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90p

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# Be vigilant over dumped needles, says councillor

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



People are being warned to stay vigilant after bags of used needles were found on a building site in Oban.

Construction workers on a site belonging to Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) in Glenshelach have twice found needles dumped in black bin liners.

Each time police were informed and the needles were safely removed by the council, but the shocking finds have worried people living nearby.

Now Councillor Jim Lynch is urging people to be on their guard and he wants parents to warn their children not to pick up any they might come across while out playing.

He said: 'It's a timely reminder to the town that we have a drugs problem. People have to be vigilant.'

'We need to find out if there are any other areas where drugs paraphernalia are being dumped. It's a worry but we have to accept it could be happening.'

'We especially have to make sure children don't pick up anything that they find. It beggars belief that someone would dump needles like that, but it could happen again.'

'We need to thank the diligent workers who brought it to our attention. It must have been very scary.'

Seagulls tore into the first bag containing around 20 needles, scattering the contents about. A second bag, discovered at the same spot, contained 12 to 15 needles.

Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of Argyll Community Housing Association, shares the concerns.

He said: 'The association is obviously concerned from a public health point of view that used needles would be disposed of in such a manner.'

I understand that MacLeod Construction, who are building on the site, contacted the police and environmental health and the needles were safely removed.

I would encourage any member of the public who

Continued on page 30

Win £2,500 with The Oban Times

One lucky reader could soon walk away with a guaranteed £2,500, courtesy of The Oban Times' Spot the Ball competition.

With the fund just weeks away from reaching £5,000, placing a cross exactly in the centre of the ball is necessary to win the jackpot in full.

However, should this not happen before September 6, when jackpot reaches that amount, then for that week only, we will offer a one-off prize of £2,500 to whoever gets their cross closest to the ball. The remaining jackpot fund of £2,500 will carry on to the following week. So keep your eye on the jackpot in the coming weeks, and good luck!

**Oban Homebase not on list to close**

Oban's Homebase has been spared the axe, after the company announced 42 closures across the UK, with the loss of 1,500 jobs. Hilco, which bought the chain for £1 in May from Australia's Wesfarmers, said out of its 241 stores, 42 would close over the next 16 months.

## Oban raft race is just the ticket



The Oompa Loompas gave this year's raft race their all but in the end the confectionery industry was no match for millions of years of aquatic evolution. For the full story and more photographs, turn to pages eight and nine.

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# Dunollie's 2020 vision

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

Dunollie Museum in Oban has revealed plans to transform its 19th-century agricultural steadings, at the foot of the castle path, into more space for its cafe, gift shop, offices, workshops and store.

The redevelopment is likely to take around two years to complete, with an anticipated budget of around £1.6 million. If funds are successfully raised, it is hoped that works will begin in spring 2020.

Jane Isaacson, sustainability and development manager at Dunollie, said: 'This new project will totally transform Dunollie Museum Castle and Grounds and what we are able to provide as a heritage attraction for Oban.'

'I have been working on this venture for some time now with the idea of bringing the old steading back to life as part of the Dunollie experience – it is really exciting that we have reached the point of sourcing a local professional adviser to help us develop concrete



plans.' The MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust has engaged CP Architects Ltd, Oban, to work on its 2020 Vision.

Two main elements will comprise the restoration, starting with the barn.

The trust's proposal for this building is that it will be converted into offices, learning and meeting spaces to be used by staff, members of the community, volunteers, students

and visitors to Dunollie. At the rear of the building, if appropriate, a custom-built, environmentally-controlled museum store will be added to provide safe storage and conservation spaces for Dunollie's important museum collections.

A spokesperson explained: 'The second element will consist of The Carriage House, Long Barn and Calf House. Building on the success of

The plans aim to transform its 19th-century agricultural steadings at the foot of the castle path into more space for its cafe, gift shop, offices, workshops and store.

tile heritage crafts. This will give the community a space for displaying, learning and passing on traditional textile skills, many of which are in danger of being lost.

'This project will similarly provide much needed indoor space for the Dunollie Links community engagement programme, to support and expand on the learning opportunities and activities which already take place at Dunollie.'

'Through the 2020 vision, the trust hopes to not only enhance visitor experience, but also improve the vital care of Dunollie's important heritage resources and provide additional job opportunities and career routes.'

The MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust is currently carrying out a community consultation to assess community need.

The Dunollie Team would like to encourage as many people as possible to complete the five-minute survey on the Dunollie website at [www.dunollie.org](http://www.dunollie.org)

## POLICE FILES

### Vandalism

Between 6pm on Monday August 6 and 9.30am on Tuesday August 7, at Poppies Garden Centre, near Connel, signs and plant pots were smashed.

### Drugs found

At about 3.55am on Thursday August 9, in Barcaldine, a 27-year-old man was stopped and searched, and found in possession of a small amount of cannabis. He was issued with a recorded police warning.

### Quad bike stolen

Between noon on Wednesday August 8 and 4.30pm on Friday August 10, a green 500cc Honda quad bike was stolen from Torinturk Farm, Glen Lonan, near Oban.

### Intent to steal

There was an attempted break-in to a flat in Central Buildings, 3 Tweedale Street, Oban, between 5pm on Friday August 10 and 2.30pm on Saturday August 11. A door was damaged but no entry was gained.

### Abusive behaviour

At about 3.30pm on Sunday August 12, in Lochside Street, Oban, a man aged 18 behaved in an abusive manner towards a woman. Police arrested the man who was charged and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

### Police assault

About 8.40pm on Sunday August 12, in Shore Street, Oban, a man aged 42 behaved in an abusive manner, attempted to assault a police officer and resisted arrest. The man was arrested, charged, held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

### Reckless conduct

At about 11pm on Sunday August 12, a man aged 24 behaved in an abusive manner in an Oban pub, refused to leave and threw a glass at a staff member. Police arrested the man and he assaulted a member of police staff. The man was charged, held for court and a report sent to the procurator fiscal. If any member of the public has information in relation to the above, or to any incident, they can 101, or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## Sheriff warns businesses in first case of its kind

In what was the first of its kind, Sheriff Patrick Hughes found a case against Melfort Pier Holiday Ltd and its director not proven after he and the company were charged for operating as an unregistered property factor.

John Christlieb appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Monday August 13 and pleaded not guilty. Sheriff Patrick Hughes ruled that the case was not proven due to the 85-year-old businessman having a reasonable excuse for not registering.

Melfort Pier Holidays Ltd sold five of its 18 properties, while the rest remained part of a holiday-let business. It was argued that Christlieb was operating as an unregistered property factor after continuing to maintain the private homes for a fee.

In Christlieb's and Melfort's defence, Sir Crispin Agnew argued over the definition of the word 'residential', stating the homes were not residential as nobody resided there for most of the year. He then told the court his client had a reasonable excuse for not registering as a factor – he sought legal

advice and had contacted the Scottish Government.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty argued that Christlieb had acted as a property factor, submitting emails and invoices from him to home owners. He refuted claims of reasonable excuse, stating ignorance is not a defence.

While finding the properties to be residential and that Mr Christlieb did maintain the properties in the course of his business, Sheriff Hughes found the case against him not proven. He said that after becoming aware of the fact, Melfort Pier Holiday Ltd made inquiries and the government could not give a definitive answer.

'In my view, this was a mistake by Melfort [for not registering],' Mr Hughes added, before stating that the legislation was complicated.

Sheriff Hughes also issued a warning to other businesses: 'The [Property Factor Scotland Act 2011] is a significant piece of legislation. If anyone is in doubt about their applicability they would be well advised to take legal advice at the earliest stage.'

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**Oban Dental Care**

# Oban man admits indecent images

## 30-year-old sent pictures to underage teenagers

A 30-year-old man from Oban has pleaded guilty to sending indecent images and messages to four underage girls.

Donald McCormick, of 12 The Greens, Glencruitten, admitted sending indecent photographs and messages to two girls who were aged 13 and 14 at the time of the incidents.

He also pleaded guilty to sending indecent messages to another two girls, who were also aged 13 and 14 at the time.

The offences took place on various occasions between March 21, 2016, and July 9, 2017. The messages and images were predominantly sent on the social media application Snapchat.



Oban Sheriff Court.

McCormick appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Monday August 13.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court the incidents began after the 30-year-old gave one of the girls a lift home.

Following this, he started talking to the teenager in a 'general nature', before being blocked after making the girl feel uncomfortable.

McCormick then messaged her on Snapchat and sent inappropriate messages.

He said to another 13-year-old girl: 'We should meet up. I can pick you up and we can go to Fort William.'

On a different occasion he sent the girl an inappropriate video.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'These are serious matters for which the court will consider a custodial sentence.'

Sheriff Hughes deferred sentencing until September 12 in order for the court to obtain reports.

McCormick was released on bail and was subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act.

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## Dunbeg woman rises to charity hair challenge

How would you cope with hair over three feet long, and then losing it? writes Sandy Neil

One young woman from Dunbeg is facing the challenge and having her 42-inch locks cut this month for a charity making wigs for cancer sufferers.

Romana Georgeson, who has autism, is fundraising for the Macmillan cancer support charity, and is donating her hair - which stretches down to her mid-thighs - to the Little Princess Trust, another charity providing wigs for children suffering from cancer.

'At least someone will be walking about with Romana's hair,' her mum Susan Rayns said.

The 20-year-old from Dunbeg, known as Romy, last had her hair cut four years ago when she was at high school, and has visited the hairdresser probably only five times in her life.

Susan said Romy's idea took her by surprise: 'Usually people with autism do not like change, so I was really shocked. She sent it in a text. I said to



Romy Georgeson will be having her thigh-long hair cut on August 27, and money raised with benefit Macmillan Cancer Support, with her hair being donated to the Little Princess Trust.

her: 'Are you sure? Why?' Members of their family had suffered from cancer, she explained, including Romy's dog and 'best friend' Murphy, who has now recovered. 'The two are inseparable,' Susan said.

Currently Romana has to wash her hair three times a week and is looking forward to having it shorter, to probably just below her shoulders.

'It does get in the way of

eating,' Susan said: 'When it is windy it blows all over the place.'

Romana is booked into Spruce hairdressers in Oban on Monday August 27, and there are sponsor forms in the Lorne Bar, Aulays, the Tartan Tavern, Coasters, Tesco café, and the village shops in Dunbeg and Connel. A JustGiving page is also being set up, called Romy's Hair Challenge.

## St Conan's Kirk celebrates £100,000 funding boost

One of Scotland's most unique architectural attractions is celebrating a £100,000 funding boost that will help secure its future.

St Conan's Kirk, on the shores of Loch Awe, is steeped in history and heritage, and is regarded by many as being one of the area's leading attractions.

The A-listed building has now been awarded the Our Heritage National Lottery Fund and Historic Environmental Scotland grant that will allow trustees to revitalise the building and continue preservation work.

The funding will address essential repairs to the kirk roof, with work expected to start later this summer and

be completed by spring 2019.

Additionally, a programme of heritage activities, exhibitions, events and guided tours during the repairs will help people find out more about St Conan's and how this award will safeguard Scotland's national heritage.

Rosie Campbell-Preston, chairwoman of the Friends of St Conan's Kirk, said: 'The trustees and friends of St Conan's are delighted to have been awarded £50,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £50,000 from Historic Environment Scotland.'

'We are all energised by this announcement and how it will positively impact the future of the kirk and the local community.'

## Appin show goes glam

A beauty nail bar will be a first for the 61st Appin Agricultural Show, which takes place on Saturday, August 18.

The gates open at 10am for judging, the afternoon programme starts at 1pm.

Sheep dog trial displays, children's races and games, a Bucking Bronco and Bungee Run are just some of the highlights.

Admission is £5 for adults and £3 concessions and children. Parking is free.

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# Health budget black hole

## Time running out to plug shortfall in 2018 health budget

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

Only £540,000 of a £10.6 million savings plan by health chiefs has been raised to date, a quarter of the way through the financial year, a report has revealed.

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) is currently operating with a planned expenditure for 2018/19 which is £12.2 million over its £265 million financial allocation.

Savings plans identified to date total £10.6 million but the HSCP must also find an additional £1.6 million to plug the gap in its budget.

The HSCP's Integrated Joint Board met at Lochgilphead on Wednesday, when received the report from interim chief financial officer Lesley MacLeod.

The document states the gap is a 'significant financial risk' to the HSCP, along with partners Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland,

who jointly manage the partnership.

Ms MacLeod's report said: 'The scale of savings planned to be delivered and the shortfall in identified savings presents a high level of risk in delivering financial balance for the partnership in 2018/19.'

'Planned expenditure exceeds the available budget by £12.2 million. There is therefore a requirement to achieve recurring savings of £12.2 million to achieve a balanced budget. Savings identified to date total £10.6 million. There is a remaining budget gap of £1.6 million with underdeveloped schemes to address.'

The HSCP is currently pursuing delivery of a £10.6 million savings plan. Limited progress has been achieved to date in terms of declaring recurring savings. In fact, only £540,000 has been declared.

In addition, it must be remembered that there is a £1.6 million additional risk referred to above. It is acknowledged that this is a



Councillor Aileen Morton.

very significant level of savings to be delivered and that confidence in full delivery is low given the current level of achievement.

'It is imperative, therefore, the reporting and monitoring of this programme is done in a very open and transparent manner with clear lines of accountability.'

Ms MacLeod's report adds that the HSCP's year-end forecast out-turn position for 2018/19 is a projected overspend of £4.4 million, which

includes the £1.6 million budget gap. It says: 'This is not acceptable and all efforts must be focused on significantly improving this forecast position.'

As well as the black hole in the budget, further risks include an increase in the cost of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's service level agreement and an ongoing reliance on locum psychiatrists.

The report adds: 'It has not been possible to identify further savings in the timescale required which would be in line with the Strategic Plan and deliverable in the 2018/19 financial year.'

'Instead, an approach to financial recovery is proposed. This may be perceived to be a high risk approach in terms of delivering financial balance in 2018/19, but through tight financial management, including focused monitoring and reporting of the financial position and support to budget managers, benefits from cost control will go some

way towards offsetting the savings shortfall.'

'It is clear that if there continues to be delays with delivery of service changes planned to deliver £10.6 million of savings during 2018/19, then financial balance will be unlikely to be achieved.'

The leader of Argyll and Bute Council called for healthcare savings to speed up – by the end of next month.

Councillor Aileen Morton said: 'The update gives a sense of momentum, but momentum is not the sense I get from reading this report. With 25 per cent of the year gone, only five per cent of the target savings have been delivered. Is there any confidence that at our next meeting [Wednesday, September 27] there will be a substantial shift in that delivery?'

'We do need to see this as we have identified savings to get our long-term planning under control. It all does contribute but we do need to see planned savings coming.'

## Oban flower show could be the last one

Colourful blooms from roses to dahlias will take over Glencruitten Road's Church of Scotland this Saturday August 18.

The annual horticultural show starts at 1pm and is open to everyone with flowers and vegetables, or entries for the children's and photography sections.

However, organisers have warned that because of declining interest and a shortage of committee members, this is likely to be the last show.

Taynuilt Flower Show was cancelled for the first time in 81 years earlier this month after an appeal for new volunteers failed.

Dugald McDougall, Taynuilt flower show's secretary and treasurer, said: 'With social media and smart phones, people don't seem to communicate face to face any more.'

'They are no longer interested in growing flowers, which is a shame,' he said.

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Ross Preston and Janie Steele were highlighting plastic pollution at Charities Day.

## Meeting to discuss Oban's plastic pollution

Are you plastic-clever or interested in living plastic-free?

People are being invited to a meeting at the Corran Halls on Tuesday August 21 at 6.30pm to discuss plastic pollution in and around Oban.

One of the organisers, Janie Steele, said: 'Join the resistance and come along to the meeting to discuss Oban working towards achieving Plastic-Free

Community status. We aim to bring together as many concerned and active people as we can to identify achievable short-term targets to work on further locally, look at some longer-term goals and to establish a local steering group to continue the mission.'

More than 350 villages, suburbs, towns and cities in the UK are now part of the Plastic-Free Coastlines

initiative, with 22 in Scotland.

Go to [penzance-town-council.co.uk/community-information/plastic-free-penzance](http://penzance-town-council.co.uk/community-information/plastic-free-penzance) for details of the first Plastic-Free Town in the UK.

'Please come along and bring your enthusiasm, experience and ideas. We will make sure that everybody has a chance to say what they think the priorities should be,' said Janie.



Trophy winners with Councillor Elaine Robertson, far left, who opened the show.

## Show time for villagers proves a real growth industry

Prize-winning cabbages, home-made treats and rare white eggs were just some of the top entries at Avich and Kilchrenan Horticultural Show at the weekend.

Chrissie Sugden won two trophies for best vegetable and best vegetable garden, while Cathy Trinder's

cottage garden in Dalavich won her a shiny silver award to take pride of place on her mantelpiece back home.

Among other winners was Frank Bergius from Kilchrenan with his white eggs laid by his Black Leghorn hens – his trophy was an egg cup!

An auction of produce helped raise funds to engrave winners' names on their trophies and put on next year's show.

Councillor Elaine Robertson opened the show and praised volunteers' hard work: 'There's a lot of hard work that goes into making these shows

happen. Sadly, we are reading more and more about shows like this being cancelled due to lack of interest, which is such a shame because they are so important for the community. Thank you to everyone who helped and put in entries to make sure this show went ahead,' she said.



Taynuilt's Lucy Gray with one of her shell sculptures.

## Artmap Argyll scheme showcases local talent

Artists across Argyll are putting their work on the map.

For the 11th year, Artmap Argyll will be putting visitors on the trail of the area's best artists and crafts people from Friday August 24 to Monday August 27 with a second weekend, for the first time, on Saturday and Sunday, September 1 and 2.

The quirky artmap features 39 artists and venues stretching on a route marked by red dots from Glencoe in the north to Campbeltown at the

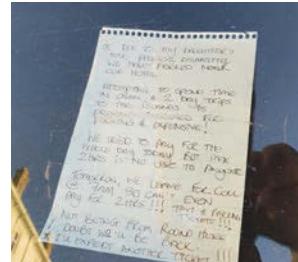
foot of Kintyre Peninsula in the south.

Weaving, printmaking, design, sculpting, textile and glass artists and woodworking are just a taster of what to expect. The tour offers locations from artists' own homes to bothies, galleries, four-star hotels, cafes, restaurants and a museum shop.

Oban has two and Taynuilt has four open studios on the trail. To find out more and plan your route go to [artmapargyll.com](http://artmapargyll.com)

# Parking fine family say they won't be back

by Kathie Griffiths  
[kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk)



The hand-written note.

A family holidaying with a disabled daughter are the latest victims to fall foul of Oban's new parking regime.

A desperate handwritten note was spotted on the windscreen of a car parked at the top of the Oban Times slip along the Esplanade last week – with a parking fine slapped next to it.

The writer of the note said that, owing to their daughter's physical disabilities, they had parked near their hotel.

'Attempting to spend time in Oban and two day trips to the islands is proving awkward for parking and expensive. We tried to pay for the whole day today but two hours is no use to anyone,' it read. The family were due to get a ferry to Coll at 7am the next day.

The note ended: 'Not being from round here I doubt we'll

against getting a ticket. He said: 'I assume the family would have been displaying a badge if they had a disabled person with them and I'd be very disappointed if the warden went on to enforce a parking ticket without taking the badge into consideration.'

Since council parking charges came into force in May, Oban streets have been congested by cars whose owners are trying to avoid paying. Workers and visitors are taking up any free spaces they can find, including in residential streets, at Pulpit Hill viewpoint and the hospital car park. Some vehicles are being left for more than a week at a time.

Mr McCuish said he believed Friday was the deadline for offers from businesses to enhance council-owned car parks. 'We will expect a full report at the earliest area committee,' said Mr McCuish.

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## Council in red only third of way into financial year

Argyll and Bute Council is forecasting an overspend of nearly £3 million by the end of 2018-19 – only a third of the way through the financial year.

A report due to go before the authority's policy and resources committee today reveals most of the figure is a £2.4m allocation to social work.

An overspend of £350,000 on education, due to increased demand for additional support needs (ASN), and an additional £83,000 being spent on customer services relating to cleaning and catering, is also forecast.

The document, compiled by the council's head of strategic finance, Kirsty Flanagan, also details an underspend of more than £1.5m by the authority in the 2018/19 year to date.

It says: 'Steps will be taken to mitigate against this level of overspend continuing throughout the year.'

'The [social work] overspend is across a number of services within social work but in the main relates to unidentified savings for the year.'

'Work is ongoing to identify additional savings/

underspends to cover off the unidentified savings figure of £2.345m.'

'The [education] overspend relates to ASN assistants due to significant increase in demand which cannot be avoided.'

'This is a very early estimate at this stage and will be monitored closely going forward with every effort being made to mitigate this overspend.'

'The forecast out-turn position needs to be closely monitored, particularly the forecast out-turn for social work. If there is no improvement, then consideration will need to be given to putting in place a recovery plan.'

The report also states the underspend is attributable partly to spending less than envisaged on staffing in education. It adds: 'Under the scheme of devolved school management, schools are permitted flexibility at year end, therefore no forecast variance has been processed. There is also an underspend in relation to the HUB schools due to invoicing delay. Any variances that may impact on the likely out-turn have been reported.'

MSP Michael Russell has stepped into the row over who should control Oban Bay following meetings with, and representations from, many Oban residents and a number of local organisations regarding the proposal from CMAL and CalMac for a new, and restrictive, regulating order for the bay.

He has now written to the chief executives of CMAL and CalMac calling for a pause in any action until there is an independent assessment of what, if any, new actions are required to control the waters and access to the piers, and who should be responsible for such control.

Last month, a public meeting to discuss a bid by CMAL to manage all of Oban Bay heard it should not be run by a single user and should instead become a trust port.

Duncan Martin, custodian of Oban's town moorings,



**Michael Russell MSP.**

said: 'It is Oban's harbour. It is not CMAL's harbour. It must never be CMAL's harbour.'

'Oban would be unique in having its harbour run by one of its users. It must be run for all the users, not just CMAL.'

However, at the same meeting, Oban Bay Management Group chairwoman Lorna Spencer, CMAL director of

harbours, said: 'We would be happy to work with a trust port. There needs to be a group coming forward that we would be happy to work with. If it was successful, we would withdraw back to our current limit.'

Commenting on the issue, Mr Russell said: 'There is a need for greater transparency and accountability with regard to the operation of the existing piers and the waters around them.'

'But instead of moving in that direction, it appears that CMAL and CalMac are attempting to take precipitate action, citing safety concerns as a reason for rapid progress.'

'However, I have seen and heard no evidence of increased incidents or danger, and nor has any of the organisations to which I have spoken.'

'I have therefore asked the chief executives of the com-

panies to pause while a truly independent examination of the current usage of the bay is carried out which would consider whether any further regulatory steps are required and, if they are, what the best way forward would be.'

He continued: 'I am also keen to ensure that such a review reports to local people and organisations, and considers who the key local stakeholders actually are, so that they are in the driving seat.'

'Oban Bay is a huge asset for the town and control of it should not be passed to outside organisations without a very careful consideration of the consequences now and for the future.'

'I hope CMAL and CalMac will recognise that this is the best way forward and agree to back off, as well as accepting and supporting the essential independence of the process.'

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## Health board approves U-turn over adult services leadership

A U-turn has been performed by health chiefs on proposals to move from two heads of adult services to one, writes Sandy Neil.

Christina West, outgoing chief officer of Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), has now recommended to retain two heads of adult services with a new geographical split.

The HSCP's Integrated Joint Board (IJB) approved the proposals at a meeting in Lochgilphead.

At the IJB's previous meeting in May, concerns were expressed about the plans to have one head of adult services and a deputy.

Ms West, who is due to leave her post next month having tendered her resignation in June, said: 'This has been further considered and the recommended way forward is to retain two heads of adult services with a reassessed geographical split and a focus on portfolio management aligned with the areas of focus for service redesign.'

'One of the heads of service will have a specific responsibility for social work professional leader-



**Christina West.**

ship, demonstrating the organisational value placed on this staff group's distinct contribution by investing in a professional leadership structure which supports them.'

'The most appropriate geographical split will be determined to ensure parity of workload in terms of complexity, scale and responsibility for services.'

'This structural change is not a single solution in terms of progressing improvements to service delivery, service change and transformation but is one component which will support the wider changes being progressed.'

Ms West advised that one head of service position is currently vacant and the job descriptions for the two posts

will require to be revised. Her report also outlined proposals to recruit a chief financial officer (CFO) for the HSCP, with the requirements of the post, created two years ago, now more clearly understood.

Ms West said: 'Two years ago this started as a part-time appointment, which has since been converted to a full-time position. However, the grade of the post does not reflect the requirements of the role and does not have parity with the role in many other HSCPs.'

'It is recommended that the IJB realign the grade and role of the chief financial officer position to be that of a chief officer (head of service) under both pay and grading structures.'

'There is a cost pressure associated with regrading the CFO post to a head of service, under both the NHS and council terms and conditions. This would range between £7,000 and £22,000, depending on whether the post holder were employed by the NHS or the council. It is recommended that this cost pressure be accepted by the IJB.'

