid in subsequent years by Argyll and Bute Council for leisure and library services, was due to be agreed.

Council papers say Kevin Anderson has been appointed to the position. The former senior financial manager within Argyll and Bute Council will manage a budget of £10 million per year.

The plan for the new company, limited by guarantee, was agreed by councillors in November 2016, and was granted charitable status by OSCAR, the Scottish Charities Register.

The transfer was agreed in order to make a saving in terms of between £556,000 and £705,000 through non-domestic rates savings and VAT savings due to the charitable status of the trust. The council is set to save at least £540,000 per year due to the reduction.

A service level agreement between Argyll and Bute Council and Live Argyll will see administration services for the new trust provided by the local authority. An operating agreement between the two bodies will set out the management agreement between the trust and the council, and includes specific services to be

Inveraray Pipe Band are simply out of this world



Inveraray and District Pipe Band were named World Champions for 2017, band co-founder Stuart Liddell won the Pipe Major Alasdair Gillies Memorial Recital Challenge and Oban High School's B band lifted the Champion of Champions title. Picture: Colin Cameron/06_a331DPBworldchamps18

delivered by the trust for the management fee paid by the council.

The management deal between Live Argyll and Argyll and Bute Council will last for 10 years.

The trust will manage libraries, leisure facilities, active schools, archives, halls, sports development, museums, community centres and community lets.

A shadow board is already in place to oversee the operation of the council's leisure assets, including the Corran Halls and Oban Library, as well as

other venues and leisure centres throughout Argyll, but not the social enterprise Atlantis Leisure which will continue to receive a grant from the council.

Live Argyll has already declared its directors with companies house. Registered directors of the trust are Mairi Coleman, an HR executive; Councillor Jim Anderson, a former council employee in the leisure sector; Charles Brodie, a retired banker; Mary Watt, an environmental health officer; Graham Hardie; and Councillor Jim Lynch, who is

noted on the Companies House register as a civil servant.

The chairman of the multi-million-pound company is former Liberal Democrat councillor Andrew Nisbet, who is named on council papers, but not the Companies House register.

The registered address of the company is Lochgilphead Community Centre, which will also be one of the venues the group manages.

Council papers show the council has worked to keep the 264 staff members, who will be trans-

ferred from the local authority to the trust, on equitable terms and conditions.

This includes an 'annual uplift to cover staff pay awards', to be added to the baseline financial projections for the management fee in order to give staff 'budgeted pay awards'.

The documents further state: 'It is proposed that this financial arrangement is reviewed after a three-year period on the basis that the trust will be able to grow its revenue streams and over time the percentage of the trust

expenditure represented by the management fee will reduce.'

Lawyers for the council, Brodies, have worked with Strathclyde Pension Fund to submit a formal request for the new trust to be given admitted body status in order that employees will have no change to their pension provision and full service protection.

Seven roadshows over the past year were held to 'ensure all staff were fully consulted over the past six months' and papers say that the 'trade unions were also fully involved in the process'.

AWARD-WINNING wildlife cameraman and presenter Gordon Buchanan, from Mull, made a special visit to Robin House at Balloch, part of Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS) last week, to meet families and find out more about the charity's vital work.

Raised on the Isle of Mull, Gordon has a reputation for relishing dangerous assignments, and his documentaries include *Elephant Family and Me* and *Tribes, Predators and Me*. And he has completed several guest presenter stints on BBC Two's, *Springwatch*, *Autumnwatch* and *Winterwatch*.

Gordon treated children and families at the hospice to a storytelling session, retelling his 'hairy' encounter with a polar bear in Arctic Norway, and led a grizzly bear hunt in the beautiful gardens at Robin House. Many of the children dressed for the occasion, painting their faces as bear cubs, and brought their teddies along to meet Gordon.

Gordon said: 'It's been a humbling experience learning about the important work that CHAS does in its hospices, and outwith the community in hospitals.

It's been a fantastic experience meeting the families, and sharing my stories with them, and I'm proud to support such an amazing charity.'

CHAS cares for families, their babies, children and young people by offering palliative care, family respite and support at its two hospices, Rachel House and Robin House. It has a CHAS at Home team, who bring its services into families' homes throughout the whole of Scotland, as well as teams working in communities and hospitals across the country.

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Viewpoint



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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Summer traffic is a hot topic both in Oban and in the Fort William area at the moment.