## Grants scheme open to Gaelic teachers

Gaelic teachers who have received assistance from the education grants funding stream have been singing its praises, as the scheme opens up for new entrants again this year.

The initiative is funded and administered by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the national Gaelic development agency, in recognition of the need to provide additional assistance to meet the growing demand among parents and pupils for Gaelic-medium education across the country.

Applications are now open to those undertaking a post-graduate degree in education, primary or secondary, and those studying undergraduate Gaelic education degrees.

Grants of £500/£1,000 are available, plus assistance for course fees if required, up to another £1,820.

Last year 33 individuals were helped by the scheme. For more information visit [www.gaidhlig.scot/bord/fundraising](http://www.gaidhlig.scot/bord/fundraising)

# Gift-of-life Donnie wants defibs put on the 999 map

by Kathie Griffiths  
[kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk)



An Oban granddad who was dead for seven minutes before a defibrillator helped save his life is backing a heart charity's new campaign.

Donnie MacPhee had a cardiac arrest four years ago while helping to carry a couch upstairs at a house in London. He owes his life to CPR and the quick arrival of a defibrillator located just two streets away when it happened.

This week the 65-year-old, who retired from MacQueen Bros Removals in April, said he is 'living proof' that defibrillators work and urged people to support a new initiative by the British Heart Foundation to put all of the UK's defibrillators on a map for 999 call-handlers.

Shocking figures show public access defibrillators are used in less than three per cent of out-of-hospital



cardiac arrests, significantly reducing the survival chances of tens of thousands of people every year.

The charity says one of the biggest barriers to them being used is that often bystanders and the ambulance service do not know where the defibrillators are located.

When Mr MacPhee woke in hospital, he was told he

had suffered a cardiac arrest, not a heart attack, and that only three per cent of people whose hearts stop are revived.

'They told me I'd been dead for seven minutes. It was the CPR and the defibrillator that brought me back. The two go together.'

'There's not a day goes by without me thinking back. If it hadn't been for the help I

got, I would not be here today. I'm fit and well now, enjoying retirement and keeping busy.

'People need to know where their nearest defibrillator is and these machines have to be looked after, maintained regularly and registered with the local ambulance service to make sure they will work in an emergency. The 999 handlers need to know where they are.'

Oban Rotary Club is also in the early stages of compiling a list of all defibrillator locations in the town with the idea of producing some kind of poster to go up in shops. Club president Iain MacIntyre said they need to first get permission from individuals or organisations responsible for each of the public access machines.

When the BHF network is launched next spring, defibrillator guardians will be invited to register their lifesaving devices online.

Anyone wanting to register a defibrillator before 2019 can go to [scottishambulance.com/YourCommunity/pad.aspx](http://scottishambulance.com/YourCommunity/pad.aspx)

In July, The Oban Times revealed some defibrillators in Argyll may not be usable in medical emergencies because they have not been registered with the ambulance service.

When we ran a check with the ambulance service to see how many defibrillators it was aware of in the Oban area, the numbers for some locations at that time were worryingly at odds.

If a defibrillator is not registered with the Scottish Ambulance Service, it will not show up on its system and therefore the service will be unaware of its location or existence and no code will be available.)



Mrs Kennedy's family threw a party for her with cake, balloons and flowers at Ford Spence Court where she lives.  
16\_T33\_ElsieKennedy

## Happy 100th birthday, Elsie!

Friends and family from as far away as Philadelphia and Boston in the United States came to Benderloch to wish 100-year-old Elsie Kennedy happy birthday, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Mrs Kennedy's family threw a party for her with cake, balloons and flowers at Ford Spence Court where she lives.

The youngest guest was her two-year-old great-granddaughter Freya Kennedy. Great-grandson Aldred Gibson, 11, was also there.

Mrs Kennedy was born in Georgetown, the capital of British Guiana, now known as the independent nation of

Guyana, in South America. Her father was a Methodist minister and her mother was an English teacher. She spent her early years in Barbados until returning to England with her parents. She was the youngest of two brothers and a sister.

It was while she was working as a young Methodist missionary in Sierra Leone that she met her future husband Sam Kennedy who was a radio operator in the Merchant Navy.

The couple spent time apart while Sam was at sea, but were married a few years later back in England.

For a while they lived near Loch Etive at Achnacree Bay before moving to Connel where they settled, having a daughter Jean and a son Donald.

Mrs Kennedy, who now has five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, was greatly involved in church life, the Woman's Guild, the WRVS and meals on wheels, and she was often invited to give talks about her interesting younger years abroad.

'I've known such kindness in my life and made many friends. I have a wonderful family. I'm blessed,' said Mrs Kennedy.

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The Careys rafts dispense with practice. 15\_T33\_Raft Race\_22



The sharks and chocolate factory make friends again.



Launching the chocolate factory. 15\_T33\_Raft Race\_25

# Sharks take bite out of marine Oompa Loompas

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

encouragingly at the start, though not quite accurately.

Willy Wonka and three Oompa Loompas, aka the Autoglass team, complete with orange faces, green-wigs and white dungarees, arrived with a catamaran resembling two giant silver wrapped chocolate bars braced together, with a golden ticket at the prow. In a departure from the theme, the contraption was propelled by snow shovels.

First in the water were civil engineers Careys, practising on their two rafts made from plywood and road bollards and pipes pluckily strapped together, and each with a kind of lectern at the front, perhaps for spotting dangers such as sharks.

Speaking of which, a shoal or 'shiver' of four sharks did pose a threat to Careys' hopes, in the shape of a raft with a white sail (well, a bedsheets really) kept afloat on four enormous buoys.

One of the chondrichthytes was local bobby Andy Simpson, who told us he had to go back to work at Oban Police Office afterwards, possibly by swimming.

Oban Distillery returned with the sleek slab Rafty McRaftface to defend their title, with two new members in the well-drilled six-strong crew: 'You will see us coming in first,' captain Callum Rew said, confident in his crew's training of 'a couple of drams'.

Now, you would expect great things from the brainy marine scientists at SAMS, but they did not seem overly optimistic about their design, naming it Spirit of SAMS, or SOS. 'You are going down,' Oban Distillery shouted

way as best they could around the markers and back.

First round the North Pier, like an efficient Spartan army, was Rafty McRaftface, a clear and cool winner.

'Told you,' captain Callum Rew of Oban Distillery said back ashore. 'Victorious as per usual. It was dram good.'

Meanwhile, the tables had turned on the sharks, who were being hotly chased to the finishing line by the Oompa Loompas, but in the end the confectionery industry is no match for millions of years of aquatic evolution, and the sharks romped home second.

Quickly-ish behind came one Careys raft, followed by half the X-ray department, then SAMS and then the Ardentrive 'submarine', finishing on a personal best of not coming last.

We counted them out, and counted them back in. One was still missing. Eventually the second Careys raft strained round the corner, pushed along by the ever-helpful Oban Lifeboat's water cannon. Touchingly their teammates acted as a rescue boat, throwing a line to tow them home.

In celebration at not-quite-finishing, one crew member cracked open a yellow can (was it lager?), while another abandoned ship to swim ashore. 'It's a great bit of nonsense, isn't it?' asked the commodore Graham McQueen.

Yes, it is.



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Rafty McRaftface celebrate victory. 15\_T33\_Raft Race\_01



The sharks celebrate finishing fourth.

15\_T33\_Raft Race\_04



This year the Kerrera submarine did not come last. 15\_T33\_Raft Race\_11



Commodore Graham McQueen wades to the start line. 15\_T33\_Raft Race\_27

For more photographs,  
go to [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)



The Spirit of SAMS or SOS floats back in sixth place. 15\_T33\_Raft Race\_09



Malcolm Dear and Mark Nichols of Lorn and Islands Hospital. 15\_T33\_Raft Race\_26

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OT

# Oban prepares for annual games

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

As the Oban Games approach on Thursday August 23, the Argyllshire Gathering is looking to its past and future as it anticipates its 150th anniversary in 2021.

It began simply as a social gathering for landowners, but given Scotland's clan structure, it grew into a Highland games, first staged in 1871.

National recognition soon followed with the Highland Society of London's Gold Medal in 1873 - solo piping's most prestigious international award. The Gold Medal competition, awarded jointly at Oban and at the Northern Meeting in Inverness, has continued to spearhead the games since.

Originally, the games were held in conjunction with the Oban Regatta, but when that fell into disuse, they

were moved to the fourth Thursday in August to fit in with the international piping calendar.

The Gold Medal is the summit of any solo piper's ambition, but prestigious associated events - the senior piobaireachd, former winners MSR, silver medal, MacGregor Memorial, as well as international calibre light music competitions - attract pipers from across the globe.

The first day of the gathering is devoted to Ceol Mor or Piobaireachd with competitions at venues throughout Oban. The Gathering Hall's ballroom has excellent acoustics for piping and it is hoped the Gold Medal competition will be held there in 2018.

On the second day, events take place at the games field and consist of Ceol beag or light music (march, Strathspey and reel, and jig competitions). Medals

are presented on the day by the Duke of Argyll, the piping steward and member sponsors.

The Oban Games is the largest single annual event in Oban and recognised as the largest weekday Highland games in Scotland, attracting up to 4,000 people.

As well as traditional heavy and race track events, there are competitions involving local participants and spectators such as tossing the sheaf, tug of war and children's races and a renowned hill race.

Clan participation is encouraged, with the banners of 12 major clans represented at the games. In 2017, this was increased with the addition of Maclaine of Lochbuie.

The official opening of the games is a long-standing tradition, with the march from Station Square led by competing pipers followed by stewards and members of the

gathering. John MacColl's March, the Argyllshire Gathering, is played on entering the games field.

In 1979, the stewards, noting the decline of piping in Argyll, set up the Argyllshire Gathering Piping Trust with a wide brief to promote education and culture, with a particular emphasis on solo piping. Since then, the trust has led the way in restoring piping across Argyll to the position of great strength it enjoys today. The Gathering Ball is held in the category C-listed Gathering Halls on Breadalbane Street, which dates back to the 19th century, replacing a slate-roofed, timber structure used by the gathering for a meeting, and presumably the ball, in 1877.

Major internal refurbishment was undertaken in the early 2000s and in 2015 the roof was restored, for which members raised £200,000.

With the deadline of August 23 fast approaching, Oban Communities Trust is inviting everyone interested in buying community shares to do so now.

Eleanor MacKinnon, project facilitator, said: 'We have been overwhelmed by the tremendous support already given. We would urge accommodation providers and businesses to dig deep in this final week to contribute since The Rockfield Centre will benefit them enormously.'

A business breakfast was held yesterday (Wednesday August 15) at the community huts to outline the plans and the vision for the centre's future to the town's businesses.

Tours of the main building will be offered this final weekend with everyone welcome to come and see what the building

will offer Oban residents and visitors.

The Rockfield Centre will be a place for all the family to enjoy - a community and creative hub that will appeal not only on a local level but as a national destination which will extend the tourist season for everyone. The project is being heralded as the most important in Oban since Atlantis Leisure was founded.

To buy community shares, call in to the office at The Rockfield Centre Community Charity Shop between 11am and 4pm, Monday to Saturday, or visit the website [www.therockfieldcentre.org/invest](http://www.therockfieldcentre.org/invest).

Meanwhile, tours of the main building and the chance to see the plans are on view on Saturday from noon to 4pm. More information on the centre's Facebook page.

## Last chance to buy shares in Oban's Rockfield Centre



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## Music, food and friendliness ... what we do best on the west coast

### Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD  
[editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

I can't believe the schools are back already. Where has this summer gone?

The summer isn't over yet by any means, as the volume of visitors shows, but I always feel when the schools go back we're one step closer to autumn.

I plan to make the most of what we have left of the summer and luckily there's still lots to do.

I went out for lunch on Sunday to an Oban pub and ended up in the middle of a traditional music session chatting to people from Adelaide, Boston and Cumbernauld.

It was a fantastic mix of people and chat and they were blown away by the experience.

I think afternoons like that are part of what we do best on the west coast - music, food and friendliness.

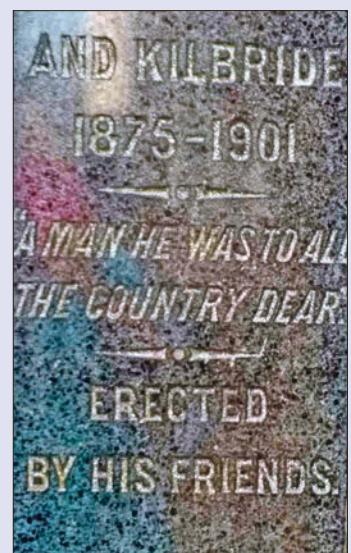
It is certainly the things that are commented on most often when you speak to visitors and what they come here looking for. If the reaction of the folk I chatted to is anything to go by, they will be back and for longer next time.

Until they get here, they don't seem to realise how much there is to see and do in this area - and two days just isn't enough.

We have the Artemis Macaulay Shinty Cup final on Saturday afternoon between Kyles Athletic and Kinlochshiel. It is always a big day in the town.

For something a bit more gentle, the flower

### WHERE IS THIS?



show is in Glencruitten Church Hall. Let's all pray for sunshine for the weekend, if we all do it together, then someone might listen.

Last week's photograph was of the old Water Houses behind The Original Factory Shop on Combie Street. I have no idea why they were called that so if anyone can enlighten me, I would be very grateful. Drop me a line to the email address at the top.

This week's photograph is central but does require some effort to see it.



The crowds were treated to Highland dancing, face painting, fun photos and tours of the lifeboat.



A dancer demonstrates the hornpipe.

## Islay lifeboat's busiest open day yet

Port Askaig pier was the venue again this year for Islay volunteer lifeboat's annual open day on Sunday August 5.

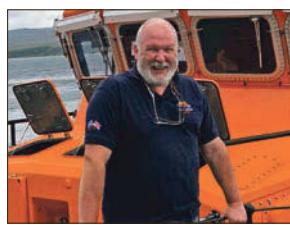
Fundraising volunteers and members of the crew organised the car parking, manned the stalls, provided the teas and supervised tours of the Helmut Schroder of Dunlossit II.

Talan and Eddie Brown and Friends provided the music, Ella Edgar's Highland dancers gave a wonderful display and Ian Gibson manned the microphone with sound provided by Dugald Cameron.

From the beefburger and hot dog stall through to rope throwing, the coconut shy, rifle shooting, goal scoring, deciding the large crab and lobster's weight to steering the model lifeboat in the pool or deciding the doll's birthday, there was something for everyone.

An enormous thank you goes to this dedicated team for all their hard work beforehand and on the day in making the event such a success. Thanks also to everyone who so generously donated baking, bottles, raffle prizes, fresh produce and donations.

However, an equally big thank you must go to all the islanders and visitors who came to Port Askaig to lend their support to this vital charity and through whose generosity 50 per cent more money was raised than last year, making it the busiest station open day yet.



# Highlands MSP slams HIAL for 'wasting' funds

by Douglas Matheson  
[editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

MSP John Finnie has accused Highlands and Islands Airport Limited (HIAL) of 'wasting' more than £18,000 of public money on a study into its controversial proposals to centralise air traffic control services.

A study by HIAL concluded the best location for the planned centralisation was Inverness, where the government-owned agency has its headquarters.

However, Mr Finnie has criticised the choice, arguing the move would take skilled jobs away from other locations, including the islands.

The Green Party Highlands and Islands MSP said: 'HIAL's proposal to slash jobs throughout remote, rural and island communities by centralising its air traffic control

operation is short-sighted and will disadvantage the communities it is supposed to serve by centralising skilled jobs.

'My latest research has revealed HIAL has spent £18,602 on a study which found Inverness was the prime location for this centralised system.'

'It beggars belief that such a sum was spent stating the obvious.'

'Instead of spending thousands of pounds telling us what we already know, it would serve HIAL better if it listened to the expert air traffic controllers and their trade union Prospect and ensured these important, skilled jobs remain in communities throughout the Highlands and Islands.'

Prospect aviation officer David Avery had pointed to concerns over the move back in January, saying:

'Any centralised monitoring system will be dependent on a reliable, resilient and secure communications infrastructure between the mainland and the islands which simply does not exist.'

'HIAL is gambling on this and Prospect believes this is gambling with people's safety.'

'Air traffic control provides high quality, skilled, highly paid employment in the islands with many controllers recruited and trained locally.'

'Centralisation will remove these roles from the islands. We do not believe the report has given sufficient weight to these considerations and HIAL's roles as an employer in the Highlands and Islands.'

HIAL has previously given assurances no changes would happen without its regulator approving safety and that the total number of jobs would remain the same.

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**First girl in the junior hill race** Evie Kellett, 11, with her samoyed dog Mia.

15\_T33\_Salen Show\_25



**Evie's dad Richard Kellett came first in the senior hill race.**

15\_T33\_Salen Show\_26



**Young stock handler champion Colin McDonald.**

15\_T33\_Salen Show\_08



**Dog judge Sue Morley from Aros with the winning puppy Cherryblossom.**

15\_T33\_Salen Show\_09



**Fiona Boa with champion Cheviot female, a ewe lamb off an inkstack tup.**

15\_T33\_Salen Show\_12



**Harry Hickford, 87, the oldest steward on the field, has seen many changes.**

15\_T33\_Salen Show\_03

# Teens come out on

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

Argyll's usual sunshine and showers didn't stop hundreds of people enjoying the annual Salen Show on the Isle of Mull last Thursday.

This traditional agricultural show, established in 1831, sports classes of Highland cattle, Blackface, Cheviot, cross and primitive sheep breeds, mountain and moorland horses and riding, as well as the ever-popular dog contests.

New this year were an extra sheep ring due to a rise in entry numbers and music from Tobermory High School Pipe Band.

As judging started in the Highland cattle

ring, 16-year-old farmer Kerrie Macgillivray from Pennygowan was putting the finishing touches to her prize heifer Lola, a cow which won as a heifer at the Salen Show in 2012. 'You can only do what you can do,' she said philosophically.

Kerrie, her sister Shona and dad James tend to more than 250 Highland cows and 800 sheep. Somehow Kerrie managed to fit in all this daily toil, plus six weeks training her show entries, studying for an HNC in hospitality management, sponsored by the Tobermory Hotel – and securing four Highers, including two As, last week.

'She is a superstar,' the Tobermory Hotel's own-

er Robert MacLeod said. 'We should be showing you, Kerrie! The girls run the farm. How she found the time to run the restaurant and study as well, I don't know.'

'Every night was a late night,' Kerrie replied.

In the end, Kerrie won the McCartney Cup for best Highland group, best Highland cow with calf at foot, best continental calf, the animal with best beef potential and best cross beef animal bred by a farmer employing no regular labour.

The reserve overall champion in the Highland cattle section was awarded to a heifer calf home bred by Iain MacKay and Claire Simonetta of Torloisk, named Princess

Ruadh 2nd of Cnoc na Sith. She was borne by Princess Dubh 3rd of Cnoc na Sith, a 13-year old home-bred cow who won her class as a three-year-old at Salen Show 10 years ago. The sire is Carpenter Ruadh vom Augustenhof, whose breeding goes back to Glengorm bloodlines.

Iain's daughter Eilidh MacKay, 11, won the young handlers class with one of Iain's home-bred Highland bull calves, Hamish Ruadh of Cnoc na Sith.

The champion Highlander, and eventual champion of champions, was Leonor of Glengorm, a three-year-old bull weighing 950kgs, reared by Alexander Craig and shown by Asha Nelson, 17,



**Tobermory High School Pipe Band gave a 'wonderful' performance.** 15\_T33\_Salen Show\_19



**Angus MacColl and his Texel sheep after winning the champion non-Blackface.** 15\_T33\_Salen Show\_14



**Oliver McDowell, right, who equalled the junior hill race record, with Douglas Boyd.** 15\_T33\_Salen Show\_24



**Tension rises during the Blackface judging.**

15\_T33\_Salen Show\_05

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# top at Salen Show

who picked up the Henderson Trophy for stockmanship.

Alexander Craig praised the 'good quality' competition and Asha's skills. He said: 'She did great. He is that big he does what he wants. He was quite enjoying himself with all the ladies about. A nose ring helps.'

Reserve overall champion was awarded to Orla MacLennan and her horse Denwyn Myfanwy.

Over in the sheep rings, Cheviot and cross sheep judge Neil Montgomery said: 'This is as good as it has been this year in the wee shows. You are looking for good conformation, good tight skin and they have to be clean, bright and sparky. You always

get one person happy at the end.' Overall Cheviot champion went to Jamie Laurie of Ardnacross and reserve to Fiona Boa of Antuim, while J&E Moore of Aros gained best primitive sheep breed in show and Angus MacColl of Fanmore took champion in any other breed.

Ardnamurchan High School pupil Sam MacKenzie, 15, of Acharacle, collected cups for the champion Blackface lamb, male, female and overall, beside his grandfather Alan Macgillivray.

The MacColl Family cup in memory of Donnie MacColl, for the Mull young handler, any sheep breed, was awarded to Ewan MacPhail, 11, of Callachally. Colin McDonald,

14, of Strontian, won the Jessie MacQuarrie trophy for overall young stock handler, having recently won the same prize at the Strontian Show with the same sheep, a North Cheviot gimmer.

In the junior hill race, Oliver McDowell equalled the record time of nine minutes, 19 seconds, followed by Douglas Boyd of Kintra, and then 11-year-old Evie Kellett of Aros Mains, the first girl back. Her dad Richard Kellett finished the senior hill race first in 15 minutes, 15 seconds. 'I live across the glen and I have never competed,' he said. 'It was more difficult than I am used to.'

Secretary of the 30-strong Mull and Morvern

Agricultural Society committee Jo Weston of Dervaig praised the pipe band's 'wonderful' playing and thanked the new sponsors: Beadon Agri supported the rosettes, Gleaner the secretaries' tent and AGL Architect Ltd the hill race.

'We are trying to encourage more people to join, to keep the traditions going,' she said, emphasising that young people and non-farmers would be most welcome too. 'They bring other skills,' she added. 'There is an awful lot to running a show.'

'I have learned such a lot and most of it is thanks to the committee members who supported and guided me. Thank you everyone for coming.'



For more photographs,  
go to [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

Kerrie Macgillivray receives one of many cups from Highland cattle judge Dexter Logan.



The champion of champions Leorin of Glengorm, Asha Nelson and Tom Nelson. 15\_T33\_Salen Show\_30



Claire Simonetta and Iain Mackay of Torloisk prepare Princess Ruadh 2nd of Cnoc na Sith. 15\_T33\_Salen Show\_35



Nicola Strachan, left, won best two-year-old and her mum Shirley won best heifer under three. 15\_T33\_Salen Show\_28



Eilidh MacKay, 11, who is about to start at Tobermory High School, won the young handlers in the cattle class.



Ulva Primary School pupil Kate MacKay, nine, helped by her dad Iain, was third in the young sheep handlers. 15\_T33\_Salen Show\_36



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# Paula cares for quality of life

The Oban Times is running a series of articles championing the work carried out by Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles locality. Each article features a specific service provided by the HSCP and focuses on the staff who provide that service and the role they play in making a positive difference for the people living in Oban and surrounding areas. This week we look at the work of Paula Laidler.

Paula Laidler is a rehabilitation and palliative care nurse at Lorn and Islands Hospital.

She initially launched her nursing career in Tameside, where she was based in the accident and emergency department for more than four years. She joined Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership over seven years ago and has been based in Oban since.

Rehabilitation nurses help patients with long-term physical disabilities or chronic illnesses to deal with their limitations to reach their full potential. The nurses also work closely with patients, their family members and loved ones, and health and social care professionals to create care and recovery plans to assist patients in staying independent for as long as possible.

Rehabilitation is recognised broadly as a four-stage process which includes comprehensive assessment; setting of short-, medium- and long-term goals; development of a plan towards the goals; and evaluation of progress. Within this process, the nursing team input is to implement specific interventions to improve mobility function.

Paula said: 'The general aim is to improve patient's strength and mobility, and to find ways around any problems. For example, if somebody has had a fall, equipment may be recommended to assist the patient with walking and an

exercise programme could be implemented to improve the patient's strength and balance.'

Palliative care nurses help to improve the quality of life for people at any stage of serious illnesses. They care for the whole person, combining pain and symptom management with emotional and spiritual support. It is to palliate symptoms, to palliate suffering, whether that suffering is physical, emotional or spiritual. The nursing staff focuses on patients and their family, and the best way to navigate patients' illnesses to ensure better outcomes.

Palliative care nurses communicate with many other health and social care professionals daily, from other nurses, specialists, social workers, pharmacists, patients' families and, of course, patients themselves.

Paula continued: 'As a rehabilitation and palliative care nurse, I get the opportunity to build closer relationships with patients and their loved ones.

'My role involves providing person-centred professional care for a wide range of medical conditions and illnesses, such as an ongoing life-limiting condition, or patients who are being treated for a sudden illness or injury.'

'My responsibilities include a patient's physical and emotional needs as well as helping to support their families and loved ones.'

Paula's day begins with a



Paula Laidler loves her lifestyle in Oban.

handover from the previous nursing team shift which can include doctors, pharmacy and various health and social professionals. These meetings are to ensure that patients, some of whom may be receiving end-of-life care, are getting the best quality of care and life as possible. Each shift includes monitoring symptoms, administering different treatments and monitoring side-effects of prescribed medication.

A large part of Paula's job is discussing with patients their symptoms and making them feel comfortable, as well as managing unnecessary pain. It can also include discussing with patients and their families the support that would be needed to self-manage their condition if they were being discharged to their own environment.

This includes working closely with other colleagues such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists and social workers to ensure patients are getting the best possible care needed to support and care for them.

Paula's closely observes patients, including recording information such as vital sign readings, medication and ensuring patients' care plans are followed.

There is also a considerable amount of paperwork to be completed and records that need to be updated regularly. Digital internal technology systems are in place to ensure patient records are updated and are digitally available to other health and social care professionals involved in the patient's care.

Paula added: 'Communication is key to keeping all health and social care professionals informed about

a patient's achievements and progress. It also includes taking into account individual patients' needs and preferences.

'Patients have the opportunity to make informed decisions about their care and treatment, in partnership with healthcare professionals. Sharing information helps to ensure patient-centred care and ensures better outcomes for all patients and their loved ones.'

Paula is very athletic and trains hard to participate in challenges and marathons. She is also a member of the local Parkrun group. She is well known for running six and half miles to work prior to starting a 12-hour shift and again at the end of her day runs home where she is then greeted by her toddlers – three-year-old Benjamin and one-year-old Harry, who certainly keep her on her toes.

She loves living and working in Oban, and cannot imagine living anywhere else. Oban has made the dream of living rurally into a reality. The family enjoy wide-open spaces, a variety of beaches and community events and festivals.

Paula said: 'I am really lucky to be surrounded by truly great local people and the community spirit in Oban is amazing. Oban really does have a very strong community spirit where everybody pulls together and people seem to genuinely care about each other.'

'It really is a healthy place to raise the boys. There are always lots of activities on for them, with pre-school activities always available to keep them active and busy.'

'Oban is definitely for our family and we are looking forward to raising our sons here.'

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# University Town is good news for local businesses



Over recent months you will have read articles in The Oban Times highlighting some of the amazing opportunities that exist in and around Oban to study and develop a career.

A feature could be published every week outlining the many opportunities – from performing arts at Ballet West to marine science at SAMS UHI, and outdoor adventure sports at Argyll College UHI, not to mention the many other organisations and institutions in the town.

Today, however, the focus is on what the project is doing for Oban businesses, and the importance of them getting involved.

BID4Oban is closely involved in the University Town project and has had a particularly busy time in recent weeks planning activities ahead of the new students arriving and existing students returning to Oban from early September.

Many of the businesses in town have received a flyer about the project and had discussions with project representatives about what is happening and how to get



Kirsty Pallas studied in and now works in the town.

involved. With the number of students in the town representing as much as 10 per cent of the population, it is important that businesses are engaged in the project and realise some of the benefits that this exciting group of people can bring.

At a basic level, there is the obvious benefit of more clients and customers. Businesses may need to put greater focus on targeting this group to bring them into the town and make the most of this opportunity.

The project is actively en-

gaging with students to talk through what their needs are, and it is already clear they want to be included in the community rather than remain on the periphery.

Students are not only customers but also potential part-time employees looking to balance work with their studies. Many are already employed in local businesses on a seasonal basis – with more to come on this in the months ahead.

Perhaps the most significant benefit for our area's economic future, however, is

the potential for developing new career paths. Businesses must speak to local education providers about their needs so that relevant new courses can be developed.

Businesses may also want to develop greater awareness of what is already there. A great example of this is highlighted in The Oban Times' Education in the West supplement this week, with Kirsty Pallas.

Kirsty is from Oban and has been able to gain work experience, achieve a formal qualification, work for a local business and has now come full-circle, tutoring her subject at Argyll College UHI.

Kirsty said: 'Starting with work experience locally with Kilbowie [outdoor centre] made me realise that not only was outdoor instructing a great job choice but also how suited Oban was to developing my career.'

'With mountains, rivers and the sea all within less than an hour's reach, it's the perfect location for me to work.'

The project team are keen to help support businesses in this process, so please get in touch with them any time and they would be delighted to link businesses up with the appropriate education providers, or contact these providers yourself.

For more information visit [www.obanunitown.org](http://www.obanunitown.org) or <http://www.bid4oban.co.uk/>



Left to right are David Mudie, Jamie Jordan, Katie Houston and Iain MacIntyre.

## Oban Rotary funds duo's charity trips

Having completed their time at Oban High School, Jamie Houston and Katie Houston are to embark on experiencing enhancing trips abroad.

Jamie is heading to Malaysia for 12 months with Project Trust, the well-known Coll-based charity, to be a teaching assistant.

Katie, under the auspices of Raleigh International, another charity providing support for developing countries, is to spend 10 weeks in Costa Rica

working as a volunteer on several projects which include improving water supplies and sanitation, and building projects relating to local schools, libraries and medical centres.

Jamie and Katie have raised the bulk of their funding themselves but both are seen here with Rotary president Iain MacIntyre receiving cheques for £500 towards their costs.

Jamie and Katie will go on to university on their return home.

## Clarification

In last week's Oban Times we ran a piece on our District News page highlighting Kinlochlaich Gardens in Appin being open to the public as part of a fundraising scheme to raise money for the village hall.

In the article we said the garden gates close on Monday

October 15. This referred to the garden's participation in the scheme ending on October 15. The garden is not closing down.

Kinlochlaich Gardens will be open by appointment as usual over the winter.

We apologise for any misunderstanding.

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# Oban's Slimming World members lost 6,237 pounds between January - July

As soon as a member walks through the doors of any Slimming World group, they can be assured of a warm welcome from their Consultant and fellow members - a group of really friendly people all at various stages of their weight loss journey.

Before they decide whether to join, their Consultant will explain Slimming World's programme and they'll be invited to observe a group session - and join in if they wish. If they decide to join, they'll be weighed and enrolled by the Consultant at the end of the group.

Our group support system combines individual attention and group participation in a carefully structured forum. Group discussions range from practical sharing of tips and ideas to a deeper understanding of each individual's danger zones and slimming pitfalls. On a practical level, there is a strong emphasis on sharing favourite recipe ideas and discussing local stores' and special offers on healthy foods. There is also a focus on basic cooking skills rather than reliance on convenience foods, and general cooking tips are shared. Our advice and literature take cost, cultural preferences, cooking ability and time constraints into consideration.

For those in need of a deeper level of support, our Consultants have a number of methods and tools to help members become aware of individual obstacles and barriers to change and through carefully facilitated



discussion, develop personal strategies to overcome them.

All sessions last for around 1hr 30mins, with additional support provided between groups in the form of a series of 'lifelines':

- Telephone, email and text support from the Consultant and other group members
- Free online support from the Slimming World member website
- Slimming World magazine and recipe books

## case studies

### Amie Whittaker joined 18/01/18 lost 5st

My name is Amie Whittaker. I started my Slimming World journey on the 18th January 2018. Since joining I've learnt so much about my eating habits and how I can make anything taste delicious and healthy. It wasn't easy joining group, so nerve racking but I said to myself, I'm going to do this, I need to do this as I suffered terribly with back pain, but since losing nearly 5stone I don't suffer back pain, the health benefits are incredible. Everyone at group is so supportive and my consultant Gillian is there on hand with advice if needed, she is amazing. I am the happiest I have ever been having gone from a size 18 ( had 3 beautiful children ) to a size 10. My family are so proud of what I have achieved.



### Eveline McKinnon joined 23/5/18 and I have lost 3st 2lb to date!

Since joining Slimming World I've been enjoying eating. I'm eating healthier, I'm eating more varied and I can even enjoy my favourite treats. My group has encouraged me to try new recipes and to get more active. Losing weight when enjoying food makes you feel amazing! I've still got a bit of weight to lose to get to my personal target, but seeing results and enjoying my new lifestyle certainly encourages me to get there.



### Phill Dexter joined June 2017 lost 4st 8

Since joining Slimming World my eating habits have changed completely as everything I eat is so much healthier but still as tasty. There are so many recipes of favourite traditional dishes from all over the world that you just have to make a few changes to so that they fit in with this brilliant food optimising plan. Joining any new group is scary especially a group focused around losing weight and joining this as a man is even scarier but you are made to feel so welcome by everybody in group. Joining slimming world has changed my life and I have met many new friends that have also became like family as part of my journey.



## MEET THE TEAM



### Gillian MacCorquodale Consultant

Hi, I'm Gillian, I joined SW as a member in 2006 and lost 3 stone. I have been a consultant now for 6 years and absolutely love my job. SW Oban has over 300 members, many of whom who have achieved their targets and many more well on the way. We look forward to welcoming you into group and helping you achieve your goals.

## A healthy, satisfying eating plan

Food Optimising is Slimming World's healthy eating plan. Based on the principles of energy density and satiety, Food Optimising empowers members to make healthier food choices, satisfy their appetites and lose weight - without calorie counting or obsessive weighing and measuring.

Food Optimising is easy to follow, focusing on three main components:

1. The concept of Free Foods promotes consumption of plenty of low energy dense and highly satiating foods, eg poultry, fish, lean meat, pasta, grains, vegetables and fruit.
2. Healthy Extras help provide a good overall balance of nutrients in addition to those obtained from Free Foods, with particular emphasis on calcium and fibre-rich foods, eg milk, cheese, cereals, wholemeal bread, nuts and seeds.
3. The synergy between Free Foods, Healthy Extras and Syns make Food Optimising effective and easy to live with long term. Syns are the way members can enjoy the foods that many diets ban - without a shred of guilt!



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# Luing Stores looking for new owner

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

If you've ever dreamed of trading in mainland life to live and work on a remote island, now is your chance.

A rare opportunity has arisen to run Luing Stores and Post Office serving the 157 people who live there all year and visitors who come by ferry.

After almost three years of running the lifeline store single-handed without a day off, current owner Gordon Robbie wants to hand over the reins to someone new.

His Facebook post seeking interest before putting the business up for sale attracted 20 comments and almost 70 shares in just a couple of days.

'It's what a lot of people would dream of, living in a great community in a spectacular place. It wouldn't be about making money, it's more about making a lifestyle choice and about serving the community. It's satisfying work,' said Mr Robbie, who saved the store and Post Office in 2015 after it shut.



Gordon Robbie is looking for someone to run the shop.

Mr Robbie plans to keep living on the island so would be on hand to help out if needed and full training would be given to the new postmaster or postmistress.

'There's no mad rush. It's not doom and gloom. It's not as if we're shutting next week.'

'People are interested and are asking questions so I'm hoping someone will take up the opportunity.'

'I've loved it but could do with a bit of time off after three years!'

The shop sells produce from local suppliers, including meat from Seil, cheese from Mull and bread from Luing's

own bakery. It also does home-deliveries and runs community transport buses for pensioners.

'We've got an ageing community so it's especially important the store and Post Office keep going. People have to get their pensions and have bills to pay. We are a lifeline to many,' said Mr Robbie, who is originally from Stirling but spent 20 years in Herefordshire and lived on Luing for a couple of years from 2004 before leaving and returning again in 2013. 'I'm not leaving the island. I'll be here to give advice if it's needed,' he added.



Baking treats were John Scott, Stephen Kelly, Jamie Summers, Freya MacKechnie, Innes MacCalum and Kiera Gibson.

## Simply sensational summer fun

More than 90 youngsters signed up for summer fun in Oban by getting ready for high school.

Baking buns, American football, shinty, helping out at the Hope project and lots more activities were packed into the 'best two days of summer' last week at Oban High School and at Atlantis Leisure Centre.

The Summer Sensations programme, part of the government-funded Active Schools scheme, involved a number of organisations including Oban Youth Cafe.

Young leaders from Oban High School were among volunteers who gave up their time to help run the activities organised to help primary pupils get ready for

high school. Active Schools co-ordinator Nona Thomas said: 'We say this is the best two days of summer. It's always fun.'

'It's a great way to get ready to move schools and make new friends.'

Active Schools works to help young people get more active, more often outside of school hours.

## Boating people asked for views on MCA code

Members of the boating community are being encouraged to have a say on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's new Code of Practice for pleasure vessels.

The public consultation runs until Wednesday September 26.

The Code of Practice for

Intended Pleasure Vessels and its supporting guidance notices, which will be introduced on January 1 2019, addresses temporary commercial use either for business purposes or as a race support boat.

The MCA is urging the boating community to read

the proposals on how it plans to make the water a safer place while giving the opportunity to legitimately operate commercially on a temporary basis.

To contribute, or if you want a hard copy of the consultation, email [PleasureVessels@mca.gov.uk](mailto:PleasureVessels@mca.gov.uk).

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OT

# Call for end to ferry tendering

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Trade union leader Manuel Cortes, who represents around 100 CalMac staff, says the critical ferry service must be publicly funded in the future.

Mr Cortes stopped off in Oban as part of an eight-day tour of the Outer Hebrides to visit Transport Salaried Staffs' Association (TSSA) members.

TSSA general secretary Mr Cortes is demanding an end to the franchising of Hebridean ferries and wants to see any future tendering of services scrapped.

In 2016, CalMac beat off Serco to win an eight-year contract to run the Clyde and Hebrides ferry services. At that time trades unions and Labour MSPs argued that the franchising system was unnecessary and a waste of public money.

Mr Cortes said: 'Everyone liv-



**TSSA General Secretary Manuel Cortes has been talking to CalMac members as part of an eight-day tour.**

ing in or visiting the Hebrides knows the ferries are critical to their survival. That's why we can't let up the pressure until their future is secured as a publicly-funded service and the franchising model that hinders its development is ended.'

The TSSA claims outsourcing the lifeline services to private contractors is still part of the SNP transport agenda.

Mr Cortes said fleet reshuffles due to repairs are stressing out frontline CalMac workers who are taking the brunt of passengers' complaints.

He says it is the Scottish Government to blame for not giving CalMac the investment it needs to provide a 'first-class' fleet. 'Make no mistake, the motivation for everyone at CalMac is to provide the best

customer service to passengers. When things go wrong, it's a very stressful time, not just for passengers but also for our members who are unable to deliver those services. They know they are letting people down.'

'When things don't go well, it's the staff on the front line who have to deal with irritated passengers.'

A technical issue with the linkspan at Oban ferry terminal earlier this month resulted in disrupted sailings.

Mr Cortes added: 'We need a first class ferry fleet and port facilities for everywhere that CalMac serves. We are in contact with CalMac but investment decisions are made by the Scottish Government. It's up to them to up their game and make sure CalMac gets the investment it needs to deliver its lifeline services. Tendering wastes a lot of money which could be put to better use.'

## New principal sponsor for Scottish Rural Awards

The Scottish Rural Awards are delighted to confirm the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland (RHASS) as headline sponsor for 2019.

RHASS, which has been a patron of the Scottish Rural Awards since early 2016, will work with the awards' founding partners – Scottish Field magazine and the Scottish Countryside Alliance – to deliver the awards, the ultimate benchmark of success in rural Scotland.

I encourage anyone that knows either a well-established or newly founded business to nominate them for the 2019 awards.'

Principally known for its flagship event, the Royal Highland Show, RHASS was established in 1784 to promote the trade, agriculture, poetry, language and music of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

In addition to recognising skills, achievement, innovation and excellence through a series of awards and grants, the society has a strong educational role in promoting all aspects of rural life in Scotland, including agriculture, horticulture and forestry.

The RHASS will be sponsoring the Rural Enterprise and Innovation Category for the

2019 awards.

Alan Laidlaw said: 'The Rural Awards are now well established in the events calendar and represent an excellent opportunity to highlight, showcase and celebrate all the great work, and innovation taking place, in rural Scotland.'

'I encourage anyone that knows either a well-established or newly founded business to nominate them for the 2019 awards.'

A set of 13 categories are open for nominations, including the coveted Rural Hero award, which recognises those whose contributions to their rural communities have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Last year's awards drew more than 250 nominees, with previous award-winners including Glenwyvis Distillery, Wild Hearth Bakery and Xanthella.

Nominations for the 2019 awards are now open. Categories and nomination forms, are available from [www.scottishruralwards.org](http://www.scottishruralwards.org). There is no cost.

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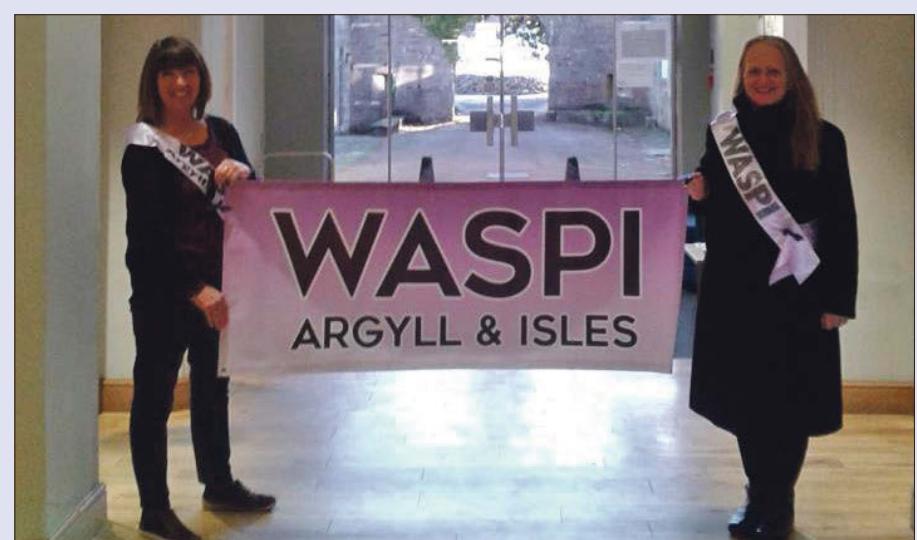
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Argyll and Isles members Ann Greer and Karen Murphy.

## Pensions campaign group is up for award

A group of women campaigning against changes to the age at which they can collect their state pensions has been nominated as a finalist in this year's Scottish Women's Awards.

Waspi Argyll and Isles group will be at the black-tie event, celebrating women role models, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Glasgow on Thursday September 13.

Co-ordinator and co-founder of the group Ann Greer said she was delighted they were among finalists in the services to charity and

third sector category. Being nominated has given members of our group a boost – whatever the outcome on the night. Although we are a small, localised voluntary group, scattered throughout Argyll and Bute, we have achieved all we set out to do in our area and more,' she said.

The group has been hosting drop-in and information sessions in towns across Argyll, including at Oban's Rockfield Centre in November, as well as its members supporting Vote 100 events in Bute,

Helensburgh and Dunoon remembering local suffragettes and suffragists.

Ms Greer wants more women from the Oban and Fort William areas to join the group. It is estimated 6,700 women born in the 1950s will be affected by state pension age changes in Argyll and Bute. Some members of the Waspi group are planning to visit the Small Isles soon to give out campaigning leaflets and rally more support.

To find out more, contact the group at [argyllisleswaspi@mail.com](mailto:argyllisleswaspi@mail.com)



Excavation work at Kildavie on Mull.

# International team digs up past on Mull

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Archaeologists are returning to Mull for their annual dig at an abandoned 18th-century township.

A team of 15 university students from Canada, America, the Ukraine and the UK arrived on site at Kildavie on Sunday ready for two weeks of excavating.

They are being joined by members of North West Mull Archaeology Interest Group (NWMAIG) searching for clues that will reveal what the ruined remains of 13 different buildings were originally used for – homes, workshops or barns, said Ian Hill, from Edinburgh-based social enterprise HARP that provides

archaeological services and field school experiences.

The site, on land owned by North West Mull Community Woodland Company near Dervaig, has been under investigation since 2007. HARP first got involved in the summer of 2014.

Stone walls two to three feet high are the only signs visible to the eye that people once lived at Kildavie.

Evidence gathered so far indicates people could have settled there from the mid 1500s until it was abandoned in the 1800s.

Finds on the site have include lots of glass, mainly fragments of bottles, one of which had the date of 1713 and Tarbert embossed on its shoulder. Shards of pottery

and oyster shells have also been discovered there on previous digs, giving hints on how villagers might have lived. And flint tools from much earlier times have been uncovered there but are not linked to the township.

All the new information will be put into a technical report which will be lodged with the landowner and official archaeological archives. Eventually, an article will be produced to appear in a journal, said Mr Hill.

This year's dig started on Sunday August 12 and ends on Saturday August 25.

The public can go along to an open day at the site on Sunday August 19 from 10am to 3pm to see what the working party has discovered this time.

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## MacPhail

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Among the many artists and bands on the Highland music scene that have emerged in the current surge of popularity in that genre, Runrig, by a huge margin, are still the most successful and popular.

This is particularly fitting, as they have been the single most important catalyst in driving the entire current revival. A mark of Runrig's position as the kings of Celtic music is that this weekend they will perform for two consecutive nights to more people than all the other bands and festivals of this summer could attract combined.

On a site below Stirling Castle, more than 40,000 fans will witness this band leave the stage as undisputed champions in their field, and if ever a band deserved success and the fulfilment of dreams, it is Runrig.

The foundations that Runrig have been instrumental in building over the past 45 years are now bearing fruit that will last far beyond their own time.

**Runrig – Angus MacPhail (last verse, Flora MacPhail)**

*They conquered the world in the ways of the wise  
On a wavelength in tune with their past;  
Without brash ambition to grab for the prize  
No dash to be flash or be fast.*

*But steadfast and steady they furrowed the field  
With a plough their people passed down.*

*By the strength of their skill, unmatched was the yield  
Healed land, by their hand, is their crown.*

*And conquer they have, but with nobody beaten  
They have won but no one has lost.*

*On the power of their poem, a race starved and has now eaten  
And a cliff from abyss has been crossed.*

*They have led with the beam of a lighthouse at sea  
And guided a ship from the reef.*

*If the ship of the Gael continues to be  
Nod then to their pen and belief.*

*Pioneers of a path to share wide their song  
They showed the way first for us all,*

*And all who come after in debt will belong*

*For their grit to commit to their call.*

*Through blood to the Brothers the gifts of the bards  
Then a well of deep riches combine  
For working the well are god-given guards  
Turning thought and the water to wine.*

*Humble the ways of true leaders of men  
With grace and humility's hand,*

*When asked 'What is Runrig?', time and again To this day they will say, 'Just a band.'*

*But just a band they are not, and never have been  
From inception, through change and transition*

*From the seed to the sapling, their song evergreen  
With a key to the tree of tradition.*

*What they've done for their people cannot be repaid  
Giving confidence back to the young.*

*Past members and present all built what was made.  
To our side now the tide they have swung.*

*And now from their stage they have planned their last bow  
In the way they have lived for their goal –*

*With dignity, wisdom and guiding the prow  
All done, while at one with their soul.*

*Fir ghasda, fir ghaisgeil,  
stèidh'c'the daingeann san tir  
Le sùil ghèur air cuireachd's air buain;  
Le feamainn an dualchais chuir iad todhar air fonn.  
Le gach tonn dhùin iad 'Cearcall a' Chuain'.*

## Argyll homes set for superfast broadband

More homes in Argyll are set to receive superfast broadband after the Scottish Government announced it would bring higher internet speeds to 25,000 more properties across Scotland.

Residents of both Kilchenzie and Kilninver are set to receive fibre broadband coverage after it was

announced last week that the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband (DSSB) project was ahead of schedule and is now set to reach 150,000 Scottish homes and businesses by next year.

The government has also committed to bringing superfast broadband – which means a connection with download speeds of 24Mb or more – to

every home in Scotland by 2021 under its programme Reaching 100 per cent (R100).

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara said: 'This is excellent news for the region and I am delighted to hear that the DSSB project has passed its original targets and is providing opportunities for businesses and communities across the constituency.'

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## HIE sets up masterclasses in Highlands

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has announced a programme of masterclasses for entrepreneurs to improve their business.

The first of the masterclasses is Strategic Negotiations, which takes place in Inverness on Tuesday and Wednesday August 28 and 29, and is followed by masterclasses on Structured Steps in the Entrepreneur's Journey, Strategic Marketing and Creating and Maintaining a Competitive Advantage.

Entrepreneurs from across the Highlands and Islands are encouraged to attend, with help towards travel and accommodation expenses more than £70 being provided.

Aimed at entrepreneurs and senior staff of companies with growth potential in the Highlands and Islands, the two-day Strategic Negotiations masterclass will provide proven tools, tips and techniques.

The lessons learned aim to help attendees build rapport, trust, mutual understanding and a lasting relationship with those they are negotiating with.

They will learn how to conduct negotiations, using best practice principles, and how to minimise risks and develop contingency strategies.

Details of how to book can be found at [www.hie.co.uk/entrepreneurship](http://www.hie.co.uk/entrepreneurship).

# Sales workshops for Oban and Fort William

Advice on how to increase sales, no matter what your business, is on offer in Oban and Fort William next month.

Entrepreneurs are being encouraged to sign up for sales workshops being organised by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) in Oban on Tuesday September 4 and Fort William on Tuesday September 11 to provide businesses with tools and techniques to boost sales.

The free workshops are part of HIE's Entrepreneurial Academy being held across the Highlands and Islands following a successful pilot in 2017.

Designed to help the region's entrepreneurs accelerate business growth, events over the coming months will cover aspects of improving your business performance from brand development to pitching skills and delivering a digital strategy.

Each workshop is delivered by a specialist who will help attendees gain a deeper understanding of the subject and develop a plan.