Every summer the increase brings difficulties for road users, but since the launch of RET, the problems seem to have exploded.

The *Oban Times* campaign to ensure greater safety for road users on the A85 between Connel and Oban is gathering strong support, while in Fort William this week, two men have launched a campaign calling for action on the A82 as Fort William endures another gridlocked summer due to the increased numbers of cars and motorhomes on the road.

But these difficulties are not just confined to the summer months.

The A85 and A82 are vital arteries for the communities they serve, but in some places are not fit for purpose.

The A82 Partnership, for example, has been campaigning for years to have this main trunk route upgraded and future proofed, making the Highlands a better place to live and work.

We understand road improvements do not come cheap, but neither do lives. Our communities will have a poorer future without change, so it is about time the Scottish Government took us seriously.



Day gone by – circa 1863

This week we travel back all the way to around 1863 and a shooting and fishing party at Ardtornish House. Pictured left to right are Benjamin Leigh Smith (1828-1913), a cousin of Florence Nightingale and famous Arctic explorer who donated plant specimens to the Royal Botanic Gardens and brought home live polar bears for the London Zoo; Dr Edward Hamilton, a regular sporting guest at Ardtornish between 1866 and 1879; Harriet Smith (nee Cook) and William Smith (1828-1899), husband of Harriet and son of Octavius Henry Smith, owner of Ardtornish estate; and Thomas Cobb (sitting with gun), the well-known English landscape painter. Thanks to Iain Thornber for the photograph.

MacPhail

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WITH the recent advent of the annual and impressive Perseid meteor shower lighting the heavens with shooting stars, the contrast between the constant and the changeable nature of existence was represented beautifully.

I was lucky to be at home on Tírce the night of August 12 when the activity was predicted to peak and, after an overcast day, at around midnight, the clouds cleared and the stars appeared brightly above us.

Low on the sky to the east, illuminating Milton and Mull, was a bright waning gibbous moon, which was reducing the clarity of the view slightly. However, with all the lights in the house at Skipinnish turned off and a bench placed in the middle of the croft, we sat back and gazed skyward to the north.

Our chosen position placed the Plough just over the house and, above that, Polaris shone bright and true as it has for millennia, marking within a fraction of a degree the direction of true north.

I have seen a shooting star only a

few times in my life and was sceptical about the predicted frequency. As an eternal optimist, though, I had a few wishes at the ready just in case. It did not take long for these amazing distant sights to begin streaking across the sky above us.

With only a few modest and simple wishes to deliver, they were all received by these far-off wonders within the first few minutes. After that I relaxed back into the bench and, wrapped in a warm blanket, like a cailleach by the fire, I began to ponder on the pole star.

Known by numerous names with many overlaps between differing languages – Stella Polaris (the polar star), Stella Maris (the sea star), the lode star (the guiding star) and Dhruva (fixed) – among many, this multi-star source of illumination around 434 light years away, in the context of our lifetimes, remains in a constant position above the North Pole.

As sailors over thousands of years knew, having a constant reference point with which to trace your position on the Earth is essential to the

undertaking of any voyage. Constant sources of reference in life, as with crossing an ocean, are an important part of finding fulfilment and, like Polaris guiding sailors on the sea, there are many constants that can help guide us through the ups and downs and rough and tumble of our own voyages.

The importance of reference points for keeping a grip on our position cannot be overstated, and there are no limits to what these reference points can be. Bonds to place, family, friendship, nature, country, ethnicity, profession, love, religious faith and music are just some of the anchors that give meaning to many.

It is my belief that our ability to cope well with change and disruption is enhanced by the strength and number of our individual and unique range of pole stars.

As the shooting stars of our lives illuminate, bring brightness and often disappear far too quickly and without warning, our pole stars can keep our course steady when the rest of the sky is left in darkness.



Social media

There was a spirited response to the simple question we asked on Facebook last week: 'Campervans – good or bad?'

Ian Fletcher reasoned: 'It's the rules of the road that's bad not campervans. For example : if there is more than two cars behind you then it should be against the law to not pull over and let them pass. Simple...'