The sales workshops will be delivered by Matthew Quinn, of Future Sales Factory, who will outline the logical process of selling to help entrepreneurs build rapport with potential customers and understand buyers' motivations.

He will also demonstrate how to best present the benefits of the product or service, and close the sale.

Louise MacDonald, senior entrepreneurship manager at HIE, said: 'We're delighted to bring the entrepreneurial sales workshops to Oban and Fort William.



**Highlands and Islands Enterprise**  
*Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean*

'People are naturally shy or even scared about sales and this workshop is designed to address those barriers and give you practical skills and advice.'

'I look forward to seeing the impact of this training and watching local businesses flourish as they increase their sales.'

Matthew added: 'From first handshake to first invoice, those attending the entrepreneurial sales workshops will go away with tools and techniques that can be implemented in their business straight away.'

'We work with people from single person businesses to multi-national corporations and are delighted to be helping HIE support young and growing businesses in Scotland.'

'I would encourage entrepreneurs to attend in Oban on September 4 and Fort William on September 11.'

'From food and drink, tourism, energy, engineering and business services, these sessions always prove the sales process is exactly the same, no matter what industry you are in.'

Michael O'Connell, director and co-founder of Highlands-based Visual Performance

Management Limited, attended the workshop in 2017 and found it extremely useful. He said: 'As an entrepreneur, you can be confident in your product but not in going out and selling it. Having not done much in sales in the past, it was not something that came naturally to me so the entrepreneurial sales workshop provided great insights. Not only did it improve my confidence in my ability to have sales conversations, it also got rid of the myths around sales and off-putting stereotypes brought about by bad salespeople.'

'The workshop also covered the process behind selling.'

'It's not an art, there is a process and understanding that can really help. I'd really encourage others to attend, especially those intimidated by the idea of sales or those who would like to employ someone else to do sales for them. The course may change your perceptions.'

The Entrepreneurial Academy workshops will be delivered until June 2020 in Benbecula, Forres, Fort William, Kirkwall, Lerwick, Inverness, Oban, Portree, Thurso and Stornoway.

Entrepreneurs or staff of growing companies and social enterprises, or those with ambitions to expand, who are interested in attending the one-day workshops should register at <http://hie.social/GEaL30k8EDZ> or contact [entrepreneurship@hient.co.uk](mailto:entrepreneurship@hient.co.uk).

The Entrepreneurial Sales workshops take place at the Royal Hotel, Oban, on September 4 and at the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, on September 11.

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## 'Breakthrough' claimed in sea lice control

Two Scottish salmon farming businesses have reported a 'major breakthrough' in research to control sea lice.

Marine Harvest Scotland and Scottish Sea Farms have been working with the Institute of Aquaculture at the University of Stirling to produce farm-reared 'cleaner fish', so-called because they eat naturally occurring parasites including sea lice from salmon.

Over six years, the project team has bred wild-caught Ballan wrasse (*Labrus bergylta*) and raised the offspring from egg to adults of reproductive age.

Now, in what is believed to be a world first, those offspring have produced their own eggs, which have successfully hatched, completing the life cycle of farming wrasse in a controlled environment.

The team has gone on to successfully wean the wrasse larvae and fry from live food to a dry diet – another milestone that will give salmon



Wrasse have been reared from eggs to adults.

farmers more control over the health and nutrition of farmed wrasse.

In the longer term, it is hoped the breakthrough will help meet the growing demand for cleaner fish as Scotland's salmon farmers seek to control sea lice through non-medici-

nal, environmentally-friendly approaches.

Currently, the majority of wrasse used as cleaner fish are wild-caught in accordance with guidelines specified by Marine Scotland, RSPCA Assured and local fishery boards to ensure it is done

sustainably.

However, it is the sector's ambition to become self-sustaining and use only farmed stocks of cleaner fish – a goal that is now within grasp thanks to these advances.

Marine Harvest Scotland hatchery manager Paul Featherstone said: 'Ballan wrasse provides highly effective, highly natural sea lice control. With this breakthrough, we now have proven procedures for breeding, weaning and rearing wrasse, which will both help ensure farmers have a more secure, controllable supply and reduce reliance on wild stocks.'

Scottish Sea Farms head of fish health Ralph Bickerdike added: 'These landmark breakthroughs are the result of many years of collaborative research, involving a significant investment of time and money by farmers and academic partners intent on developing natural solutions to the control of sea lice.'

## BUSINESS MATTERS

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## Bluebird rises again on Bute

The Isle of Bute welcomed the legendary Bluebird K7 hydroplane on August 3 as the boat prepared to take to the water again for the first time in 51 years.

It broke the water world speed record seven times in the hands of racing pioneer Donald Campbell, but Bluebird was destroyed and Campbell killed during a failed eighth world record attempt on January 4, 1967.

Now, a team of dedicated engineers have rebuilt Bluebird and have been testing its abilities on the waters of Loch Fad, giving onlookers a chance to see the hydroplane in action for the first time since Campbell's fateful 300mph crash more than five decades ago.

Bluebird was destroyed on Coniston Water in the 1967 crash. Its wreckage lay untouched on the lake bed until 2000, when diver Bill Smith led a recovery project to retrieve the remains piece by piece. Smith's project has since worked tirelessly to restore the boat to working condition.

The planned test runs on Loch Fad were the first steps towards a final high-speed hurrah for Bluebird, after which it will be moved permanently to a museum.

Mr Smith, who used to visit Bute for fishing trips as a teenager, harbours fond memories of the island and was looking forward to getting Bluebird back out on the water again. He said: 'No one knows how she handles or the best way to jump out in a hurry if needs be, so the name of the game is crew training.'

The famous boat arrived at Rothesay on the CalMac ferry and was displayed to the public on the promenade, before being moved to the loch for testing.



The restored Bluebird.

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# An ancient Highland

## Morvern lines

IAIN THORNBER

iain.thornber@btinternet.com

I am a great believer that in order to promote and preserve history in this day and age, it is necessary to present it three-dimensionally – that is, to be able to pick it up, touch, move around and hear it.

I can think of no better example than when last month the West Highland Museum in Fort William, loaned the organisers of the MacIntyre clan gathering in Argyll a set of bagpipes which were said to have been played by one of their own at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314.

No one who was present at the gathering could fail to be thrilled at seeing and hearing an instrument with such a lengthy pedigree.

Any vintage artefact will inevitably be surrounded with the stuff of legends. This one is no exception, with tales of a fairy making sound or vent holes in the chanter, the pipes never having been played at a lost battle by the Clan Donald and being the oldest Highland pipes in existence, to name a few.

Although much of this can safely be put aside, it is not to say that they do not have an interesting history. Somewhere closer to fact than fiction, here is their story.

The MacIntyres were the hereditary pipers to the MacDonalds of Clanranald whose land used to stretch from South Uist to Moidart. According to Seton Gordon (1886-1972), historian and piper and author of 27 books, one of the last pupils of which there is a record at the MacCrimmon college of piping at Boreraig, in Skye, was a Clanranald MacIntyre and that the payment for the tuition was two cows.

On a date, now lost, the MacIntyres shared the tenancy of Ulgary, a large settlement near the head of Glen Moidart. There, in 1745, one of them, John, who was piper to MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart, composed a famous piobaireachd, My King has landed in Moidart, commemorating Prince Charles Edward Stuart arriving at the foot of the glen in August 1745.

When the MacIntyres left Ulgary for America in 1790, they gave their treasured pipes to 19-year-old Donald MacDonald, seventh of Kinlochmoidart whom they recognised as

their chief and not Clanranald, which suggests he had evicted them. The pipes remained with the Kinlochmoidart family until 1998 when Lt Commander David MacDonald-Robertson, 14th of Kinlochmoidart, loaned them to the West Highland Museum, where they are now on display and labelled, The Faery Pipes of Moidart.

Seton Gordon and a companion examined the Ulgary pipes in 1930 at Invermoidart House on Shona Beag, a small island lying at the entrance to Loch Moidart, owned by Dr Symers MacDonald McVicar. His mother, Mrs Jessie Robertson-MacDonald MacVicar, was the great-granddaughter of Donald MacDonald, 4th of Kinlochmoidart who was executed in 1746 for his part in the Jacobite Rising.

They recorded: 'There were originally two drones but Dr MacVicar's father, or uncle, threw one of them away because it had got so worm-eaten. What now remains are: 1) the chanter with the fairy holes in it, 2) the blow-pipe and 3) the top piece of one of the drones which is slightly worm-eaten.'

'The extra hole, or rather two holes, for they are simply double sounding holes above the normal ones, in the chanter is still visible, but it has been blocked up by some Victorian busy-body; we hope not because the fairy note was too atrocious but much more probably because it failed to obtain the official recognition of the Edinburgh Pibroch Society!'

'The drone-head is cylindrical and unmounted except for some binding at the base. It has a narrow turned waist and the drone widens towards the top like a trumpet. It is more of a dark wood, slightly worm-eaten, which looks exactly like old oak but seems too light to be so. [When Seton Gordon and his companion examined this piece in 1930, it was clearly plain. Today, however, it has a worked bone ferrule and an ornamental brass collar which suggests it belongs to a different set altogether.]

'The chanter is of hard dark wood, different to the drones of a higher polish, not quite so dark, and lighter. It seems thicker than modern ones, but no heavier. It, too, is unmounted and unbound and expands at the base. The fingering is the same as today's and felt very easy and comfortable. Unfortunately, we had not taken a reed with us to try it.'

No one knows, though Seton took forestry at Oxford, what the wood was of either the



chanter or drone. The chanter was never played after the drowning of one of the family near Assary [a settlement downstream from Ulgary; date of incident unknown]. The blow-pipe is cut square and is of similar wood. Grooves for hemp-binding and a flange form the air-retaining valve are still visible, as in modern pipes.

'Dr MacVicar lent these pipes to [clan chief Sir Robert] Menzies, who mounted them in a Menzies tartan bag, claimed that they were used by their hereditary pipers, also called MacIntyre, and inserted them in a production which he called The Red and White Book of Menzies, as being "the Menzies pipes". On being asked to return them no reply was received, and it required the gentle suasion of a lawyer to make him give them up.'

'Dr MacVicar produced a letter from [Sir

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# and bagpipe



The ancient pipes were loaned to the MacIntyre clan gathering last month (Photograph: Kevin McGlynn). Inset, the Kinlochmoidart Pipes in the West Highland Museum, Fort William, and some of their original parts (Photographs: Iain Thornber).

Robert] Menzies dated February 13, 1880, acknowledging receipt of the pipes, in which he expresses deep disappointment with them, saying that they were valueless and not to be compared with the real MacDonald pipes – a set then in Glen's shop in Edinburgh bearing the MacDonald arms and dated 1409.

'Yet once in Menzies' possession their value in their new character as the Menzies pipes appeared to be so enhanced as to require legal pressure to persuade him to part with them.'

Seton Gordon and Dr MacVicar discussed having the pipes set up with a bag in order to keep the set together so that after Dr MacVicar's death people would know what they were.

Seton suggested that the missing drone be replaced by a new one and that an inscription on it should state plainly which part of the pipes

were genuinely old and which parts restored. It was proposed initially to entrust the work to Reid, a famous Glasgow pipe maker, but in the end Robert G Lawrie, also of Glasgow, was given the task and it is his hallmarked, sterling silver plaque which can be found on the pipes today.

The MacDonals sold most of their Moidart property in 1883 to Robert Stewart of Ingliston, Midlothian, whose descendants are still there upholding the old Highland values and traditions of the glen, even to having a young, talented piper in their midst.

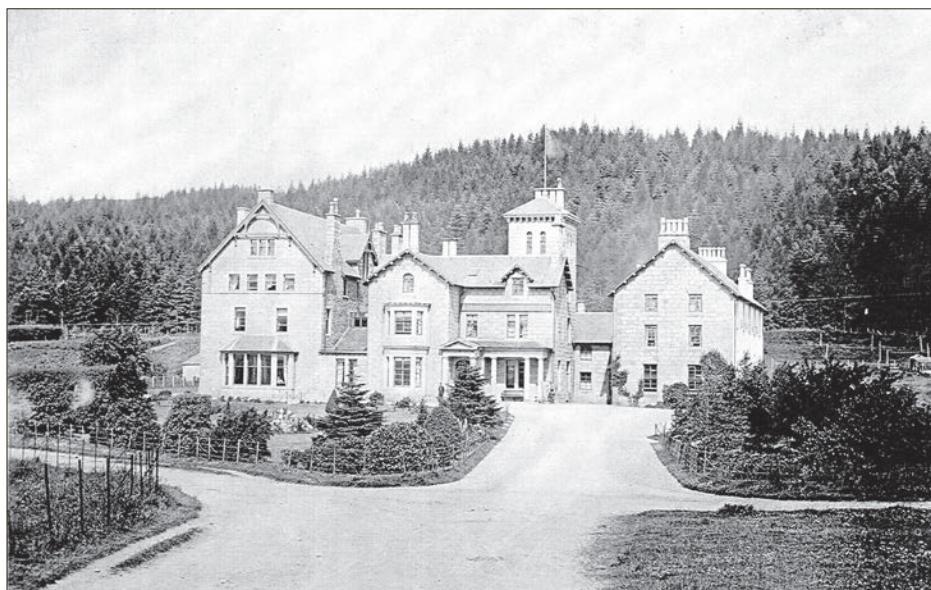
Kinlochmoidart House is what 'big houses' should surely be, but too rarely are – the living heart of the local community and a source of inspiration and excellence. The old Clan Donald lairds and the MacIntyres of Ulgary would have approved.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

We delve into The Oban Times archives to bring you faces and places from yesteryears



We return again this week to Oban and Lorn Lions Club's Charities Day back in 1999 and a splendid photograph of the parade along George Street in the sunshine. Inset is a photo we published two weeks ago, and for which we now have names for all but one of those seen. They are Stuart MacDonald, Dawn McBay, Vivienne Hopperton, Pat Howe, Elise Cleaver and Forbes McHardy.



Lochiel Arms Hotel, Banavie, styled as 'the hotel de luxe of the Scottish Highlands'.  
Photograph courtesy of Roamer

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## LETTERS

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## Tackling scourge of drugs remains a priority for police

There is a somewhat common misconception that rural areas such as Argyll and tourist destination towns including Oban are exempt from the scourge of illegal drugs.

A scan through the pages of The Oban Times each week will soon explode the myth there is no drugs problem on our patch.

Every week in our Police Files there are accounts of officers finding illegal drugs on the streets of our communities and every time we send a news reporter to cover Oban Sheriff Court, he or she returns to the office with stories about those who have been prosecuted for these offences.

As we report this week, the issue of hard drugs has been raised after bags of needles were discovered by construction workers in Glenshellach, Oban.

Residents are understandably concerned about the health implications, particularly for children playing outdoors. However, it is reassuring to hear the words of Inspector Mark Stephen, who has been quick to stress the issue remains a high priority for the police.

Inspector Steven was also correct to emphasise that tackling the problem can only realistically be achieved with a multi-agency approach. Education has a large part to play and it is good to know there are programmes in place to teach our young people of the dangers of drugs misuse.

We are all in this together.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve 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 phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed.

Please email: [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk) or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001.

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For press freedom with responsibility

## Mortality rates from cancers will fall in future

I question the figures given as accurately portrayed under the early detection of cancers programme for Argyll, inferring that the targets have not been reached ('Early diagnoses of cancers fall', The Oban Times, August 9).

In the future, because of our unique system of early detection and diagnosis here, we shall become a leader in this field, with the current 65 per cent mortality rate reducing hopefully to 35 per cent over the next decade or so, due to a number of factors.

As we are all subject to some levels of pollution and contact with various toxins daily, perhaps mainly from the food we eat, these must be reduced, but perhaps more so from what our food is packaged in.

Historically, in the Western Isles and Highlands, a lot of the food, especially fish, is smoked. But smoking has known carcinogenic factors, so ditching the barbecue for oily fish twice a week may help reduce the current dramatic rise in women's cancers referred at Glasgow.

Also, the general public is subjected to supermarkets full of food covered in soft, sticky plastics – fish, meat, chicken, vegetables, bacon, cheese, pizzas and so on are all wrapped in microscopically-laden toxic plastic packaging, which leach out on contact and more so under heat.

So food packaged in cardboard boxes or glass or tin should be also be preferred and eating 15 per cent of your diet as organic will also help keep us healthy, along with our five a day.

However, the biggest fight is to get the multi-billion-pound packaging industry to package less, as well as more safely and responsibly.

So eat more good quality, locally-sourced food. After all, we are spoiled for choice in the Argyll and the Isles area – preferably not wrapped in toxic soft plastic.

The recipe for health and longevity is one daily small tot of the water of life or a glass of port – the oldest woman in the world had two a day and lived to the age of 122 – and to eat like a mouse.

**Stephen Jones,  
Burnside Place, Millpark, Oban.**

## Outraged by charging for the right to pray

The media is presently full of furore concerning claims of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

But what of the growing prevalence of anti-Christian attitudes in our society?

Recently our parish priest made a pilgrimage visit to Iona. That sacred isle was where Columba strove to sainthood and the place of his death.

It is the tiny Atlantic dot from whence dark ages Scotland was to be infused with the light of the Christian message.

'It was my first visit,' the Father had said, 'and my last. I won't be paying £7.50 again anytime soon to pray ... It's a very special place, and a

### GET IN TOUCH

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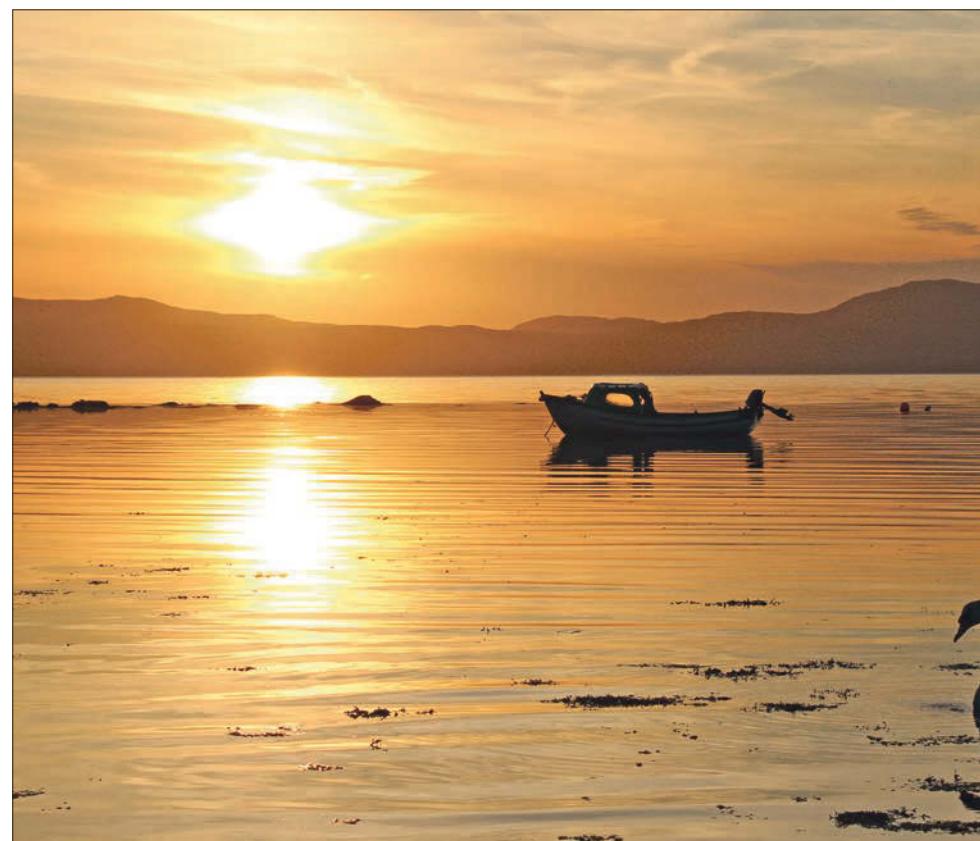


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## YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase people's images each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here,

simply send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street,

beautiful island, but if you are going to visit, you'll need a small mortgage.'

I actually felt ashamed as a Christian at being taxed to visit and pray at the birthplace of Scottish Christianity.

The abbey and related sites are now under the control of Historic Environment Scotland. I have been visiting Iona on average twice a year for 30 years, and never once have I paid to pray where Christians have worshipped for 1,400 years. Nor do I, on principle, ever intend to.

The abbey now has souvenir shops, tearooms and 'commercial opportunities' for local artists, but it is definitely not a theme park. It is holy ground. The sand and stones are quite literally sodden with the blood of hundreds of Christian martyrs. And that matters, still, to Christians everywhere.

Historic Environment Scotland may have improved the site but it has surely soiled its sanctity in valuing its spiritual importance, and those who visit because of it, so little.

And there are in this other passive collaborators: those who handed on the keys unmindful, and seemingly uncaring, of the greedy secular threat.

People who had no thought of protecting

the rights of the modern pilgrim to make communion with those who had gone before, and to pray in thanks for the example of Columcille and his spiritual children.

Historic Environment Scotland seems to be the very manifestation of 'that man' whom Samuel Johnson spoke of: 'That man is little to be envied whose patriotism would not gain force upon the plain of Marathon, or whose piety would not grow warmer among the ruins of Iona.'

No Christian should be taxed to pray at Iona Abbey. No one, least of all Christians, should endure this state-sanctioned barrier to faith. There should be a sign, clear and prominent, stating that all Christians are welcome to this holy place – free of charge. The toll has already been paid.

**Gerard Sweeney,  
Stonefield Avenue, Glasgow.**

## Why are all the cafes in Oban closed on a Sunday?

I visited Oban on Sunday August 12 and found it a very lovely town.



Fort William. This week's photograph is sent to us by Grant Campbell, who described it as 'a beautiful sunset taken from Carsaig Bay looking across to the island of Jura'.

However, I tried to have a coffee but, to my dismay, after trying 11 cafes not one was open.

Along with many tourists, I found this to be incredible. The town was full of visitors, many of whom I spoke to, and we were all of the same opinion: 'Won't be back again.'

Robert Gardiner,  
Glasgow.

## Disappointed by the amount of rubbish littering Oban

I frequently walk down the steps of Jacob's Ladder on my way from home to town and am often disappointed to see rubbish either lying around the two seats or thrown over the fence to hang up in the trees or fall to the back of the distillery below.

This is particularly disheartening to those volunteers who frequently clean up the area.

While walking down the steps last week I found a mess as bad as I've ever seen – plastic and glass bottles, beer cans, pizza boxes, fish supper boxes, cigarette ends, coffee cups, broken glass and all sorts of general rubbish including a leather bag full of dirty clothes.

One item of clothing has been hanging out of reach in a tree for many months.

I was told by a friend who witnessed young teenagers in action that they and a party of tourists decided not to take their children down the steps because of the drunken behaviour of these young people.

In addition to the litter, the two safety fences have recently been wrecked by the occupants of the benches kicking the fences down – one had to be completely replaced and the other repaired, although it has now been damaged again.

Nobody should have to put up with this sort of conduct, especially our visitors. Oban is no longer a Victorian working town, but a modern tourist destination depending to a great extent on visitor income. Many visitors use Jacob's Ladder to walk up to McCraig's Tower, though unfortunately there is plenty of rubbish there too.

I'm proud to be a resident of Oban, but have to admit that there are times when I find it quite difficult to feel that way. I would urge residents to report such activity to the authorities, who we know are keen to put an end to such anti-social behaviour.

We at Keep Oban Beautiful, and many other caring residents, do our best to clean up after the uncaring minority, but we would rather encourage people not to drop their rubbish in the first place. Anyone wishing to join us will be able to find more information on our Facebook page. Together we can make a difference.

Maurice Wilkins,  
Keep Oban Beautiful.

## Why do campervan drivers expect to park for nothing?

Responding to R M Dalrymple's letter (The Oban Times, August 9), why is it that campervan owners seem to expect to get everything for nothing? They want to park where they like and when they like at no cost and also empty their chemical toilets in public toilets that are not designed for chemical emptying.

Why do they refuse to pay for and use regulated campsites like other responsible caravan owners or campers? They should either pay up or shut up.

A Halley,  
by email.

## Who is responsible for removal of road signs?

We have been coming to Ardnamurchan for many years but this year something was missing.

Does anyone know why the boards acknowledging EU funding for improvements on the single-track road between Strontian and Kilchoan have been taken down, and by whom?

Puzzled – and disappointed.

Ian Gordon,

Carraig.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Bha carbadan sron earball eadar Inbhir Nis agus Drochaid an Eilean Sgitheanaich nuair a shiubhail sinn an iar air an t-seachdain seo chaidh, agus bu choma cò an taobh a ghluaiseadh tu sin mar a bha cuisean.

Trang da-riribh le luchd-turais, chun na h-ire gu dearbh is gum bheil maille mhòr ga chur air muinntir an àite gluasad air ceann an gnothaich. Fiù 's air tir-mòr bha na pàircean-chàraichean aig Caisteal Urchadain agus aig Eilean Donnain làn agus luchd-frithealaidh a' smèideadh air falbh an tuilleadh a dh'iaradh tadhail.

Fior dheagh naidheachd dhan fheadhainn a tha an sàs ann an gniomhachas aogheachd agus marsantachd san sgìre, ach mar a tha mi air a thogail iomadh uair roimhe an seo saoilidh mi gum bheil àireamhan luchd-tadhail an impis a bhith thar chomas nan goireasan a th' ann romhpa. Cha b' ann an dè a thòisich turasachd air Ghàidhealtachd agus tha e nise na phriomh ghnìomhachas agus a' cruthachadh chosnайдhean an ire mhath fad na bliadhna. Dh'fhàg sin stiùirichean Oiltigh na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean a' coimhead ri

cùrsaichean agus teisteanasan profeiseanta anns gach meang de thionnsgal an aogheachd ach am bi barrachd cothrom aig muinntir nan sgìrean seo fhèin air beò- shlàint à turasachd.

Sin cuideachd a dh'fhàg e do-chreidsinneach gum biodh Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' dùnadh goireasan mar taighean-beaga, seach a bhith a' leudachadh taic dhan gniomhachas.

'S e firinn na cùise gum bheil feum mòr air leithid sin de chosnaidhean làn-ùine le tuarastail dhòigheil gus daoine a ghleidheadh anns na sgìrean maiseach dùthchail a tha a' taladh an luchd-siubhail, agus tha feum cuideachd air àiti-chean-fuirich aig prísean air an ruig daoine òga gu sònraichte. Le uimhir de thaighean gan cleachdadh dha luchd-turais tha dìth dhachannan na thrioblaid bitheanta far am bheil turasachd làdir, agus tha seo gu h-àraid fior air na h-iomaill.

Feumaidh coimhearsnachd fhallain cothroman cosnàidh, taighean, agus goireasan dha sluagh òg, agus far am bheil dragh leis mar a tha sgìrean iomallach a' crionadh tha fhios gum bheil turasachd a' tabhann cothroman gus

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## WESTERN ISLES

Pupils in the Western Isles were celebrating their exam results last week.

Eilean Siar performed better than the national pass rate, with 83.39 per cent of students passing their National 5 exam.

The percentage of pupils achieving a Higher was 76.23, while 81.7 per cent passed their Advanced Highers.

Results will be reported to the Education and Children's Services Committee in September.

Any parents or pupils involved in this year's examinations, who have queries regarding the results, should contact their school directly.

Students can also contact the SDS National Exams Helpline on 0808 100 8000.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar appreciates the hard work of teaching staff and pupils and also thanks administrative staff in schools for their diligence in processing SQA data.

## LOCH LOMOND

New research has revealed the UK wild swimming spots that Britons have been flocking to in the recent heatwave – and Loch Lomond comes in at number five.

A total of 2,611 people aged 18 and over were polled in a survey about their outdoor pursuits during the heatwave. All respondents said they had been wild swimming at least once in the past month, while the nation has been experiencing higher than average temperatures for an extended period of time.

A total of 82 per cent of the respondents said they favoured wild swimming over pool swims, with 'more beautiful settings' (57 per cent), 'lack of chlorine' (23 per cent) and 'better workout/more demanding swim' (16 per cent) the top reasons listed.

## GIGHA

Gigha Primary School's pre-fives unit is up for a national award after parents nominated the nursery to receive an upgrade to its outdoor play area.

The nursery is up for the Play More Award, which aims to encourage more children to have fun outdoors.

Parents were asked to say why their local nursery deserved to win – and now the pre-fives unit is shortlisted to win either a playground regeneration grant or a mural designed by artist Joy Pirkle.

After receiving the nomination, one member

## Taynuilt panto needs you – oh yes it does!

Panto producers in Taynuilt need helpers and actors - oh yes they do!

Rehearsals for There Was An Old Woman start this month.

Taynuilt and District Dramatic Society (TADDS) hopes to get a production team together as soon as possible.

The panto will run for three-days starting on Thursday January 17 to pep up people's spirits after Christmas.

Lighting, costumes, props, make-up, music, choreography, set design and construction, sound, stage-hands and prompts are just some of the jobs up for grabs.

Anyone wanting a stage part from leading roles to the chorus and dancers are also being invited to get in touch – the minimum age is seven.

'We've had a reasonable response so far, but we still need



Emma Bubberman is sounding out Taynuilt on starting up two new community choirs.

more production crew and more actors of all ages – especially adults. Putting on a pantomime is great fun but is also a huge task because it has every element of the theatre you can imagine,' said Carol Thomson in charge of the 2019 panto with friend Vivienne Price.

The next show will mark three years since the last pantomime, usually it is every two years.

'The village loves it and looks forward to it, but it's also important to us as a dramatic society because it helps us get funding to take our plays to festivals,' added Ms Thomson.

In March this year, TAADS Junior Section performed a play devised and written by its cast called My Space, Our Place, inspired by 2018 being the Year of the Young Person.

Interested? Contact carolthomson0801@gmail.com or vivienne.struan@gmail.com

Villagers have also been invited to take part in a Facebook poll posted by Emma Bubberman on Taynuilt What's Happening.

Ms Bubberman is thinking of starting up two new community choirs without clashing with the already well-established Gaelic choir: 'I am looking at a choir, performing mostly a range of chart music from the 1960s up to today's hits. Depending on interest, I may also look to run a senior choir for those over 16 and a junior choir for those aged eight to 15,' said Ms Bubberman who has a performing arts background.

Originally from New Zealand, the mum-of-one who sang in musicals and streams her own music on Soundcloud, is about to put a second poll on Facebook to find out what days best suit for the choir sessions in the village hall. Ms Bubberman, who used to run Taynuilt school choir and works at Brander Lodge, said: 'Lots of people have been prodding me asking me to set up a choir, so now I'm doing it. There's big interest so that's great. It's just deciding what days to meet now.'

of staff from the nursery said: 'We provide the only spaces, activities and support for under-fives on our island. Many of our rurally isolated families in social housing have poor access to services. Our priority is to support families to improve physical, mental, emotional and social well-being through outdoor play and a nature/placed based childhood.'

Figures released by the Play More Campaign show current generations are spending less and less time playing outdoors. In a survey of 200 children, the campaign found that on average a British child only spends four hours a week playing outdoors.

Nine out of 10 children were also unable to recognise a butterfly and more than half of those surveyed had never climbed a tree.

The campaign has won the support of BBC Springwatch presenter Chris Packham, who said: 'I was fortunate when I was a child because I was encouraged to interact with the outdoors – looking under rocks and searching under logs and hedges to find creepy crawlies.

'If you just open your eyes, you'll see there is an incredible natural world out there waiting to be discovered.'

## OBAN



EckO's youngest orienteer tests out the new equipment as Bill Kersel of ABCD and EckO team members look on.

EckO orienteers (EckO) received a grant from Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) which has allowed the club to buy new equipment.

EckO updated its electronic SPORTident (SI) units and bought new fibreglass stakes.

EckO chairman Alan Partridge said: 'Our club is extremely grateful to ABCD for its generous grant towards the cost of new electronic equipment. Orienteering participants range from toddlers to those well over pensionable age and we are confident they all improve their cardiovascular health.'

ABCD trust member Bill Kersel said: 'Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease is pleased to support clubs in Argyll promoting an active and or sporting lifestyle.'

The next ABCD event is our sponsored walk on Sunday September 9. Information is on our website. Come along and support us so we can support more projects in Argyll.'

Loch Eck Orientees (EckO) welcomes newcomers of all ages and abilities to any of the events held throughout autumn, winter and spring.

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## INVERARAY

An Inveraray hotel has been given permission to install new signs, some of them illuminated.

The Inveraray Inn, which has 36 bedrooms, two bars and a restaurant, has been given the go-ahead by Argyll and Bute Council to install eight new signs.

Owners cited the importance of passing trade to the hotel's business as a key reason for their application.

A supporting statement said: 'The owners are aware visitors arriving from the north via the Dalmally road pass by the hotel without registering the amenities the hotel offers. To address this issue, a single sign is proposed.' The other seven signs will be used to point out parking to the side of the building, which is owned by the hotel and to ensure these spaces are preserved for use by hotel patrons.

## ISLAY

Islay lifeboat was contacted by Belfast Coastguard shortly after midnight on Wednesday August 9 to investigate a fishing vessel that appeared to be drifting two miles off Ardmore Point.

A passing coaster had noticed the boat and, when it was unable to get a response on the radio and could not see anyone on deck or in the wheelhouse, it contacted the Coastguard.

Belfast Coastguard could not get a response either so Islay lifeboat was asked to investigate. On arrival at the scene, coxswain David MacLellan radioed them again and this time they responded, the skipper reassuring the lifeboat everything was okay.

The Helmut Schroder of Dunlossit II returned to Port Askaig and was ready for service again at 3am.



Elisabeth Stevenson and Helen Ireland with the young artists.

## Art explorers at The Rockfield Centre

An innovative art camp for primary school children was held over two weeks at The Rockfield Centre.

Led by teachers Elisabeth Stevenson and Helen Ireland, it gave youngsters the chance to be creative using different art media and techniques – from paper to canvas and fabric.

Art Camp was a pilot programme for Elisabeth and Helen as they launch Art Explorers Oban.

Elisabeth explained: 'We wanted to do something that provides active learning time for children to explore art, play with different materials and experiment.'

'We have all enjoyed it and the children have been fantastic artists, so we are looking forward to developing after school clubs and mini-holiday camps.'

Kirsty Blainey, whose children attended said: 'This has been a brilliant project. My girls have absolutely loved it.'

## Youngsters enjoy Loch Etive tour

A group of young people enjoyed a tour of Loch Etive with fish farm company Dawnfresh.

The group was enjoying a five-day camping adventure at Glen Etive, organised by Venture Scotland.

Dawnfresh invited the youngsters to its fish farm and explored the loch by boat which allowed them to view fish pens and learn about work on the site.

Venture Scotland aims to give young people aged 16 to 30 the chance to learn skills, improve their lives and get into work. The scheme helps young people build their self-confidence

in a supportive outdoor environment. Martin Collins, site manager at Dawnfresh, who led the tour, said: 'We took the group out on our boat and explained the work we do on the loch.'

'Activities like this are rewarding as it gives us the chance to share our knowledge with young people who are keen to learn.'

'We really enjoyed taking the group on a tour of the site.'

'The work Venture Scotland does gives young people the chance to develop new skills while experiencing the outdoors which we at Dawnfresh believe is important.'



Dawnfresh took the Venture Scotland group on a tour of Loch Etive.

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# OUTDOORS

## Game sector vital to economy, says Ewing

During a visit to the annual Moy Game Fair, Rural Secretary Fergus Ewing was keen to meet stakeholders from the game sector and country sports industry to hear how their businesses are contributing to local economies and working with others to support environmental management.

The game sector and country sports support around 4,400 full-time equivalent jobs in rural Scotland, making a significant contribution to the rural economy.

However, as industries responsible for large areas of land, they also have a significant role to play in working with others to support sustainable environmental management.

Mr Ewing said: 'The rural economy is dependent on sustainable land management by responsible land owners and managers in a way that ensures the quality and variety of stock remains high, costs remain low and the right balance is struck between conservation and rural access.'

'Analysis shows the direct gross value added attributable to country sports is estimated to total £50 million, while the game industry is a major part of our vibrant food and drink sector.'

'Ultimately, it is everyone's responsibility to ensure our natural assets are protected and enhanced.'

'Most people and businesses involved in Scotland's country sports industry are playing their part in this, which is something we should be rightly proud of, and the contribution made to Scotland's rural economy more widely celebrated. As Rural Economy Secretary, I'm always keen to take the opportunity to meet representatives from that sector, to hear first-hand how the industry is faring and how all parts of rural Scotland can contribute to making a vibrant rural economy.'

# Watchers have a whale of a time

by Douglas Matheson  
[editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

A record number of whales and dolphins have been spotted across the UK this summer, with warmer waters and clearing skies leading to sightings of an 'unprecedented' number of species.

The annual UK National Whale and Dolphin Watch has reported more than 500 sightings by volunteers since the start of the event on July 28.

Around Scotland, keen-eyed observers have seen a host of different species, including killer whales swimming around the Outer Hebrides and a humpback whale performing a barrel roll near Torry Battery in Aberdeen.

The event was run by environmental research charity Sea Watch Foundation and organiser Chiara Giulia Bertulli called it the 'best whale and dolphin watch of the past two decades' after records showed sightings were up 50 per cent on last year's figures.

In the past few years, Scotland has led the way in the UK for whale and dolphin viewing and this summer volunteers fought patches of bad weather and poor visibility to report sightings across the country's coasts.

Dr Giulia said: 'On the west coast, harbour porpoises were seen at widespread locations and were the most sighted species in Scotland. The second most commonly seen was the minke whale, also widespread but recorded particularly around the Inner and Outer Hebrides.'

'Common dolphins have been observed around the isles of Skye, Lewis and off Lochinver and Peterburn. And, most excitingly, a fin whale and a pod of five long-finned pilot whales were spotted in deep waters near the Outer Hebridean island of North Rona last week.'

'We are seeing a general longer-term trend for warm water species to be extending their range further north – species like the short-



This minke whale was photographed from the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust vessel Silurian and the dolphin, left, was spotted off Mull.

added Dr Peter Evans, director of the Sea Watch Foundation.

'Although new species of cetaceans have been added recently to the British list of mammals, there are more northern species that we could lose from our region – species like Atlantic white-sided dolphin and white-beaked dolphin. The problem with tropical and warm temperate species entering our seas is that they face a much wider range of human pressures along the industrialised coastlines of northern Europe.'

To report a sighting, or to find out more about the Whale and Dolphin Watch 2018, go to [www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk](http://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk).

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Eco lodges opened recently as part of the new Loch Katrine Eco Camp in the national park.

## Drive begins to provide more glamping in national park

by Martin Laing  
[mlaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mlaing@obantimes.co.uk)

This year's prolonged spell of good summer weather has contributed to a bumper tourism season in and around Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park but has highlighted a shortage of certain types of accommodation.

One sector where demand is outstripping availability is glamping, which enables visitors to get close to nature and enjoy the national park at its best.

To address this shortage, Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, the independent conservation and heritage charity for the national park, is launching an initiative as part of a wider eco-tourism project to encourage new or existing businesses to invest in glamping.

Glamping is rapidly growing in

popularity with more and more visitors wanting to get back to nature and enjoy authentic experiences staying in unusual or unique, but comfortable, accommodation.

The Friends, with support from Scottish Enterprise, will host two glamping business workshops on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 4 and 5, in Balloch and Callander.

The seminars will run from 10am to 2pm.

Led by renowned glamping expert Kate Morel, the workshops are for any individual or business considering setting up a small to medium-sized glamping business.

James Fraser, chairman of the Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, said: 'These seminars are designed to provide practical insights into the glamping industry and to help encourage the

development of more glamping in the national park, building on the runaway success of recent local glamping businesses we plan to feature as case studies.

'This is one of the most exciting and fastest growing sectors of the tourism industry at the present time as visitors seek out more unique and rustic holiday experiences and, given the special scenic and natural heritage qualities of the national park, there is great potential for new start-up businesses or existing businesses to capitalise on this growth by developing much sought after glamping.'

One-to-one surgeries are also available as part of the new glamping initiative.

For further details of the seminars and surgeries, and to book places, email [jared.bowers@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:jared.bowers@lochlomond-trossachs.org) or see [www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk](http://www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk)

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OT

# Be vigilant over dumped needles, warns councillors

Continued from page one



Councillor Jim Lynch.

comes across used needles to contact environmental health at Argyll and Bute Council immediately.'

Jane MacLeod, from MacLeod Construction, told The Oban Times: 'The site is secure but, with the best will in the world, if people are going to throw bags in, they're going to throw them in.'

Inspector Mark Stephen of Oban police said whoever dumped the bags was likely to be leading a chaotic lifestyle.

'There's no excuse to dump the needles like rubbish. It was done with utter disregard for the safety of others,' he said.

Tackling drugs is flagged up by the community as an ongoing policing priority, added Inspector Stephen.

Police are working not only to prevent supplies coming into Oban but also to work with partner agencies, helping users turn their lives around.

'My job is to make sure we

Drugs awareness workshops are going in to schools to warn young people of dangers.

And Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership says its trained staff are carrying out 'a considerable amount of work in the Oban area' in partnership with both the Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) and the Health and Wellbeing Network (HWN).

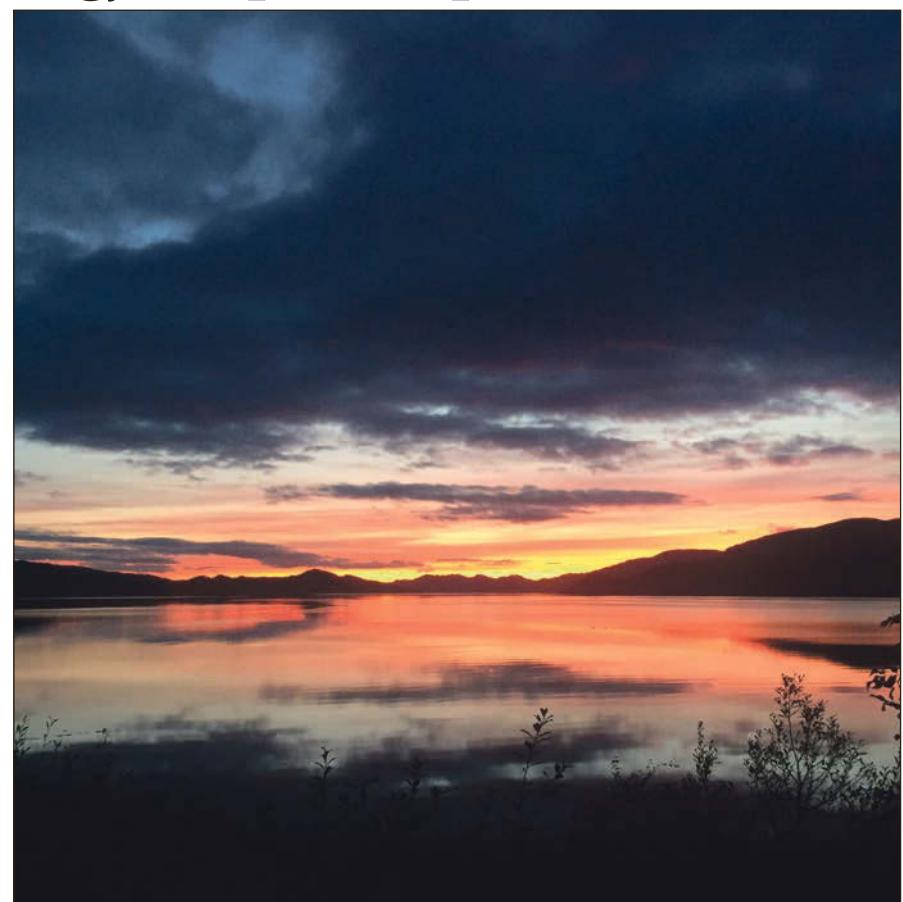
Services being provided include opiate replacement therapy, blood-borne virus testing and wound care advice.

A needle exchange is at the Market Street Centre or Boots Pharmacy.

Anyone finding a discarded syringe or needle in a public place should not pick it up but should alert Argyll and Bute Council's roads and amenities department on 01546 605522.

People worried about their own or someone else's drug use can get help at [argyllandbuteadp.info](http://argyllandbuteadp.info)

## Argyll is picture perfect



**Karen Gordon sent in this fantastic sunset for our #myargyll competition. We were inundated with your photographs and over the coming weeks look out for more from our readers.**



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H2SJP29479 07/18

## OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 30 September 2018. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve whisky.**

# WIN

**AN OVERNIGHT STAY IN A LUXURY TWO BEDROOMED APARTMENT AT THE RUTLAND HOTEL IN EDINBURGH WITH DINNER FOR FOUR IN AWARD-WINNING KYLOE RESTAURANT**



Kyloe's menu hosts a selection of traditional, adventurous and exciting cuts of beef chosen for their texture and flavour.

The restaurant has recently introduced a dry aged to experiment with flavour and cuts, making the Kyloe experience even more exclusive.

Steaks are complemented by a robust à la carte

menu which features Scottish seasonal produce, responsibly sourced and simply prepared to create a series of compelling dishes.

The unique and interesting wine list has been sourced through numerous wine merchants and features Kyloe's signature wine 'Angus the Bull', a South Australian Cabernet Sauvignon which is perfect with steak.

**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:  
What has Kyloe introduced to the restaurant in order to make it's experience even more exclusive?**

**Prize to be booked in advance. Bookings will be accepted subject to availability.  
Must be redeemed within one year of winning. Prize must be redeemed in one transaction and cannot be split.  
Available for four guest sharing one apartment.**

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, 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. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition - your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words 'OPT IN' on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card, you will be opting in for every competition running. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Wyvern Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 3 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.

# EDUCATION WEST SCOTLAND



The Oban Times

LOCHABER TIMES

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argyllshire  
**advertiser**

Incorporating Campbeltown Courier

# Your future is in your hands

So grab it with both of them and make sure you have the best possible outcome

By now everyone – from your granny to next door's cat – will know how well you did when the exam results came out on August 7 and there might be a few wee anxious moments here and there if you didn't.

Don't worry, everyone is on your side, come what may, to make sure you get the best possible outcome – no matter what.

This year, across Scotland, there were 147,000 Higher passes with a pass rate of 76.8 per cent, a slight drop compared with 77.0 per cent last year.

There was a record number of entries for Advanced Higher (24,331) since changes to the qualification were made in the 2015-16 academic year; with attainment rates remaining high at 80.5 per cent.

UCAS, Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, says 23.3 per cent of all 18-year-olds in Scotland will be starting university this year – a record high with a five per cent increase in students from outside the EU being accepted to study in Scotland.



**Joanna Murphy:** 'It's not just about exam results'.

Joanna Murphy who chairs the National Parent Forum of Scotland said: 'Each year at this time I remind parents that it's not just about exam results. We must recognise and celebrate the breadth of young people's achievements today and every day.'

'Our young people need to feel supported on their journey to the next stage, exploring the many pathways, in education or elsewhere, that are available.'

'The days before the exam results are revealed can be very stressful for young people and their parents. Now they have arrived, take time to reflect on the best course of action, considering all options carefully.'

'There are plenty of helpful resources available for parents and their children. Have a look on our website for helpful links [www.parentforumscotland.org.uk](http://www.parentforumscotland.org.uk). Speaking from experience, I know that the Skills Development Scotland Exam Results Helpline offers young people and their parents and carers the chance to talk to someone who is impartial, which helps you to step back and take stock at what can be a stressful time.'

'If your results weren't as expected, or you just want to talk over your choices, SDS advisers can talk you through the wide range of options available to you and reminds young people no matter what results they achieve, there is always a way forward.'

The following pages are packed full of information to make the transition to college or into a career easier with loads of advice from some of the best institutions and organisations around.

## DEVELOP YOUR BUSINESS SKILLS with our wide range of workshops

### PRACTICAL BASIC BOOK-KEEPING

Book-keeping is a core business skill. Learn how to keep accurate financial records, understand the key components of book-keeping, produce a bank reconciliation and understand VAT.

**Tue. 21 Aug 2018, 1300-1600hrs, Lochgilphead**

### ENHANCE YOUR BUSINESS WITH DIGITAL

Are you worried that you're not using digital platforms to enhance your business? Come along to this workshop and find out if your worries are justified and discover the opportunities and risks of using or not using digital.

**Fri. 31 Aug 2018, 1300-1600hrs, Lochgilphead**

### MARKETING YOUR BUSINESS

Learn how you can improve your marketing and review the impact of your current marketing. Set some realistic goals and create a clear plan to achieve them using the right marketing mix for your business.

**Fri. 31 Aug 2018, 1000-1600hrs, Lochgilphead**

### SEPTEMBER WORKSHOPS....

#### BUSINESS START-UP

Wed. 12 and Thu. 13 Sept, Lochgilphead

#### INTRODUCTION TO ONLINE TRADING AND MARKETPLACES

Fri. 14 Sept 2018, Lochgilphead

#### ENHANCE YOUR BUSINESS WITH DIGITAL

Thu. 27 Sept 2018, Oban

To book a place on a workshop contact the Business Gateway team. Call **01546 604030** or email [bg@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:bg@argyll-bute.gov.uk)



## We'll help you get a digital advantage

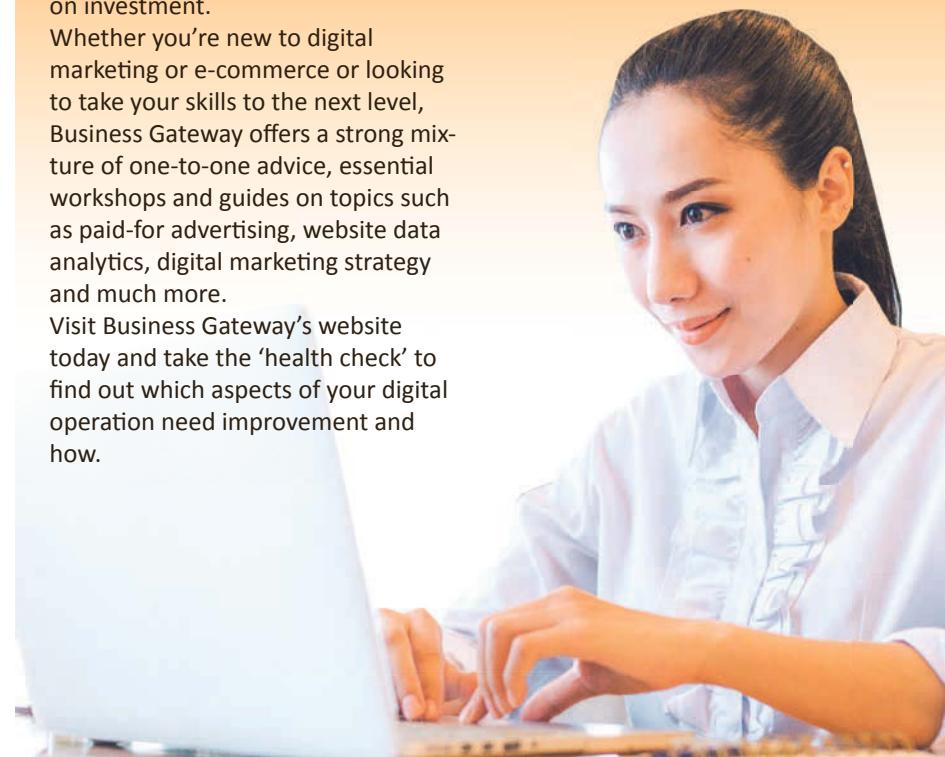
Having a sound understanding of how digital can work for your business is key to staying competitive. Adopting digital methods of work can be a highly efficient and cost-effective way of communicating your message, engaging with existing and potential customers, and beefing up your return on investment.