Gwyn Moses wrote: 'If driven by people who know what they are doing, they are great. Unfortunately they are often hired by people who have never driven anything bigger than a Ford Focus and then try to either drive them like a small car or like a 40 tonne artic. The renters have no understanding about driving on Scottish rural roads, are unable to reverse 5m into a passing place and almost never pull in to a layby to let faster cars pass after they've built up a queue by going round corners at 20mph.'

Alick MacLellan argued: 'I'd love to

criticise the camper and and the drivers, but it's not that simple. The roads to/from town are often unsuitable for overtaking. The drivers are not always so comfortable driving them, so they are naturally more cautious. In town, they are poorly catered for. I don't agree with free parking for them - cars pay, so should campervans and m/c's. But, provide proper sized spaces for them.'

Karen Anderson said: 'Camper vans now parking overnight on the main Glencruitten Rd which already is a narrow road with lots of Pedestrians and cyclists as well as cars/ Lorries/ buses. They have even been seen parking overnight in the golf club car park. More noise pollution for residents!! There needs to be a designated pay/parking areas for them!'

Willie MacDonald posted: 'As a motor-home owner I've got a biased opinion. However more towns should follow Hawick's example and openly welcome them, Hawick has several dedicated

spaces where motorhomes can park for free and are greeted by "Welcomers" who give a welcome pack which has info about local businesses and also has vouchers for them which encourage folk to use local businesses.'

Peter Taylor commented: 'Great if you're on holiday. Utter travesty if you're actually trying to get somewhere and see one round the next corner...'

Marina Curran-Colthart posted: 'Its great to see so many visiting our beautiful area, but they need to be mindful of who's behind them and let other road users pass. They also need to plan where they are going to park up and be encouraged to use designated sites and not take up viewing points or for that matter passing places for their overnight stays. It would also help if they left more than their footprint.'

Linda Simpson wrote: 'Dreadful when your about 10 cars behind and no one can pass by them on roads like the A82.'

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Academics have hijacked Gaelic

Sir, I have often heard comments on language and culture from individuals who are alien to the areas in which they try to be do-gooders.

So regarding Gaelic and its abuse in general, we can well do without being preached to by people from the central belt who have little knowledge of or spoken ability in Gaelic.

I am a genuine, well-versed proper Gael, and I can assure you this kind of lopsided advice, both on the oral and academic side, is not helping the process at all.

To add insult to injury, the idea that throwing money at issues is going to provide a solution is for the birds, sweet as they might sing.

I have painful feeling in my bones that it is the academic hijacking of the language over the past 40 years that has given it a downhill run in both quantity and quality, one example being that, when the language was non-academic, it was real, very good orally and alive in a normal way, without anyone forever preaching that it should be like this or like that.

We need to act instead of moaning and stop being advised by folks who live a long way off and are amateurish in their ways.

It is ridiculous to me and others that the leaders of Bòrd na Gàidhlig and others are not able to deliver fluent conversation in Gaelic.

Aonghas Eoghainn Mhoir,
Gearraidh ns Monadh,
Uibhist a Deas.

A demographic NHS timebomb in Scotland

Sir, After projections recently showed the number of pensioners is set to increase by 28 per cent, it is high time the SNP started listening to warnings about an ageing population

The National Records of Scotland has estimated the hike over the next 25 years, which would unfortunately bring with it a rise in conditions such as dementia.

Hospitals across the country are already struggling to cope with increasing numbers of patients, particularly those with diseases linked to living longer.

Shadow health secretary Miles Briggs said the NHS was already struggling as a result of the SNP's failure to plan for an ageing population and he said the problems would only worsen as that demographic increased.

The elderly population has rocketed in the past 10 years north of the border and the growth is even larger in rural constituencies such as here in Argyll and Bute.

In fact, by 2039, the number of over-75s will have gone from 430,000 to a massive 800,000.

In contrast, the population of 0-15-year-olds will rise by only one per cent.

The Scottish Government must act now or the problems for hospital staff

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



'S NEÒNACH MURA ROBH cuid agaihse mar mi fhin a' fhuair mòran tlachd a bhith a' leantainn Farpais Lùth-chleasachd an t-Saoghail air telebhisean thar an t-seachdain seo chaidh. Dhearbhadh gach farpaiseach toradh an cuid spàirn thar bhliadhnaichean ag obrachadh suas chun na h-ìre seo de dh'farpais.