Whether you're new to digital marketing or e-commerce or looking to take your skills to the next level, Business Gateway offers a strong mixture of one-to-one advice, essential workshops and guides on topics such as paid-for advertising, website data analytics, digital marketing strategy and much more.

Visit Business Gateway's website today and take the 'health check' to find out which aspects of your digital operation need improvement and how.

Business Gateway can give you a digital MOT by asking a few simple questions, and then show you which of the free resources will be most useful.

<https://www.bgateway.com/driving-growth/digitalboostworkshops> programmes



# A good year for results

A snapshot of the results for Argyll and Bute Council shows that every child who sat National 3 and 4 exams in 2018 passed, while 81.9 per cent of pupils sitting Advanced Highers achieved a pass, up 4.92 per cent on 2017, showing that overall attainment is rising.

National 5 pass results decreased slightly by 1.24 per cent, to 79.86 per cent; but there was a rise in the number of Higher pupils passing their exams – 78.79 per cent, up 2.9 per cent on last year.

And figures from the SQA also show that Argyll and Bute's 2018 pass rate is better than the national average for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams.

Councillor Yvonne McNeilly, lead councillor for education said: 'Pupils and teachers can be proud of their efforts, with their success reflected in the results. I would like to pass on my congratulations to them all and to thank them for all of their hard work.'

## All that hard work by pupils across the West Highlands and islands has paid off

We are determined to do everything we can to ensure that our young people are given every chance to achieve success in their lives.

'For those pupils who maybe didn't get the exam results they hoped for, it's important to remember that help is on hand. They should contact their school for support and advice.'

At The Highland Council, in S4, the percentage of pupils who achieved five-plus qualifications at National 5 grades A to D has increased by 1.5 per cent from last year. The percentage of pupils who achieved five qualifications at National 4 has

decreased by less than one per cent.

In S5, 13 per cent of pupils achieved five Highers in grades A to C, 29 per cent of pupils achieved three Highers in grades A to C and 49 per cent of pupils achieved one Higher in grades A to C.

In S6, 527 pupils achieved grades A to D in Advanced Higher qualification. This is an increase of two per cent on last year.

Sixty-six pupils achieved five Highers qualifications at grade A. Councillor Andrew Baxter, who chairs The Highland Council's care, learning and housing com-



Councillor Andrew Baxter:  
'Congratulations to them all.'



Councillor Yvonne McNeilly:  
'Pupils can be proud.'

mittee, said: 'I am pleased that the hard work of the students, their families and teachers has delivered positive results for the Highlands. Congratulations to them all.'

Percentages in Eilean Siar achieving National 5 are higher than the national figure; 83.39 per cent achieved National 5, whereas the national pass rate was 77.40 per cent. This also represents an improvement of one per cent in pass rates in Eilean Siar compared to 2017. Passes at Higher are in line with the national pass rate. 76.23 per cent in Eilean Siar achieved an A-C pass.

Advanced Higher (SCQF level 7) results show percentage passes in Eilean Siar have increased by 5.5 per cent compared to 2017. The Eilean Siar pass rate of 81.7 per cent is higher than the national pass rate of 80.5 per cent.

Figures do not include attainment in vocational courses.

National data published in March 2018, indicates that 35.1 per cent of learners in Eilean Siar achieved one or more vocational qualifications at SCQF level 5 or above, representing the highest level in Scotland.

This represents an increase of 3.9 per cent over the previous year.

Argyll and Bute Council Training Centre offers a range of high-quality training courses and SVQ qualifications to meet your training needs throughout Argyll and Bute. As a SAAS (Scottish Awards Agency Scotland) registered centre, there may also be opportunities to self-fund a qualification.

For information or to book at of our training please contact us on 01546 604455 or [trainingcentre@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:trainingcentre@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

### First Aid

Argyll and Bute Council Training Centre offers a range of first aid courses, delivered across Argyll and Bute to meet your training requirements. Our high-quality training can be offered to individuals or groups of staff, with group booking discounts available.



First Aid at work (3 day)

Emergency First Aid at work (1 day)

Paediatric First Aid (2 day)

\* If travel is required there will be an additional cost.

Our competitive rates ensure you are getting best value high-quality training within Argyll and Bute. Prices for the below courses are £800 for 12 delegates or £70 per person (per day) \*.



### SVQS

Argyll and Bute Council Training Centre offers a range of SVQ qualifications to meet your staff needs. Our centre regularly receives high-quality standard reports from SQA so you can be sure that we will deliver high-quality learning.

We currently offer:

- Social Services and Health Care at SCQF Level 6, 7 and 9*
- Social Services (Children and Young People) at SCQF Level 6,7 and 9*

- Leadership and Management for Care Services at SCQF Level 10*
- Business and Administration at SCQF Level 5 and 6*
- PDA Health and Social Care: Administration of Medication at SCQF Level 7*
- PDA Telehealth care at SCQF Level 7*
- Assess Workplace Competence Using Direct and Indirect Methods (L&D9DI )*
- Internally Monitor and Maintain the Quality of Workplace Assessment (L&D11)*

### Modern Apprenticeship Training

Thinking of employing a Modern Apprentice? Your training provider could be based within Argyll.

Argyll and Bute Council Training Centre has a contract to deliver modern apprenticeship training in Business and Administration, Social Services and Health Care and Social Services (Children and Young People)

Contact us to find out how we could support your workforce for the future.

### Foundation Apprenticeships—Early Learning and Childcare

Argyll and Bute Council Training Centre, in collaboration with Argyll and Bute Council Education Team, is able to offer young people the opportunity to undertake a qualification while gaining hands-on work experience within the Early Learning and Childcare sector while still in school. This course takes school pupils out of the classroom and into the work environment so they are gaining experience as well as an industry recognised qualification. Please contact us to find out more, [trainingcentre@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:trainingcentre@argyll-bute.gov.uk)



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LearnGaelic.Scot is the first stop for everyone interested in learning Scottish Gaelic. Whatever stage you are at LearnGaelic.Scot has all the help you need on your Gaelic-learning journey.

On LearnGaelic.Scot you will find information on courses which are run throughout Scotland and further afield; a comprehensive dictionary and thesaurus that are suitable for anyone interested in Gaelic, and a range of resources suitable for learners at every level.

A bheil sibh airson Gàidhlig ionnsachadh? Thig gu LearnGaelic. Scot!

Tha LearnGaelic.Scot ann airson a h-uile duine a tha airson Gàidhlig na h-Alba ionnsachadh. Chan eil e gu diofar dè an ìre aig a bheil thu leis a' chànan no dè an aois a tha thu – tha LearnGaelic.Scot ann dhut!

Air LearnGaelic.Scot gheibh sibh am pailteas de dh'fhirosachadh mu chùrsaichean, mu ghràmar agus mu fhaclan agus taic do luchd-ionnsachaidh aig gach ìre.



# It's the right time to be studying Gaelic

## The five-year National Gaelic Language Plan will increase demand – so be part of it

In the spring of this year the Scottish Parliament launched the new National Gaelic Language Plan, which covers the next five years, to help Gaelic grow.

The plan aims to get people using the language more often and increase the number of learners and its everyday use.

This is good news for all students wanting to pursue Gaelic courses: you are going to be in great demand once you qualify. Vacancies for Gaelic-speakers are growing through government and local authority jobs, NGOs and the entertainment and creative sector are major

employers and earners both at home and overseas.

It is calculated that more than £150million a year comes into the Scottish economy thanks to the Gaelic language – and that means a significant number of jobs, especially here in the Gàidhealtachd, the heartland of the language in the Highlands and Islands.

Allan MacDonald, who chairs Bòrd na Gàidhlig, which compiled the report, said: 'The opportunities for Gaelic to contribute to Scotland's economic growth through business, education, publishing, arts, literature, drama, media and

music will be pursued. This includes developing Gaelic medium workforce recruitment, retention, training and supply increasing the demand and provision for Gaelic education.' Gaelic, or an awareness of the language and culture, is often seen as a valued asset in an employees' CV in many tourism and hospitality jobs in the Highlands.

Research by Highlands and Island Enterprise shows that employment in the creative industries, heritage, tourism and food and drink sectors, as well as the more obvious sectors like education are all positively influenced by Gaelic.

'Considerable opportunities are arising from the language's potential contribution in helping to drive economic growth in the region,' said Charlotte Wright, chief executive officer of HIE.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's chief officer, the musician Arthur



Cormack agrees that the arts are also important in terms of Gaelic's economic impact with many people earning a living through the creative industries. 'The arts raise awareness of the language and give some people confidence to learn Gaelic,' he added.

**Allan MacDonald, who chairs Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, launching the National Gaelic Language Plan.**



## Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

**Cùrsaichean Ceuma aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig – Fosgailte airson iarrtasan!**  
‘S e Sabhal Mòr Ostaig an aon cholais ann an Alba far am faodar cùrsaichean ceuma a dhèanamh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig air fad. Tha a’ Cholaisista na com-pàirtiche ann an Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean agus ‘s i a tha a’ treòrachadh càich ann an Sgeama Gàidhlig is Cuspairean Co-cheangailte. Tha na cùrsaichean fo-cheum againn a’ ceangal a’ chànan le caochladh chuspairean a leithid ceòl traidiseanta, na meadhanan agus teagasc. Tha seo a’ toirt measgachadh de sgilean is cothroman do ar ceumnaichean, a leithid a’ Ghreis Ghniomhachais air a’ chiad bhliadhna agus an cothrom a dhol air iomlaid a Chanada no a dh’Éirinn sa bhliadhna urraim. Airson barrachd fiosra-chaidh air na cùrsaichean fo-cheum dha fileantaich



is luchd-ionnsachaидh na Gàidhlig, no airson iarrtas a chuir thugainn airson ro-shealladh, rach chun an làrach-lin againn aig www.smo.uhi.ac.uk no cuir post-d gu iarrtas@smo.uhi.ac.uk no fòn 01471 888304.

**Undergraduate courses at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig – Accepting applications for September 2018**

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig’s unique degree courses are the only degrees in Scotland taught entirely through the medium of Gaelic. The college is an academic partner within the University of the Highlands and Islands and is a lead partner for the Gaelic and Related Studies

Degree Scheme. Our degree courses combine the language with a choice of subjects, including traditional music, media studies and teacher training, giving our graduates a diverse range of skills and opportunities, including the college’s work placement scheme and the chance to study in Canada or Ireland in your final honours year. For more information about the range of undergraduate courses available for fluent speakers and learners of Gaelic or if you wish to request a prospectus, please e-mail iarrtas@smo.uhi.ac.uk, phone 01471 888304 or visit our website: www.smo.uhi.ac.uk

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# Why learn a foreign language?

## Everyone else speaks English, don't they?

No language has been spoken by so many people. It has been calculated that 400 million people speak English; it is a second language for a billion more and 60 or so countries use it as their official language with many others using it unofficially. The internet, trade, diplomacy, science and aviation use it globally.

That is no reason to be lazy. There are so many benefits if you have other languages at your command. Studying another language helps in so many ways:

- Boosts your brain power
- Improves your listening skills and memory
- Increases your vocabulary in your native language
- Expands your analytical skills
- Is proven to raise grades in maths and English
- Expands your world view

- Teaches you more about a country's culture
- Makes international travel easier
- Employers are crying out for bi-lingual staff
- Improves prospects with overseas employers



**Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world'**

– Nelson Mandela

**Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.**

- Kofi Annan

**Keep working hard, because it's going to be so important now to be educated and focused. Because no one can ever take your education from you.**

- Michelle Obama

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## THE TESOL COLLEGE

### Teach English and Travel Overseas

What is TESOL? TESOL is teaching English to speakers of other languages. TEFL is another term used, teaching English as a foreign language, essentially the same as TESOL.

Do you need to speak Vietnamese to teach English in Vietnam, Chinese to teach English in China and so on? Well, you will pick some of the language up if you live and teach there but no, English can be taught with care using English. It is this care, teaching knowledge and skills you will acquire with us to make you an effective teacher. We will give you confidence in English grammar, classroom techniques, teaching methodologies, lesson planning and everything else you will need.



We are a partner school of London Teacher Training College. Take their Diploma in TESOL Level 7 with us. Our course is a perfect blend of convenient online and classroom study. Your tutor for the classroom work in Oban is Dr Alan Richardson, Head of THE TESOL COLLEGE and Academic Director at British Education Centre, Singapore, our teacher training partner in Asia. Alan has long experience in Asia of teaching English to students from China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, India, Korea, Vietnam, Japan, Thailand, the Philippines and other countries, also of training new teachers of English with this Diploma for working globally.

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# Oban as a University Town



Image: Argyll College UHI

Think of Oban, and what springs to mind? Perhaps it's the seafood, ferry links to the islands, or a tourist hot-spot.

But what about a University Town?

2017-2018 figures showed that students made up as much as 10 per cent of the Oban population, so it is fair to say that Oban is already a University Town. A significant proportion of these students were registered with the University of the Highlands and Islands, studying at Argyll College UHI or SAMS UHI. Additionally, Ballet West offer degree courses accredited by The Open University, and there are students based at the hospital, in surgeries, at SAMS and other organisations in and around Oban who are registered at other universities. It is also important to consider the hundreds of pupils in their final years at Oban High School, who may become the next generation of employees for the region. Conservative estimates suggest that there are likely 1,000 students in Oban already once all of these are factored in.

The 'Oban: A University Town' project was launched in spring 2018 by a partnership of 10 established organisations. The project is focused on developing the distinctive assets of the town and business needs/employment opportunities in the area. It aims to provide an outstanding experience for students and staff in terms of teaching, practical work, enterprise, leisure and culture activities and community engagement.

The project currently explores how to develop the training opportunities and academic offers available, so that they match the economic priorities and employer needs in the area. We are also reviewing the infrastructure requirements including accommodation and transport; the social and cultural scene in Oban; and of course, working to ensure that the local community and businesses are engaged in the initiative.

It is well documented that we face serious challenges throughout Argyll and Bute regarding population numbers and demographics, in particular we are short of skilled working-age people. By creating a University Town in Oban, we are working to counter this shift and encourage more young people to stay here after school, or to move to the region and, importantly, to stay and develop a career here when their studies are complete.



## Obanite climbs to success

Kirsty Pallas is a fantastic example of how a young person in Oban can progress through their training and develop a career that they love, without having to leave the area. Kirsty did her work experience at Kilbowie Outdoor Centre, when she realised there could be a career opportunity in outdoor education, as well as being a hobby she was passionate about.

"Starting with work experience locally with Kilbowie made me realise that not only was outdoor instructing a great job choice, but also how suited Oban was to developing my career. With mountains, rivers and sea all within less than an hour's reach, it's the perfect location for me to work."

She then completed a Modern Apprenticeship with Stramash and got her SVQ Level 3 in Outdoor Education through Glencoe Outdoor Centre.

After working as a freelance instructor for a while, Kirsty got a full-time job with Hebridean Pursuits in Oban as an outdoor instructor. While there, she provided administrative support and had the enviable job of taking people out coasteering, canyoning, climbing, hill walking and on team activities.

To top it off, Kirsty is now also a tutor for the Outdoor Adventure Sports course being delivered by Argyll College UHI in Oban, so she really has come full circle without ever having to leave Oban!



Image:  
Kirsty  
Pallas

*"Being employed by a local company has given me so many opportunities to develop in my different sports and work through my qualifications. From working with local kids in the summer to directing week long residencies for young people from across the UK to tutoring college students in a variety of activities to help them start on their journeys to becoming instructors."*

Kirsty's career story thus far shows how a young person in Oban can undertake training, work with a local business and then end up delivering training to future generations of employees, something which we hope to see happening more and more in future!

**Get involved For more information about the project and to get involved,  
see [www.obanunitown.org](http://www.obanunitown.org) – We look forward to hearing from you!**



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# Argyll College UHI - Think Again



You may think you have a good idea of what Argyll College is and what we have on offer, but did you know that in the past five years we've introduced more than 45 new qualifications and as a student at Argyll College UHI you'll be able to study in a convenient location, get recognised qualifications and improve your chances of getting your career on the right track.

If you love life in Argyll but think you're going to have to move away to get the qualifications you need – think again. Whether you want to get those Highers you missed out on at school, take your first steps into Higher Education, or retrain for a whole new career, we can help you achieve your goals.

If you want to get back into education, our brand new Access to Business, Administration and Computing is an ideal entry route to a number of HNC programmes and will allow you to get to grips with full time study, perfect for those contemplating a career change, or for students who've been away from education for a while. The course is available in any Argyll College centre and successful students are guaranteed an interview for HNC programmes.

Our Maritime Skills course is available in Oban, Lochgilphead and Helens-

burgh and combines SQA and RYA / MCA certification so you'll receive a comprehensive introduction to the maritime industries, as well as gaining internationally recognised certificates. The combination of shore-based studies and practical activities afloat will give you an insight into workings of the maritime industries, including commercial sea fishing, the Royal Navy, the Merchant Navy, Maritime Search and Rescue, marine leisure/sailing, aquaculture, or ports and harbour industries.

If the outdoors are not for you, our HNC Applied Sciences course will provide you with a broad base in general science, with topics, including biology, chemistry, genetics, ecology, ecosystems and microbiology. The classroom element is delivered at Argyll College UHI's Oban centre, with practical elements carried out at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) UHI base in Dunbeg.

Tutor Sophie Hall said the SAMS UHI link means not only that students have world class science facilities at their disposal, but also that they get a valuable taste of what University life is like.

"This is the perfect course for anyone who is interested in science but not sure what particular area they might like to concentrate on in terms of further study



or employment," Sophie said.

"It gives a broad grounding in all the basic elements, plus students can choose from a range of other units depending on their individual interests."

With the Scottish Government plans to nearly double the availability of funded childcare places by 2020, the sector is set to see a corresponding increase in demand for qualified childcare workers so there's never been a better time to enter the profession. Argyll College UHI offers five levels of courses in Childcare, ranging from SVQs in Social Service

Children and Young People, Introduction to Childhood Studies, right up to BA (Hons) in Childhood Practice or BA (Hons) in Child and Youth Studies, and most of these are available across all college centres.

Of course, as a partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands we also give you access to more than 50 degree and post-graduate programmes, all available to study at your local learning centre.

So if you think you know what we do, you might want to think again.

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"I chose to study at SAMS because I never saw myself with an office job. This degree balances theory with practical skills from the start so you never miss out on the action! I'm learning so much with every project and I'm so lucky to be in such a beautiful location. I've had so many opportunities so far and I can't wait to see what's in store for my future..."  
- Ruth Paterson

Final year student survey 2017 and 2018\*



# Study marine science – there's so much still to discover



Images of entire towns submerged in floodwater, Arctic sea ice habitats melting away and sea creatures tangled in plastic waste have created an urgent demand for more information about our oceans.

Some of the people tasked with providing these answers live locally and work and study at SAMS, where today's students can become tomorrow's leading ocean investigators.

It is no exaggeration to say that more is known about space than our own ocean and that is one reason Jamie Rodgers decided to venture into marine science.

The 23-year-old from Aberdeenshire has a five-year affiliation with SAMS UHI; he graduated with a BSc Hons in Marine Science and this year started a PhD at the Dunstaffnage institute.

"After school I knew I wanted to study marine science," said Jamie. "I really enjoyed science, particularly physics, and I had a particular interest in the Arctic, which is undergoing huge changes."



"Marine science research is at a really interesting stage. There are still lots of key elements to discover and we now have many of the tools we need to make these discoveries. There's something pioneering about marine science, as there's so much we don't know.

"I started looking at marine science degrees but a lot of the courses were heavily focused on marine biology. The SAMS UHI course was the only one I found that offered a more general marine science option. There is marine biology, of course, but the variety of topics here is so diverse. In the end it was the only place I applied to."

During his four years as an undergraduate, Jamie

experienced a range of fieldwork at sea and by the shore, and studied in the Arctic at the

**Current undergraduate student, Lea Riehn, from Germany, said: "SAMS is a wonderful small place to study, where the lecturers' office doors are always open. Throughout the years we've been given the opportunity to do lots of field work and time in the lab. I'm about to study in the Arctic for a semester which is one of the reasons I applied at SAMS in the first place. I've never regretted my decision to come to SAMS and would recommend it to anyone interested in science and the sea."**



Jamie Rodgers, who is currently studying a PhD with SAMS UHI

University in Svalbard (UNIS) for a year.

A keen sailor, he became a member of the university's Wind and Wave Club and in pursuing his passion for the outdoors, soon found like-minded adventurers among the close-knit student community.

Jamie explained: "Because the student numbers here are relatively low, there is much more interaction between the students and lecturers, compared with other universities. There is more of a connection between staff and students and between undergraduate and postgraduate."

As part of his PhD, Jamie will investigate how the mixing of warm and cold Arctic water affects the melting sea ice in the region. His studies have already taken him on a research ship to the Barents Sea.

"My interest in environmental issues was a massive part of coming to SAMS UHI and I'd like to think I have a more educated and nuanced view of these issues now," he said. "Global warming and climate change are such huge topics, so I'm now just trying to play my part in finding out more about a particular aspect of that change. There's a lot still to do, but I'm thoroughly enjoying it!"



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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Bookends festival makes a Transatlantic connection

by Kathie Griffiths  
kg Griffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Benderloch's Bookends Festival is extending a trans-atlantic hand of friendship to a twin literary event 2,524 miles away.

A group of Bookends ambassadors hope to take a reading blanket they have decorated in festival goers' handprints to Read By The Sea – another festival run by a rural north shore community in Nova Scotia.

River John shares names near it such as Dalmally, taken centuries ago by Highland migrants who left to start new lives with better prospects.

Bookends ambassador Sheila Quillan, a writer and storyteller from Kilmore, said: 'We were trying to find another Benderloch Bookends festival in Nova Scotia because of ancestral links when we came across the festival at River John. It was by the sea like us and had lots of name places that are near our village and the

'It would be lovely for our Scottish festival to gift the story cloak to our Nova Scotian relations.'

picture on their website was of people wrapped up reading in blankets. After seeing that, we thought we'd take our blanket to Canada and get them to add their hand prints. It will end up with loads and loads of hand prints covering each other but that's what it's all about because of our connections. We'll also be sharing our love of the written and spoken word.'

The reading blanket story began after Sheila performed her audience participation poem With These Hands, My Beautiful Hands at the first Bookends festival in 2016,



Sheila Quillan with Bookends' reading blanket destined for Nova Scotia.

inviting people who took part to draw round their hands on a blanket turned into a cloak.

'I got the idea for the poem after my hands had started to bend with arthritis. I was

drawing round them one day to see the progression when I said out loud Oh! Look at my poor hands, my beautiful hands. It's all audience participation. I tell people I used to

be a bunny girl. I had a garden and a rabbit tail on a longstick and I'd use it to fertilise all the peach blossoms to make the peaches. Then I get other people to say what they have

done with their hands, then we say what we do with our hands, our beautiful hands now, and then what we are going to do in the future,' said Sheila.

With lots of organising to do before this year's Bookends Festival starts on Saturday September 22, Sheila and others are still waiting to hear back from Read By The Sea about a future twinning visit.

'We're not rushing them. Book festivals take a lot of organising but the right time will come for us to go over and take our blanket with us. We're looking forward to it,' added Sheila.

Bookends founder Joy Cameron said: 'So many people were moved from this area of Scotland during The Clearances and landed up in Nova Scotia that we feel it would be lovely for our Scottish festival to gift the story cloak to our Nova Scotian relations.'

To get all the latest news on visiting authors and events at Bookends 2018, go to bookends.scot

  
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## Kooks head for Oban

The Kooks will play an intimate gig in Oban's Corran Halls next month.

The band will perform their only Scottish date on a five-stop tour in the town on Saturday September 8.