Chan urrainn ach aon neach buanachadh ann am farpais agus tha sin a' ciallachadh briseadh-dùil agus briseadh spioraid dha cuid, mar a chunnaic sinn às ùr anns an fharpais mhòr seo cuideachd.

Ach an robh duine agaihse a' faireachadh gun robh saoghal agus feumalachdan chraoladair ann ann an stiùidio a' breithneachadh agus a' fàidheadaireachd air suidheachaidhean de gach seòrsa. Nuair a thig toradh an tachartais co-dhiù tha iad air a bhith ceart neo ceàrr tha

and patients are only going to get worse as the years go on.

There is going to be a heavily increasing elderly population north of the border, who risk being served by an NHS which sadly won't be remotely equipped to provide the help they need and is being centralised to near breaking point by the separatists.

Perhaps if the Scottish Government dropped its obsession with both another independence referendum and centralising everything in sight, it could concentrate on steering clear of this iceberg.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.

Criticism can make a positive contribution

Sir, While it is flattering someone has been tracking all my letters for years (*The Oban Times*, August 10), Kenny McLennan has not woken up to how complaints are actually positive.

Back in the 1980s, some business people were talking at a meeting and one man was having a major whinge about complaining customers. 'But Gus,' said a friend, 'how else do your customers help you to improve your business?'

The penny dropped and he went on to greater success and to retire 10 years early.

This use of customer feedback became standard with the 1990 book, *The Machine that Changed the World* and the story of Toyota. Instead of sacking staff, its lean approach not only satisfies customer needs but also copies best practice ways of doing things from other organisations.

Oban business people though were already alongside Toyota.

Nancy Black saw computerised stock control at an exhibition, realised the benefits and pioneered the use of IT businesses in the town.

Here in 2017, as well as taking telephone bookings, my chiropractor also offers appointment bookings online. The time she saves enables her to see more clients and keep her prices down. For the NHS, instead of being bogged down in routine calls or carrying folders around, staff can spend more time with the patients who need it. Surely this is better for both patients plus staff can enjoy doing what they were trained to do?

So please, Mr McLennan, have a go at Holyrood, not me, for insisting the NHS goes online. And rather than see 21st-century technology as negative, accept my approach is that of an adoptive son chiding his out-of-touch parents – because we love them, we don't like seeing them let themselves go downhill, and we want to see them being part of the modern world through a tablet and the internet.

Mike Foster,
Crannaig a Mhinister, Oban.

Israel contravenes international law

Sir, The *Oban Times* published a letter

from Susan Wallace on August 3 concerning the murder of a family on July 21. It will have caught many people's attention.

Any violence is to be deplored and condemned but this letter provided no context for these hideous attacks.

As a member of Oban Concern for Palestine, I would therefore like to share with your readers the following information received via Amnesty International. This may throw some light on the situation in Israel/Palestine.

In violation of international humanitarian law, two Palestinian civil society leaders have been held in administrative detention in an Israeli prison without charge for many days. Khalida Jarrar is a member of the Palestinian parliament. Khitam Saafin is a women's union leader.

Khalida Jarrar and Khitam Saafin are being represented by lawyers from Addameer, a Palestinian non-governmental prisoner support and human rights association. According to the lawyers, the Israeli military commander issued a three-month administrative detention order against Khitam Saafin on July 9, 2017, which a military judge confirmed on July 12. Khalida Jarrar was given a six-month administrative detention order on July 12, which was confirmed by a military judge on July 18. Although six months is the maximum period of detention for each order, they can be renewed indefinitely. Both women deny accusations of being members of an illegal organisation.

In the early hours of July 2, the two women were arrested by Israeli soldiers during separate raids on their homes. Eyewitnesses reported that between 40 and 50 armed Israeli soldiers conducted a raid at 3.30am to arrest Khitam Saafin. At around 4am that same day, Khalida Jarrar was arrested, and her phone, tablet and the hard drive of her home computer were confiscated.

Both women were first held in Ofer military compound near Ramallah, where they live. That afternoon, they were transferred to HaSharon prison inside Israel. According to international humanitarian law, detainees from occupied territories may not be held in the occupying power's territory.

As in all cases of administrative detention by the state of Israel, the 'evidence' against Khalida Jarrar and Khitam Saafin is secret. In violation of a central principle of fair trial standards, the 'evidence' may not be reviewed either by the detainees or by their lawyers.