This series of gigs by the Brighton band comes on the back of supporting the Rolling Stones in European stadiums and their sold-out UK arena tour last year.

The four-piece group will be performing tracks from their new album, Let's Go Sunshine.

Discussing the album, lead singer Luke Pritchard said: 'This one was about defining who we are. We went into the studio in 2015, continuing

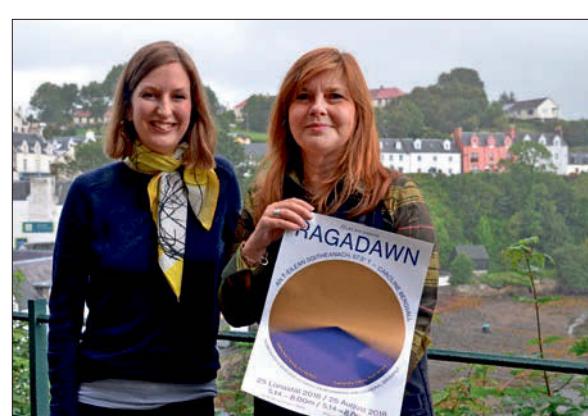
down the path we set out on our last studio album 'Listen' and discovered it wasn't what we wanted to make and wasn't really The Kooks. So we scrapped it and started again. I went on a mission to write the best songs I'd ever written. I stewed over every word.'

'It had to be our Rubber Soul, Lola, Definitely Maybe. Proper British lineage. I came from a dark place at the start, had a lotta heartbreak and then falling in love in the middle of the album – the lyrics reflect that.'

'From Fractured And Dazed to No Pressure, it's gotta be our most exciting album, and it should get you dancing.'



The Kooks are playing in Oban.



Left: Atlas Arts director Emma Nicolson, right, and producer Shona Cameron are hosting Ragadawn on Saturday August 25.

Right: Caroline Bergvall.



## Ragadawn on roof of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

Artist, writer and performer Caroline Bergvall will welcome dawn over the Sound of Sleat this month with a unique vocal performance.

Presented by Portree-based visual arts organisation ATLAS Arts, Caroline will deliver her critically-acclaimed Ragadawn (An t-EileanSgitheanach, 57.5° T) on the rooftop of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Sleat, on the morning of Saturday August 25.

Ragadawn is a free multi-sensory composition from the last hours of night until the break of dawn, ending with a communal breakfast.

Atlas Arts director Emma Nicolson said: 'I first saw Caroline's work in Tasmania. She performed an adaptation of Ragadawn to full houses

at Geneva's Festival de la Batie and Southend's Estuary Festival in 2016, and last year I invited her to Skye to host one of her language stations.'

Caroline has been working with Gaelic speakers on the island and colleagues at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig connecting music, texts and voices from the likes of piper Decker Forrest, singer Rhona Coogan and poets Rody Gorman and Morag Henriksen.

Emma added: 'Imagine arriving at night and being handed a warming cup of tea and a blanket before being led up to the rooftop in silence. I was fortunate enough to experience the rehearsal piece at the South Bank and it was extraordinary.'

The performance begins at 5.14am

and lasts 55 minutes. Following the performance, there will be a communal breakfast using locally-sourced ingredients. The communal breakfast is an integral part of the performance,' said Atlas Arts producer Shona Cameron.

'The wider concept of the work is dawn can be a difficult and lonely time for some and a happy time for others. It is about sharing the experience.'

The event is free but booking is essential. For more information and to reserve your seat visit [atlasarts.org.uk](http://atlasarts.org.uk).

There is a free bus going to and from the event leaving Portree's Bayfield car park at 3.30am and returning at 8am. People can be picked up en route. Anyone wishing to use the bus should contact Atlas Arts on 01478 611143.

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Thursday 23rd August 2018

March to Games Field leaves Station Square at 10.30am

OBAN HIGH SCHOOL PIPE BAND  
12noon from Station Square

**Highland Dancing**  
**Track & Field Events**  
**Traditional Heavy Events**  
**Piping**  
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**PREMIER PIPING COMPETITIONS**  
**AT VENUES ACROSS OBAN**

Wednesday 22nd August 2018  
PIOBAIREACHD  
Gold Medal  
MacGregor Memorial Competition  
Senior Piobaireachd  
LIGHT MUSIC:  
March, Strathspey & Reel  
(former winners)

# Skye singer celebrates

A man described as one of the most beautifully melodic and expressive Gaelic singers will celebrate his 80th birthday in Skye as part of next month's Blas Festival.

Born in Glasgow in 1938 to Gaelic-speaking parents from Skye, Alasdair Gillies has been surrounded by song his whole life, whether at the steady stream of Glasgow ceilidhs he sang at, competing at the Royal National Mòd where he won the coveted Gold Medal in 1957, or studying part-time at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow while also studying dentistry.

A regular on BBC and STV, Alasdair also appeared at the King's Theatre in Edinburgh and recorded his first album



Alasdair Gillies.

in 1963 for Thistle Records. Always keen to experiment with different genres, he recorded Gaelic versions of Beatles' hits and Puppet on a String alongside Puirt a Beul.

He will take to the stage alongside Alastair

Macdonald, Christine Primrose, Donald Black, John Carmichael, Griogair Labhruidh and others to celebrate his 80th birthday on Saturday September 8 at Àros, Portree, at 7.30pm.

Alasdair said: 'I am really looking forward to appearing at the Blas Festival, especially in Skye, where my heart lies. I will be joined by a few friends, old and new.'

'I am particularly delighted to have Christine Primrose with me, along with Griogair and Donnie Black. Folk singer Alastair Macdonald and accordionist John Carmichael will be doing their own thing, as well as giving me musical support, as they have done over the years.'

Blas is organised by Fèisean

nan Gàidheal in partnership with The Highland Council and will take place from Friday September 7 until Saturday September 15. It celebrates Gaelic culture and the thriving Scottish traditional music scene over nine days of concerts, cèilidhs and larger events in venues across the Highlands and Islands.

Other headline acts include Gaelic singer Julie Fowlis, two previous winners of BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards Mischa Macpherson and Brighde Chaimbeul, Celtic rock group Wolfstone, who will perform at Blas for the first time, award-winning folk band Breabach, young electronic Celtic fusion group, Niteworks and the highly-acclaimed RURA.

## WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary bid4oban.co.uk



Thursday 16th August

**Oban Health Walk**

Oban Congregational Church Hall  
10am - 11.30am

**Oban Walking Tours**

Oban, i-centre. 2.00pm  
- 3.30pm

**Last Taynuilt Summer Ceilidh**

Taynuilt Village Hall . 7.30pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**

QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm £1 per person, max of 6 per team

Win £20 bar voucher

Monday 20th August

**Slimming World**

Union Street/Argyll Street, Lochgilphead  
5.30pm & 7.30pm

Tel; Rhona 07880 878906

Tuesday 21st August

**Oban Walking Tours**

Oban, i-centre  
10am - 11.30am. 2.00pm  
- 3.30pm

**Noah's Ark Parent, Carer & Toddler Group (Weekly)**

Garden House, Behind Baptist Church, Albany Street. 10.00 - 11.30am

Wednesday 22nd August

**Slimming World**

Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban  
9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm

Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

**Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban**

Lorne Pub Quiz. Starting at 9pm £25 bar voucher prize and free pizza at half time

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To list your event,  
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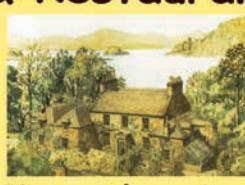
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## EXCITEMENT BUILDS AS M&S OBAN NEARS OPENING

Customers in Oban will be in for a treat when the new M&S Foodhall store opens its doors at the end of August. As well as bringing the very best of M&S food and drink to the area for the very first time, the store will also offer a small range of clothing and home products. These products have been specially selected to meet the needs of customers in Oban and surrounding areas and include items such as women's lingerie, socks and tights,

sun-cream and core kitchen products.

The store will also offer the full range of M&S clothing and home products via its Click and Collect service. Customers can opt for next day pick up if they order by 10pm the night before on M&S.com. Oban will also be the second M&S Foodhall in Scotland to boast a fitting room meaning customers can easily try on purchases in store and, if needed, take advantage of hassle-free returns.

Stuart Mackinnon, store manager at M&S Oban, said: 'With no other M&S in a one-hour radius, this is a big opening for us. And our new Foodhall will be unique – not only will it stock thousands of delicious food and drink products, but it will also carry a small selection of clothing items and have a fitting room for customers who shop for clothing online and collect in store.'

'We're really excited about

the food products we will be bringing to Oban and can't wait to share favourites from the in-store bakery with customers. We're looking forward to welcoming the local community through our doors on Thursday August 30 from 10am.'

The store will be located at Oban Retail Park, Oban PA34 4BW, and will be open from 8am-9pm Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm Saturday and 9am-7pm on Sunday.



## Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



All the competitors of a closely contested West Coast World Cup.

### COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

#### Oban & Lorn Horticultural Society

##### **FINAL FLOWER SHOW**

**Due to dwindling number of entries and visitors this may be our last show.**

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For more information contact David Hodge Tel: 01631-564326 Email: DWTH@talk21.com

#### NOAH'S ARK PARENT, CARER and TODDLER GROUP

meets in the Garden House, behind the Baptist Church, Albany Street Tuesdays' and Thursdays' 10-11.30 during Term Times RESTARTING Tuesday 21st & Thursday 23rd AUGUST ALL WELCOME

## World piping and Runrig farewell

An extremely busy weekend is fast approaching with the World Pipe Band Championships on Glasgow Green on Friday and Saturday and the last Runrig shows in Stirling.

Anticipation is building for both events, which I will report on next week.

## West Coast World Cup

The 2018 West Coast World Cup took place last Sunday and, because I was heading down the road to a festival in Galashiels with Tide Lines, I had to send my football correspondent along to cover it exclusively for the Glasgow Letter. Said correspondent was also tournament or-

ganiser Donnie Maroot, so who better to deliver the following detailed report from Scotstoun Stadium?

Donnie wrote: 'This year saw three new teams participating, Skye and Lochalsh, Ardnamurchan and The Park Bar, along with tournament regulars Lewis, who were bolstered by the addition of Scalpay's finest, Domhnall Eoghainn Mackinnon, apparently qualifying through a granny from Shawbost.'

'The group stages saw a huge upset as Park Bar captain Joe Macneill didn't injure anyone! As usual, the game was played in the finest spirits, that spirit being gin, thanks to our fantastic sponsors Tyree Gin.'

'Legs were soon as tired as Brexit debates, with the balmy Glasgow weather not helpful to West Coast complexions.'

'The Park Bar struggled

#### An Comunn Gàidhealach Meur Chruachain - (Cruachan Branch)

##### **Final Taynuilt Summer Ceilidh**

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Admission £4 Children £2

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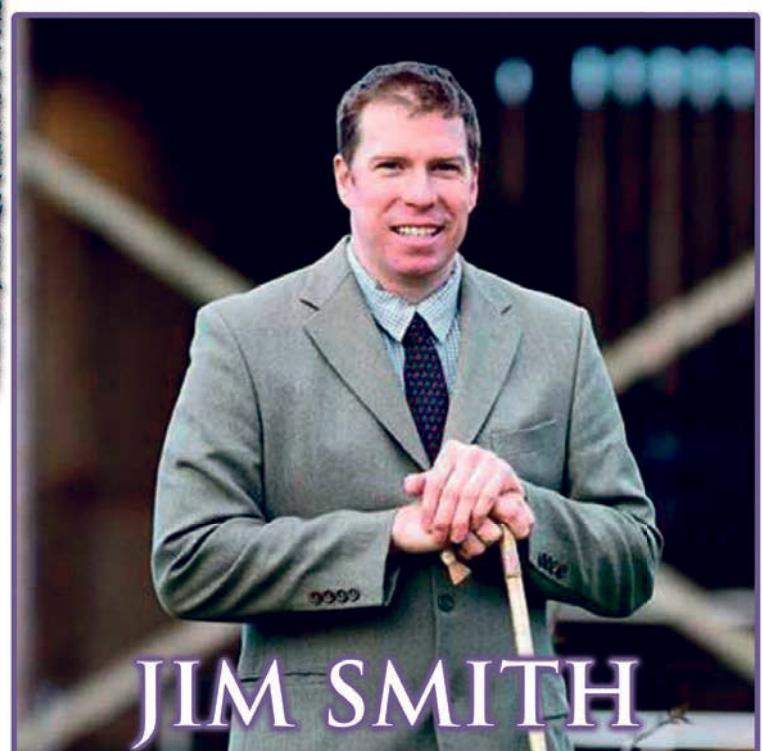
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## Easdale Island Community Hall

**Saturday 25th August 2018**

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(Over 18's only due to possible strong language )**

**Tickets & Info: [www.easdaleislandhall.org](http://www.easdaleislandhall.org)**

in their first match but the arrival of head honcho Nina Steele saw an immediate improvement and they defeated Ardnamurchan. Perhaps a career in football management beckons?

'The Skye team soon showed their class, not only winning all their group games comfortably but also offering to play in bibs after a clash of strips.'

'The Lewis team saw off a determined Park Bar team and an Ardnamurchan team suffering more injuries than an episode of Casualty.'

'In the final, with the trophy and two bottles of Tyree Gin at stake, a depleted Lewis team lost one player to injury and another to lifesaving: a

fireman who had to answer a call-out.'

'Skye had a full – some might say fool – compliment and comfortably saw off the challenge from across the Minch to take home their first West Coast World Cup in their debut appearance.'

## Glasgow Summer Sessions

Wednesday August 22: Kings of Leon, The Wombats, The Hunna, Everything Everything, Isaac Gracie.

Saturday August 25: Catfish and the Bottlemen, Twin Atlantic, DMA's, Peace, Frank Carter and the Rattle Snakes, Neon Waltz.

Wednesday August 29:

Kendrick Lamar, N.E.R.D, Bugzy Malone.

## What's on

Sunday August 19: Piping Live, The Pipers' Gathering, 8pm, National Piping Centre.

Saturday August 25: Niteworks Live in the Art School at 7.30pm.

## Pub scene

Islay Inn:

Friday August 17: Crooked Reel. Saturday August 18: The Raggaeles.

The Park Bar:

Friday August 17: Scott Harvey.

Saturday August 18: Dodgy Ground.

Sunday August 19: World's Hangover Cure.

## Songs, a talk and ceilidh from Ceolas

A new CD of Uist fishing songs is about to be launched.

The launch will come at the end of a lecture by Professor Thomas Owen Clancy at the Lochboisdale Hotel in South Uist on Sunday August 26.

The talk will follow a blessing of the boats ceremony

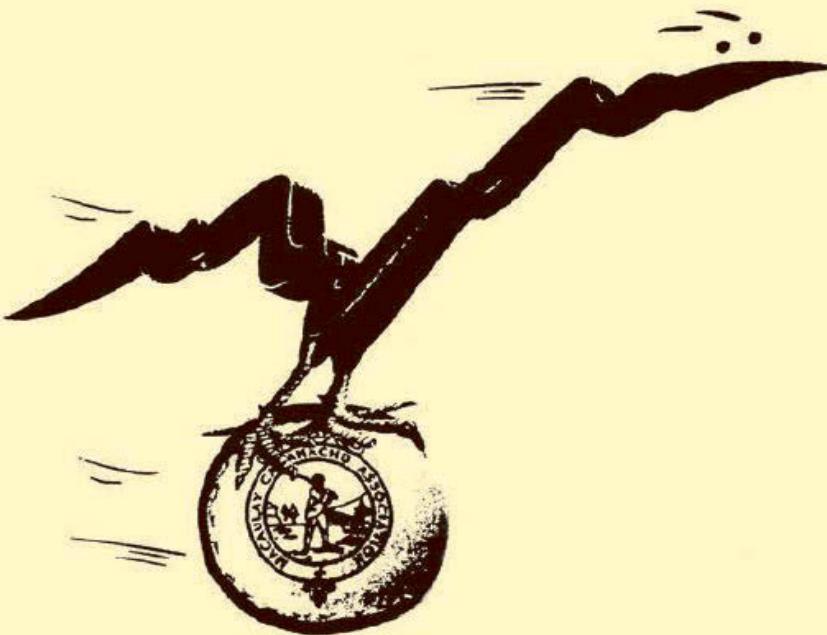
at Gasaigh at 4pm, being organised by Daliburgh arts organisation Ceolas.

On Monday September 10, Ceolas and the Blas Festival are staging an informal old-style ceilidh featuring Pàdraig Moireasdan, Linda NicLeòid, Seonaidh Mac an t-Saoir, Shona Masson and Calum Trimsgearraidh

Dòmhnullach at St Peter's Hall, Daliburgh, at 7.30pm. Tickets £10.

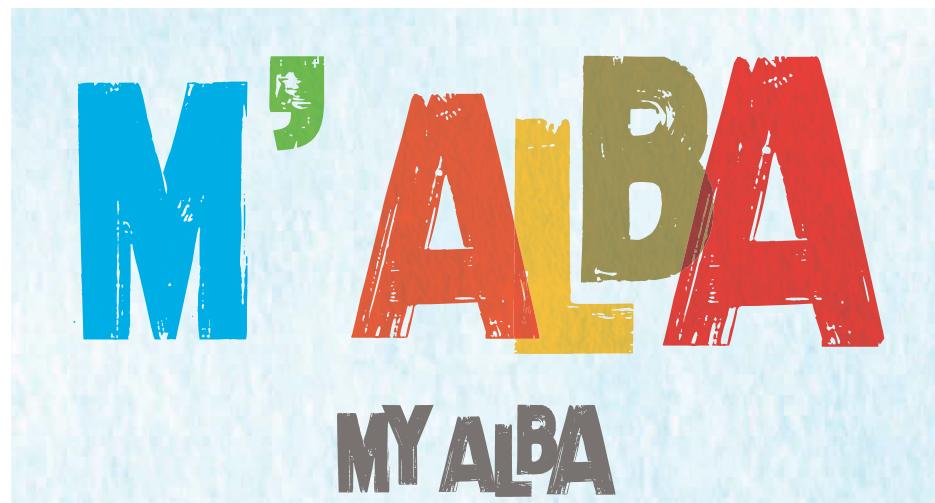
And on Saturday September 22 Ceolas presents acclaimed musicians Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham at Iochdair community hall for a rare Uist concert. It starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £10.

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### DIARDAOIN 16 LUNASTAL THURSDAY 16 AUGUST

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 Sùgh an Èorna (rpt)  
19.30 Beul Chainnt (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 Highland Midwives: Mnathan-Glùine (rpt)  
21.00 Sgeulachd Sheila Garvie (rpt)  
22.00 The Quay Sessions – Iain Morrison (rpt)

22.30 **ÙR | NEW:** Nochd

23.00 **ÙR | NEW:** Ameireaga air Film  
23.45 Torcuil's Guide to Being a Gael: Biadh rapt)

### DIHAOINE 17 LUNASTAL FRIDAY 17 AUGUST

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
18.15 **ÙR | NEW:** De Ni Mi?  
18.35 Machair (rpt)  
19.00 An Là – News  
19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
19.30 Prosaig (rpt)  
20.00 Taghadh bho Na Trads (rpt)  
20.30 Gaisgich na Stoirm (rpt)  
21.00 So Here I Am: 100 Years of Crofting (rpt)  
21.50 Eadar Chluich (rpt)  
21.55 Hinterland (rpt)  
23.25 Nochd (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 18 LUNASTAL SATURDAY 18 AUGUST

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.30 Bonn Còmhraidh (rpt)  
20.00 Machair (rpt)  
20.24 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
20.30 Cuimhneachan (rpt)  
21.00 **ÙR | NEW:** Belladrum: Cridhe

### DILUAIN 20 AUGUST MONDAY 20 AUGUST

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

18.50 Fraochy Bay (rpt)

18.55 An Ataireachd Bhuan (rpt)

19.30 Beul Chainnt (rpt)

20.00 An La (rpt)

20.30 Gaisgich na Stoirm (rpt)

21.00 Bannan (rpt)

21.30 Trusadh - Talaidhean (rpt)

22.30 Runrig – City of Lights (rpt)

23.25 Eadar Chluich (rpt)

23.30 Nochd (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 21 AUGUST/TUESDAY 21 AUGUST

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

19.05 Sùgh an Èorna (rpt)

19.30 Beul Chainnt (rpt)

20.00 An Là – News

20.30 Highland Midwives: Mnathan-Glùine (rpt)

21.00 Sgeulachd Howard Wilson – Cop Turned Killer (rpt)

22.00 The Quay Sessions – Sam Outlaw (rpt)

22.25 Eadar Chluich (rpt)

22.30 **ÙR | NEW:** Nochd

23.00 **ÙR | NEW:** Ameireaga air Film

23.45 Torcuil's Guide to Being a Gael: Aimsir (rpt)



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**MONDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 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 down  
**TUESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings's Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2  
**WEDNESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 17.00 Drivetime with Camp-

bell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre  
**THURSDAY:** 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight  
**SUNDAY:** 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breeze, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Ken's Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwhistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

# Crackin' Craic humbled by the response to their debut album

An Oban-based band have been humbled by the response to their debut album.

Crackin' Craic released The Other Side last Saturday at their launch party, which took place in The View, which was previously Skipinnish Ceilidh House.

The band is made up of Ruaridh Allan on vocals and guitar, Scott Sinclair on vocals and guitar and Ewan MacDonald on bass.

Speaking about the album launch, Ruaridh said: 'We were absolutely humbled by

the amount of people that came, young and old, to support us. It's been quite a long process to get this new material ready for the public, so it's just a big relief to finally get it out, and to know folk are enjoying it too makes it all worthwhile.'

The band took inspiration from their idols such as Green Day, The View and Oasis.

Discussing what the songs are about, Ruaridh added: 'I suppose it's just things that come up in everyday life that

either affects us in a negative or positive way. Whether that's work, a past relationship, or a good night out on the sauce.'

The album is currently available to pre-order online, and it will be available on iTunes and Spotify in the coming weeks.

Those who pre-order the album will receive a free download of their new track I'm Missing You.

For more information, visit [www.crackincraic.com/new-album](http://www.crackincraic.com/new-album)



Crackin' Craic launch their album at The View in Oban. Photograph: Gavin Brown

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# Funbox are rocking into Oban

Family favourites FUNBOX are heading back to The Corran Halls in Oban this August with their amazing new show Rocking All Over The World, so get ready to strut your funky stuff and turn it up to 11 with Pop Princess Anya, Rock Star Kevin, Punk Rocker Gary and Hip-Hop Bonzo (formerly of The Singing Kettle) as they embark on a musical odyssey around the globe in search of music and songs.

"We just love coming to Oban on tour. The Corran Halls has such a special atmosphere," says music man Gary. "We really appreciate that some folk come specially from the islands to see the show too."

Join the gang as they travel around the world in 80 minutes creating musical mayhem wherever they go while finding their elusive keys. You're all invited to join their band for singalong silliness – and you might even get to help on stage!

"It's always such a busy place, with loads going on, and we do love to have a wander about before the show – Bonzo loves his Prawn sandwich from the pier," Anya adds. "Keep an eye out for us if you're in town."

Packed with favourites such as The Music Man, Parlez-Vous and Buy Me A Banana, as well as brand new songs Rocking All Over The World is the perfect excuse to let your hair down, sing, dance and be a music legend

Remember to come as a rock star or a pop princess – big people too!



## FUNBOX: ROCKING ALL OVER THE WORLD

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## The Nevis Centre

What's on at The Nevis Centre

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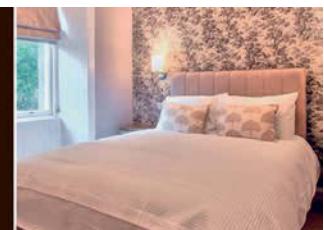
- Saturday 1st Ben Race
- Tuesday 4th & Wednesday 5th Induction Week College
- Friday 7th College Ceilidh
- Saturday 8th Action Med Research
- Sunday 9th Dog Show
- Friday 14th Bruce Tait Charity
- Sunday 30th Electric Road Show

### OCTOBER

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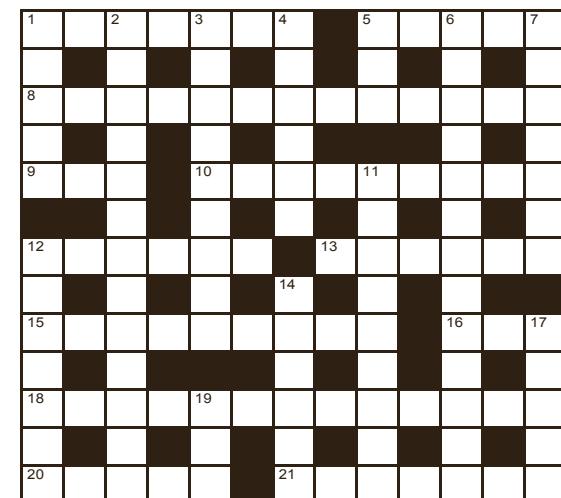
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## Crossword



### Across

- 1 Mirror (7)
- 5 Like a windbag (5)
- 8 Exceptional (13)
- 9 Cheek (3)
- 10 Insects giving us red colouring (9)
- 12 Recompense (6)
- 13 Freezing mist (3,3)
- 15 Long narrow mollusc 'home' (4,5)
- 16 Fuel (3)
- 18 Item spoken about (7,6)
- 20 Blockade (5)
- 21 A maths statement that is deduced from a system (7)

### Down

- 1 Urge forward (5)
- 2 No words.... (13)
- 3 Dialling numbers for different places (4,5)
- 4 Castrated man (6)
- 5 Type of instinct to go with (3)
- 6 Untrained boxer (6,7)
- 7 Christmas table decoration (4,3)
- 11 Accuse (9)
- 12 Certifies (7)
- 14 One of six (6)
- 17 Rugby formation (5)
- 19 Lamb producer (3)

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



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# Counting cost of expensive straw

**Ewen Campbell**, SRUC's Kirkton and Auchtertyre research farms manager Harvest is now in full swing up and down the country, and seems to be going reasonably well.