The policies outlined above violate basic human rights and international humanitarian law. Israel has nevertheless pursued such policies for many decades.

If they are harmful to Palestinian men, women and children, they also harm the Israeli soldiers, many of whom are young, impressionable men and women, under orders to carry out dawn raids and often to take brutal action against innocent civilians. Most importantly, such policies have failed abysmally to make Israel safe and bring peace to the region.

Margret Powell-Joss,
Oban Concern for Palestine.

Ailean Caimbeul

tuilleadh còmhraidh ma dheidhinn! Ach 's e bha gun fhàgail fhin beagan tàmailteach dha na farpaisich san deuchainn seo gun robh dùil riutha agallamh a dhèanamh cha mhòr sa bhad a bha iad air an fharpais a chriochnachadh, agus glè thric ceist ga chur air feadhainn mu carson a chaidh iad!

Tha a' mhòr-chuid de chleasaichean a' dèanamh farpais leotha fhèin, ag obrachadh daonnan gu an cuid ealantaich a leasachadh gu ìre nas àirde, agus tha fhios is cinnt gum bheil a h-uile farpaiseach ann an leithid Farpais Lùth-chleasachd an t-Saoghail gu bhith a' feuchainn ris an toradh as fhèarr a bhùinnig.

Nuair nach do thachair sin dha feadhainn aca cha b' iongnadh iad a bhith tàmailteach agus fiù 's cuid brònach, agus bha mi fhin a' faireachadh gun robh stiùiriche a' phrògram telebhisein gun faireachadh agus ceàrr camara a chumail air aon bhoireannach fad còrr air mi-onaid is i gu follaiseach a' rànaich le briseadh-dùil air mar nach deachaidh dhi.

Leis gum bheil na meadhanan a' cruthachadh tòrr den dùil a tha ga chur an urra ri farpaisich chanadh cuid gum bheil e ladarna dhaibh an

uairsin na daoine sin a cheasnachadh fa chomhair a t-saoghail a thaobh carson nach do choleil iad na bha eòlach a' sùileachadh bhuaip. Chuir eòlaichean amas eadar sia is ochd bonn fa chomhair Bhreatainn agus Eirinn a Tuath san fharpais seo, ach cha b' e dith spàirn a dh'adhbharach mar a d'fhuair iad am miann.

Ghabh sinn beannachd le Mo Farah agus Usain Bolt bho fharpaisean aig an ìre seo, agus theagamh gun robh mar a thachair anns na rèisean aca san d'adhbharadh gun robh còir aca sgur na bu tràithe?

WHILE I enjoyed the television coverage of the World Athletics Championships very much, I felt some of the production to be overly intrusive of competitors.

We all fail on occasion but fortunately we don't have to explain our shortcomings to millions of television viewers as some athletes were required to do.

And to hold one obviously distressed competitor in vision for about a minute was, to my mind, totally unnecessary.

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

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

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

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

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

must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not

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

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Supporting Fort William Football Club

Lochaber win Blairgowrie bucket in pre-season preparations

Rugby

LOCHABER Rugby Club continued their pre-season preparations with another 10s tournament on Saturday. The team ventured cross-country to attend the Blairgowrie RFC Rugby and Ale Festival - an event that satisfies the basics needs of any rugby fan.

Lochaber travelled without a full team but picked up few extra bodies who were willing to help out and likewise, the Lochaber players also helped out other teams struggling for numbers.

The team faced Cowal, Blairgowrie and Montrose in their group. In their first match against Cowal, too many mistakes early in the game cost Lochaber the lead. Lochaber came back into the game and scored a well-worked try but it wasn't enough. Callum Boyd was named man of the match in the opening game.

Blairgowrie were next up and proved too much for Lochaber who only managed a consolation try near the end of the game.

In the final group game, Lochaber were leading 14-12 after a very tight game but Montrose took the lead with 30 seconds to go.

Lochaber got one last chance but a tackle in to touch dashed any hopes of a late win.

Lochaber were now looking to retain the Blairgowrie 10s bucket which they had won last year.

Lochaber started strong and never looked back, comfortably winning the final 45-7 with Callum Boyd, Jonathan McCook and James Lucas all scoring a brace of tries.

Lochaber continue their pre-season on Saturday when they welcome Craig Dunain to Banavie.

Kick off is 2pm.

Club lotto draws Lottery numbers

THIS week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 3, 4 and 13.

There were no winners so £1,400 is in the pot for the draw today, Thursday August 17.

The Ballachulish shinty lottery numbers this week were 2, 14 and 15.

There were no winners again so it's an £800 draw next week.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 2, 4 and 11. There were no winning tickets so there is a jackpot of £800 up for grabs this week.

The Caol Community Centre bingo lotto numbers for this week were 6, 8 and 20. Cathy Lopez was the only winner and the jackpot will be £100 next week.

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Resolute Fort undone by Brora set-pieces

Fort William	0
Brora Rangers	4
Highland League	

THREE set-piece goals in the first half were the downfall of a resilient Fort William side as they succumbed to a 4-0 home defeat to Brora Rangers on Saturday.

Fort William started with a more defensive formation than normal, hoping to frustrate their title contender opposition. Captain Iain Foggo returned to the starting line-up after a seven month lay-off with injury and led the team from a deep-lying midfield role.

Starting with a 4-1-4-1 formation, the home side's tactics seemed to be working in the first 15 minutes. The pressure eventually proved too much, however, and Steven MacKay put Brora 1-0 up thanks to a finish from a corner. Colin Williamson doubled the visitors' lead in similar style eight minutes later.

In open play, Fort William were containing the waves of Brora attacks well but once again it was from a corner that the away team got their third goal - Kyle Macleod netting just before half-time.

After a stern word from the management, the Lochaber outfit were keen to put their stamp on the game and in the first half an hour of the second half, they competed well with their Highland League rivals.

Seventeen-year-old goalkeeper,

er, Martin MacKinnon, on loan from Inverness Caley Thistle, had a standout performance between the posts and commanded his area with confidence throughout the match.

Despite his best efforts, Martin couldn't stem the tide and an Andrew Greig strike in the 85th minute rounded off the scoring for Brora as Fort William began to wain.

In spite of the scoreline, co-manager Ali Smith remained positive about the performance. 'Although we're obviously disappointed, we are pleased with the improvement from last week.'

'Brora are a very professional side but I thought we dealt with them well in open play. It's just the three goals from set-pieces that knocked us.'

'Martin's performance in goal was a huge positive and he performed well beyond his years. We're delighted to have him. Another positive was the return of Iain Foggo who I thought looked fit and composed considering his recent injury.'

'We did play defensively but it's something we're going to have to do against teams like Brora. In our next game against Huntly we'll be far more positive in our tactics. Hopefully we get the three points and some momentum before a huge week for us, facing Elgin City before a crunch match against Strathpey.'

Fort William are away to Huntly in a Highland League



Fort William captain Iain Foggo tackles Brora's Mark Nicolson. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

fixture this Saturday, August 19, as their quest for points continues.

On Wednesday, the Fort are at

home to League Two side Elgin City in a North of Scotland Cup tie at 7.30pm at Claggan Park.

The Lochaber side will be

looking to repeat their performance in the competition last season when they made it to the final.

Cameron skips summer break in push for Scotland team

ALTHOUGH Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club has just reopened after the summer break, one boxer hasn't stopped training over the last few months.

Fifteen-year-old Cameron Whyte has upped his training regime this summer as he strives to gain selection for Scotland for the European Junior championships in Bulgaria in September.



Three champs, one ring, as Cameron Whyte spars with British Flyweight Champion Andrew Selby, while his brother IBF Featherweight World Champion Lee Selby watches and gives advice. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Thanks to a grant from Lochaber Agricultural Association, Cameron has been able to travel to London to spend a few days training at the famed Repton Boxing Club - the most successful club Britain has ever known.

Cameron sparred for three days with four different partners who were all GB or English champions.

Boxing

Cameron gained invaluable experience from his sparring partners and enjoyed great technical pad and bag work as part of his preparation. Added to this, Cameron also took part in a loosening session at world and Olympic champion James DeGales' KO gym in Birkenhead.

Coach Niall Clark was full of praise for the Repton club. 'All the coaches and boxers at Repton were incredibly welcoming and friendly and the sparring was second to none,' he said.

Cameron will find out within the next fortnight if he has been selected to represent Scotland again this year.

Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club have resumed training after their summer break and are welcoming anyone with an interest in the sport to come along.

Open every night from Monday to Thursday, plus Saturday lunchtimes, the club offers anyone from nine to 90 years old a chance to improve their fitness, self confidence, discipline, self esteem and embrace a healthy lifestyle.

New enduro race to be held in Fort William

LOCHABER-based events company No Fuss Events has added a new enduro race to its calendar.

Ski-An-Duro is an adrenaline-fueled ski and mountain bike endurance race, setting off from the summit of Aonach Mor and finishing at the Pine Martin café at the base station. Taking place on March 17 next year, 150 individuals are expected to compete in the inaugural enduro event next year.

Open to individuals or teams, participants will start with a Le Mans style run to their skis or boards, then descend a route incorporating the ski areas to the designated transition area to pick up their bikes. After transition, participants will have to ride an enduro style stage down sections of the world famous mountain bike downhill course to the base station.

Frazer Coupland, of No Fuss, said: '2018 has been on our mind for a while now. In 2018 we will once again be hosting the World Endurance Mountain Bike Organisations 24 hour world championships for solos and pairs.'

'We are preparing a bid

Enduro

for another World Series Mountain Bike event for 2019 which has to be ready in November this year. More news on these events will be released over the coming months.'

Peter MacFarlane, managing director of Nevis Range, added: 'It's great to continue our successful collaboration with No Fuss with the launch of another new and exciting event at Nevis Range.'



Ski-An-Duro will test competitors' ski-ing and mountain biking skills.

Ann is top lady at Fort William Golf Club

Golf

GOLFERS took to the fairways last Tuesday, August 8, in the Campbell Homes Medal.

Eric Wallace took top spot with a three-shot lead. Results were as follows: 1 Eric Wallace, net 70 (76 - 6); 2 Frank Sweeney, net 73 (89 - 16); 3 Henry MacDonald, net 80 (91 - 11).

On Saturday August 12 and Sunday 13, the Royal Bank Cup was played for, with the following results: 1 David MacPherson, 160 (82 and 78); 2 Paul Campbell, 162 (83 and 79); 3 Nicholas Hough, 162 (81 and 81).

Ladies: On Tuesday August 8, the 12-hole par competition took place with Ann Lovatt taking the win. Results: 1 Ann Lovatt, 2 up; 2 Hazel Cameron, 4 down; 3 Helen Brian, 5 down.

On Saturday August 12, the fifth round of the Cameron Trophy was played with the following result: 1 Ann Lovatt, 42 points; 2 Rosemary Macintyre, 32 points; 3 Iona Cameron, 30 points.

On Friday August 18, the Fort William Senior Stableford Open, played over 12 holes, will be played.

Call the clubhouse on 01397 704464 to book a tee-off time.

Lochaber runners dominate Aonach Mor hill race

Athletics

THE SUMMER sun shone down on Aonach Mor last Wednesday as the second race in the Off Beat Bikes series got under way.

Thirty three runners from across the country came to Fort William to take on a gruelling run up the picturesque red bike track at Nevis Range. In first place was young John Yells from Lochaber Athletics Club, beating his personal best to finish in 29 minutes and 11 seconds.

John was closely followed by two fellow Lochaber athletes as Steven Trail came second in 29:43 while the ever-improving Richard Macleod finished third in 30:17. The first lady to the top of the hill was 18-year-old Anna MacFadyen from Forres, finishing sixth overall in a time of 34:22.

Another notable performance was Rona Yard who finished her first hill race, while Shane McKeon and James Ball both smashed their previous best times by around six minutes.

Race organisers thank Nevis Range for supporting the event and for offering a free gondola ride back to the car park to all the competitors.

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WEATHER

Thursday Light rain showers
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.

Friday Light rain showers
Winds moderate west south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

Weekend Light rain on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Winds moderate westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday August 17, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm										
Thur	01.27	3.1	07.25	1.5	14.01	3.1	20.05	1.5	Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	02.59	3.2	08.39	1.3	15.20	3.3	21.28	1.3	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	04.00	3.4	09.44	1.1	16.12	3.6	22.32	1.0	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	04.49	3.6	10.37	0.8	16.55	3.9	23.22	0.8	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	05.29	3.8	11.25	0.6	17.33	4.1	***	**	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	00.06	0.7	06.05	3.9	12.09	0.5	18.10	4.2				
Wed	00.48	0.6	06.40	4.0	12.50	0.4	18.46	4.2				

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