Word is that there is less straw this year and with all the competition from anaerobic digesters and the like, it looks like buying straw for bedding is going to be seriously expensive. There are even some suggestions that it could be more expensive than hay.

We leave our cows outside at Kirkton and Auchtertyre for as long as possible because of this. But despite the large acreage of the farms, there are not many places suitable for feeding cows outside and eventually we have to bring them in.

Hopefully, this is a long way off and it is great to go up the hill at the moment and see them ranging out for miles, right to the top of the hill and enjoying the warm summer.

The calves are doing well on

just their mothers' milk. But it will not be long before we take them in for weaning and give the cows a chance to build up some fat cover to take them through the winter.

It is a bit of a surprise that even with the fantastic sunny and warm weather over the past two months, we still ended up having slightly above average rainfall over this period. We did, however, have fewer rainfall days than average, with most of the rain falling in just a few days, including five days when we had thunderstorms.

We had a period of 16 days, starting on June 21 when we had no rain, one of the longest dry periods we have had in recent years.

So far this year, we have had 12 days when the temperature exceeded 25 degrees C. We haven't had that number of days above 25 degrees C since 1995.

I decided I would leave two of the fields that were cut for silage at the beginning of July

ungrazed in the hope that we can get a second cut at the end of August, something we have not done for many years. We will just have to see whether the weather is on our side. If it is not, we have plenty mouths to feed which could utilise the good grass.

We recently weaned the tup lambs from our Auchtertyre and Corrie flocks and put the ewe lambs back out to the hill with their mothers. This gives the ewe lambs a bit more time with their ewes to become hefted to the hill, especially the twins which have been on inbye fields for the summer.

All lambs from our Kirkton and Lleyn flocks will be weaned soon too, where we also weigh and condition score all the ewes.

The tup lambs will be finished on farm, some of which will go straight into the shed with finishing pellets and the others will stay out on grass with pellets for a wee while longer. It won't be too long

until we start taking the first batch to Scotbeef.

We will run some sheep over these areas to tread in the seed and hopefully in the coming years we will get back some valuable grazing land.

The species-rich grassland that we sowed back in 2016, as part of our agri-environment scheme, has been a riot of colour this summer and a valuable habitat for pollinating insects.

Our fenced water margins have also been full of flowers over the past few weeks, including meadowsweet, common valerian and wild angelica.

We had a group of 40 civil engineering and environmental engineering students from the University of Stuttgart visit the farm. This was part of a week-long tour during which they were visiting power plants and environmental protection projects, covering both large- and small-scale projects. They were interested in new approaches and the work we have done on greenhouse gas emissions.

## Around the markets

Stirling – United Auctions on Monday August 13 had a catalogue entry of 3276 store lambs and feeding sheep.

Averages TexX- £62.36 (+£3.85p) on the year

BTexX- £66.52 (+£4.81p) on the year

Chev- £58.86 (+£5.23) on the year

SuffX- £60.47 (-£0.15p) on the year

Mule- £56.39 (+£2.54p) on the year

BF- £37.82 (+£2.82p) on the year

Leading prices

Store lambs – Masterfield (Tex) £76.50; Craigannet (Tex) £76.00; Invernoaden & Easter Auchencarroch (Tex)

£68.00; Strachurmore (BTex) £69.50; Tulchan Croft (Chev) £64.00; Bellcraig (Suff) £67.00;

Cairncurran (Suff) £62.50;

Claylands (Suff) £61.00;

Blarnavaid (Mule) £74.00;

Jaw(Mule) £66.00; Gartincaber (Mule) £60.00; Ashintully (BF) £46.00; Tullochsn (BF) £39.00;

Littleport (BF) £35.00.

Stirling – Caledonian Marts on Thursday August 9 sold 135 cattle, comprising 84 prime bullocks, heifers and young bulls and 51 cast cows and bulls.

Bullocks sold to 240ppkg from J and N Kerr, Bankhead, Aberdour to T Johnston, Butchers, Falkirk, and to £1591.92 for a Charolais from G and J Davie, Harviesmailing, Denny.

Heifers sold to 255ppkg from J H and N T Turnbull, Meadowend, Clackmannan and

to £1598.40 from D Dickinson, Brockwoodles, Canonbie purchased by H A Black and Sons, Butchers, Stirling.

Young bulls sold to 200ppkg for a Limousin from South Hourat Farms, Dalry.

Other leading prices:- Heifers per kilo: 250p and 248p Carriston 248p Mains of Cultmalundie 245p Meadowend and Carriston

242p Faskine 240p Meadowend, Brockwoodles and Mains of Cultmalundie

Bullocks per kilo: 235p Mains of Cultmalundie and Seggarsdean 232p Meadowend and Mains of Cultmalundie 230p Moorfield, Turniemoon and Brockwoodles 228p Meadowend and Faskine

Heifers per head: £1569 Brockwoodles £1565 Meadowend £1485 Brockwoodles £1475

Moorfield £1470 Carriston £1445 Pirnhall

Bullocks per head: £1559 Meadowend £1540 Moorfield £1536 and £1526 Meadowend £1514 Seggarsdean £1508 Moorfield and Meadowend

Also forward were 51 cast cows and bulls.

Beef cows averaged 127p selling to 158p for a Limousin from A and I Dick, Kipperoch, Dumbarton and to £1260 for an Aberdeen Angus from R Graham and Son, Airthrey Kerse, Bridge of Allan.

OTM cattle sold to £1468 for a Charolais from J Christie, Nethercarse, Gargunnock and to 200p for the same beast.

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# West Coast PROPERTIES

✓ SALES ✓ LETS ✓ COMMERCIAL ✓ ESTATE AGENTS ✓ NEWS

## Rents to continue to rise, as supply of new properties available to let declines again

The most striking feature of the July 2018 survey is the continued reduction of new property being put on the market in the lettings sector with nine per cent more respondents seeing a fall rather than rise in new landlord instructions. This is the eighth consecutive quarter in which this indicator has recorded a negative number.

### Survey in brief

Lettings data continues to underline the impact of tax changes on supply of property to rent. Sales market remains broadly flat at the national level.

### Impact policy changes have on the market

This pattern reflects the shift in the buy to let market in the wake of tax changes which are still in the process of being implemented, as smaller

scale landlords exit the sector. Significantly, the drop in instructions is evident in virtually all parts of the country to a greater or lesser extent.

While the supply of fresh rental stock to the market is increasingly constrained, the tenant demand indicator remains resilient. The upward momentum appears to have slowed, but the number of tenants looking for a new home remains in positive territory at a headline level.

One consequence of this imbalance is that expectations for rental growth, and rising rents for consumers, appear to be strengthening again. Over the next 12 months, rents are projected to increase by a little short of two per cent nationally, but the shortfall in supply over the medium term

is expected to force a cumulative rise of around 15 per cent (based on three month average of responses) by the middle of 2023. East Anglia and the south-west are viewed as likely to see the sharpest growth over the period.

Turning to the sales market, the underlying message is little different from that reported in June. The headline price balance edged up from three per cent to four per cent in July.

Meanwhile, the newly agreed sales net balance remained close to zero for the fourth month in succession. As highlighted previously, the feedback to the RICS survey continues to suggest a stronger market in Scotland, Northern Ireland, much of the north of England, the Midlands and Wales (prices and activity).

Meanwhile, the London price balance was little changed over the month (-40 per cent) with the results for both the south-east and East Anglia consistent with very modest price declines.

It is perhaps no surprise that as speculation built ahead of the August Bank of England meeting that the headline new buyer inquiries series was little changed over the month with a net balance of two per cent. The new instructions measure also signalled a flat picture, following two months of very modest increases. The June survey signalled some doubts as to whether the pipeline of new supply would continue to improve in the light of the feedback on appraisals being conducted by valuers.

This was upheld as the

appraisal balance in July was once again firmly negative. As a result, the judgement is that the average inventory on the books of estate agents is likely to remain close to historic lows. The impact of this is visible in

both the 12-month sales and price expectations net balances. While the former recorded a reading of -7 per cent, its most negative number since October last year, the latter was much firmer at +25 per cent.

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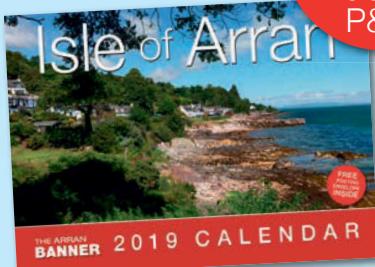
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2005, kohla engine, 25HP, 1050hrs, full roll cage, waterproof cabin. All zips work, very good tyres. All brake calipers & seals & brake pads renewed. Doesn't take in water. This Argo is open to any trial and ready to work.

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## NEW CAR INDEX



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01292 880440



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01631 568000**

# TWENTY YEARS YOUNG – NEW AUDI TT RANGE MARKS MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY

Much loved Audi compact Coupé and Roadster models benefit from updates and a special edition in their 20th anniversary year.

- Styling updates, detail equipment enhancements and power upgrades.
- 'TT 20 years' limited-edition anniversary model available as Coupé and Roadster.
- UK ordering begins in the autumn, first deliveries in late 2018.

At 20, the Audi TT is in the prime of its life, and to ensure that this remains the case, the third generation of the game-changing Coupé and Roadster have benefited from a comprehensive update. In its double-decade anniversary year, enhancements to exterior design,

power upgrades and an equipment uplift make the case for the compact sports car even more compelling, as does the inclusion in the latest range of a special edition 'TT 20 years' model. In its first flush, the original Audi TT raised the bar for sports car design at virtually every level. It captivated the world from the moment it first appeared as a concept car in Coupé and Roadster form in 1995, and even more so when it took to the roads, virtually unchanged, in production form three years later. It remains one of the stand-out emblems of 20th century automotive design to this day.

'TT 20 years' anniversary model. A total of 999 examples

of the 'TT 20 years' special edition will also be produced to mark the anniversary of this core Audi model. With seats finished in fine Nappa leather in moccasin brown with specific Panuka contrasting stitching, the interior of the 20 Years special edition harks back to the early cars with their 'Baseball Leather' upholstery. 'TT 20 years' badges on the steering wheel and gear lever knob also mark the car out, as do stainless steel tailpipes in a specific design, Matrix OLED rear lights and matt-finished Audi rings above the side sills. The 'TT 20 years' will be available in Coupé and Roadster body styles with either Arrow grey or Nano grey paint finishes.



A winning score for the Audi TT – To coincide with its 20th anniversary the third generation of the trailblazing Audi TT has benefited from styling updates, detail equipment enhancements and power upgrades. The occasion has also been marked by a limited run 'TT 20 Years' version.



Independent Audi Specialist



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To all West Coast Drivers, A for Audi, B for BMW and P for Porsche have been operating for twelve years. Along with servicing all of the Central Belt of Scotland we have a growing customer base in your area, we realise that it can be logistically difficult to have your vehicle serviced or repaired. At our service centre when you book your vehicle in with us, you can speak to an experienced service advisor who will arrange your vehicle service or repair in such a way that all parts required will be pre-ordered thus making it more likely that we can return your vehicle to you that day. If this is not going to be possible, we will arrange alternative transport for you or your car.

When booking your vehicle in, please quote 'West Coast Customer' and this will make our service advisors aware that you have special circumstances surrounding your booking.

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• 2 YEARS PARTS GUARANTEES • 5 YEAR LABOUR WARRANTY

# The Volkswagen Amarok with its 3.0 litre V6 TDI engine sets the standard



The Amarok is eye-catching from any angle, with its wide stance and rugged appearance combined with powerful engines, strong chassis and superb interior styling. The chiselled contours and styling highlights exude quality and style, beautifully complemented by the striking rear design, making it as much at home for the family as it is at work. The Amarok offers premium driving comfort, even under

the toughest of conditions. This is due to the perfect harmony created between the running gear and drive train – combined with the proven and tested 4MOTION all-wheel drive which knows how to pack a punch when it needs to. The outstanding off-road ABS function also helps to reduce braking distances on loose terrain.

Safe on almost any terrain: it is the only pick-up in its class to come with an Automatic

Post-Collision Braking System as standard. What's more, the pick-up also features 17in brake discs at the front and 16in brake discs in the rear. Add to that, the trailer stabilisation system which provides the best possible protection against snaking trailers, and it all provides even further peace of mind.

Exceptionally robust and with a premium finish, the Amarok is built to impress,



even in heavy use. A warp-resistant ladder frame, which guarantees excellent body stability, and special leaf springs allow for a maximum payload of up to 1,126kg and a trailer load of

up to 3.1 tonnes. Powerful like no other, the 204PS six-cylinder turbo diesel engine with 3.0 litre capacity has more than enough power reserves even in the most demanding

situations. Uncompromising off-road. Spirited on the road.

The Amarok combines everything that you expect from an exclusive, premium-class all-rounder: a masculine design and robust construction along with plenty of power.

For full details of the Volkswagen Commercial Vehicle range, please visit [www.volksvagen-vans.co.uk/lookersteesside](http://www.volksvagen-vans.co.uk/lookersteesside)



**The Amarok from £399 a month\***  
**on Contract Hire, with £1,000 initial**  
**rental contribution. Plus 2 free services.**

**With its 3.0 litre V6 TDI engine as standard, the Amarok sets the standard.**

The potent pulling power of this engine ensures the Amarok is capable of tackling the most demanding terrain. And with up to 224PS and 550Nm of torque, even the heaviest of loads are easily manageable.

With a striking muscular design it's enhanced with the latest driver assisted technologies.

**For more information, why not contact us today or drop by our showroom?**

**Volkswagen Van Centre Glasgow Darnley**

901 Kennishead Road, Darnley, Glasgow. Telephone: 0141 302 4674.

Find us on your sat-nav using G53 7RA.

[www.volksvagen-vans.co.uk/glasgow-west](http://www.volksvagen-vans.co.uk/glasgow-west)



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# S&S SERVICES

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Vehicle shown is an Isuzu D-Max Utah with manual transmission including optional special paint finish OTR price of £30,645.80

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## Home Energy Officer

£22,433 - £24,617 per annum pro rata  
plus 8% employer pension contribution  
Part-time 28 hours per week

Argyll and Bute

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a self-motivated individual to work within the Home Energy Scotland Highlands and Islands team to provide specialist energy advice to householders, often in their home. We are looking for a home energy officer with the drive and capability to advise householders on energy efficiency, renewables and affordable warmth; and to represent and promote Home Energy Scotland. You will provide clear, independent and impartial advice to support householders to make informed decisions. You will have a good knowledge of home energy and be highly organised with excellent communication skills and experienced in delivering quality customer service and advice. You will be required to travel, sometimes involving overnight stays, and must be able to work well within the team, as well as work effectively on your own. You must be able to deliver to contract targets within set timescales.

If you are passionate about sustainable home energy, we are keen to hear from you. Full training will be given.

We offer an attractive staff benefits package, excellent pension and employee benefits which include 26 days paid holiday plus 9 bank holidays per year.

To apply, please download the application form from [www.changeworks.org.uk](http://www.changeworks.org.uk), email [recruitment@changeworks.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@changeworks.org.uk) or contact reception on 0131 555 4010 to request an application pack quoting the reference HEO (Argyll and Bute).

**Closing date for applications: 11am, Monday 3 September 2018.**

**Interviews: Thursday 6 September 2018 in Inveraray, Argyll and Bute.**

For further information about this post please contact Alison Craig on 07554 456911.

**Funded by the Scottish Government, Changeworks delivers the Home Energy Scotland advice centre in the Highlands and Islands on behalf of Energy Saving Trust.**

**Changeworks – inspiring change for people and the environment.**



Lynn of Lorne Care Home is looking to recruit for the following positions;

### Senior Care Assistant

£9.20-£10.20 per hour. Full time and part time positions available

### Care Assistant

£8.75 - no previous experience required, extensive training provided  
Full time and part time positions available

### Housekeeping/Laundry Assistant

£8.45 per hour. 30 hours per week

Please contact Georgina Taylor or Megan MacLeod  
for an application form or more information on  
**01631 720278 or [admin.lynnoflorne@westcoastcare.co.uk](mailto:admin.lynnoflorne@westcoastcare.co.uk)**



## Marine Farm Manager

Loch Nevis, Mallaig

**Competitive Remuneration Package + (Generous Relocation Allowance)**

**Scottish Sea Farms are an internationally recognised farmer of superior quality Scottish Salmon. We pride ourselves in providing industry leading and highly personal development paths which build into fulfilling professional careers. If you are committed to developing our industry and are driven to put your strengths to work, we would very much like to hear from you.**

**We are looking to recruit a proven and exceptionally talented Marine Farm Manager to join our dedicated team at Loch Nevis, Mallaig.**

**Candidates must be** committed to the highest standards of health and safety management and demonstrate excellence in all aspects of fish husbandry including fish health and welfare, feeding optimisation, containment, infrastructure maintenance and skilled seamanship.

**To be considered** you must already be a highly respected Farm Manager or well established in a Senior Husbandry position within the Aquaculture Industry and be able to demonstrate your commitment in developing a strong safety culture. You will be open, honest and communicate with ease at all levels. Your ability to plan ahead will be matched by close attention to detail. It is essential to value our unique identity and have the skills to grow premium quality differentiated salmon for customers with the highest expectations.

SSF Farm Managers are expected to be industry leading with competence in finance, budget control and planning, stock management, stakeholder interactions, personnel management and promotion of health and safety.

**In return**, we will offer an attractive remuneration package along with an individual development plan. A generous relocation package will be offered as required.

**If you would like to be considered for this vacancy or would like more information, please visit the careers page on our website: [www.scottishseafarms.com](http://www.scottishseafarms.com)**

**Closing date for applications: Friday 31st August 2018**

**LOCHABER TIMES**  
& Oban Times

## Advertising Sales Executive

£ Excellent Basic + £ Bonus + Private Health Care

Based in Fort William you will be representing Lochaber Times, Lochaber Life and other award winning, well established publications.

You will be responsible for establishing and developing relationships within the local business community.

First class training and support given. Local knowledge would be an advantage but not essential. A current full driving licence is required.

Please apply by email with full C.V. and covering letter to:  
[ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)

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## Web and Software Developers



2 positions – Fixed Term – 2 years

Salary ranges: Grade 5: £27,285-£30,688 per annum

Grade 6: £32,548-£36,613 per annum

SAMS is a world class marine research organisation based in NW Argyll, with a global portfolio of high quality fundamental and applied research and enterprise interests.

We require two developers to work on software projects across a range of exciting, cutting-edge areas, from developing computer models of the marine environment to working on web interfaces to control autonomous marine research vehicles.

We are interested in individuals with Java and/or JavaScript skills of all experience, from recent graduates to those with experience in industry or academia. Experience with NetBeans, Vue.js and Agile practice would also be useful.

We are particularly keen to attract dynamic individuals who will enjoy interacting with a wide range of scientists on diverse scientific applications. In return, we offer an excellent working environment in one of the most dramatic and scenic areas of the UK with great quality-of-life opportunities.

The posts are available immediately for 2 years and the right candidates have the potential to work with colleagues to develop an enduring and rewarding career at SAMS.

Further information is available online at [www.sams.ac.uk](http://www.sams.ac.uk). Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Web and Software Developers, Job Ref D10/18.SG The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QA or e-mail [recruitment@sams.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@sams.ac.uk)

The closing date for receipt of applications is 2nd September 2018

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

## North Argyll House

Bealach an Righ, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG

We have vacancies for:

### House Keeping staff

2 Part Time Permanent positions £8.16 per hour.

### Night Care Assistant - 2 nights

£10.67 to £10.79 per hour depending on qualifications, permanent post.

For an application form contact manager  
**Morag A Telfer. 01631 562168**  
Email [info@northargyllhouse.org](mailto:info@northargyllhouse.org)

Constructive Careers



## Job Opportunities

Lochgilphead & Argyll region

Due to growth and demand of our services MacLeod Construction Limited are looking for hard working and enthusiastic individuals to join our dynamic team. Opportunities available for:

- Tradesmen
- QSS Estimator
- Crane Operator

Please apply by email with C.V. to [lil@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:lil@mkmacleod.co.uk) or address below.

Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead

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## KAMES FISH FARMING LIMITED

### Hatchery and Hill Lochs Manager

This position provides a rare opportunity for a self motivated individual with some experience in management to work with juvenile Salmon and Rainbow Trout.

The three cage sites have a reputation for producing some of the best salmon smolts for a large Salmon producer. The Hatchery rears steelhead R.TROUT from egg to transfer to sea at 120 grams, where they are then grown onto 4kg at our sea and loch sites.

The successful applicant would ideally have several years' fish farming experience. They will be enthusiastic and able to demonstrate experience of working effectively within a small team.

The company is currently going through a phase of expansion, with that comes excellent career prospects and the potential to become fresh water manager in the future.

The manager will be responsible for the daily running of the four farms, record keeping, planning and ensuring compliance with the various certification schemes.

A full driving license is essential, preferably with B+E (Trailer).

£24,000 to £27,000 per annum + competitive package dependent on experience, skills and knowledge.

**Closing date 24th August 2018**

Please send your CV with qualifications and accompanying letter to:-

Jamie McAndrew  
[fish@kames.co.uk](mailto:fish@kames.co.uk)  
Tel: 01852 200286



## Processing Operative Staff

Salary £18,249 + Overtime Payments

### South Shian, Argyll

Scottish Sea Farms are an internationally recognised farmer of superior quality Scottish salmon. We pride ourselves in providing industry leading and highly personal development paths which build into fulfilling professional careers.

If you are committed to developing our industry and are driven to put your strengths to work we would very much like to hear from you.

**We are currently recruiting** for Processing Operatives to join our team at our Processing facility at South Shian, Argyll.

Duties focus on the processing and preparing of our product for despatch to our customers on average five days per week. Full training is provided including, health and safety, hygiene and food safety plus all relevant training on machinery if required.

**Applicants** should be able to work as part of a team that has high standards with a good work ethic and will be required to work shifts on a rotational basis.

**In return** we will offer an attractive salary, along with pension scheme, life cover, occupational health support, subsidised gym membership and cycle to work scheme.

**To find out more please contact Donald MacAulay, Processing Manager on 07917470189 or email [recruitment@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:recruitment@scottishseafarms.com) for an application pack.**

**Closing date: Friday 17th August 2018**

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## STORE MANAGER VACANCIES

### REF996 STORE MANAGER

SPAR Main Street, Mallaig, PH41 4QB

### REF997 STORE MANAGER

SPAR Spean Bridge, Inverness-shire, PH34 4EP

Full-time positions, 39 hours over 5 days per week  
Evening and weekend work will be required to meet business needs

Due to Licensing Laws applicants must be age 18 or over

As Store Manager, you will demonstrate strong leadership, people management and commercial skills. A natural forward planner and organiser, you will manage the operation to deliver excellent customer service and maximise sales and we offer comprehensive training to help you do it.

If you have a proven background in retail, the determination to deliver and a flexible approach to work, this may be the ideal opportunity for you to take the next step in your career.

If you agree, we look forward to receiving your online application at [www.cjlang.co.uk/jobs.aspx](http://www.cjlang.co.uk/jobs.aspx)

**Closing date for applications is 31 August 2018.**

# RECRUITMENT

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## Marine Husbandry Staff

**Sound of Mull**

Scottish Sea Farms are a recognised employer within the Isle of Mull. We pride ourselves on working to make a positive change to our employees and the local community. Our Mull farms have produced spectacular results and performances throughout each crop and we are looking to build on our teams expertise.

We have some exciting new developments within the Sound of Mull and are currently recruiting for Marine Husbandry staff to strengthen our dedicated teams.

## Experienced Husbandry Staff

**Applicants should** have at least 1.5 years' practical salmon farming experience with a keen interest in developing knowledge and skill in feeding and net management. You should be able to demonstrate competence across a wide range of farming disciplines including: fish health monitoring, stock appetite assessment, boat handling skills, whilst being proactive in health and safety.

**Above all** you should want to be challenged and have the drive and ambition to further your career through training and development. A formal boat qualification would be desirable.

Opportunities for you to take on a specialist role such as: Fish Health/Biological Control, Net Management and Critical Equipment Maintenance and Feed and Performance Management will also be available.

**A current driving licence is essential.**

In return we will offer an attractive salary dependant on experience along with additional payments on completion of specific training, crop bonus, discretionary company bonus, pension scheme, life cover, occupational health support, subsidised gym membership and cycle to work scheme.

We are an equal opportunities employer and we welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons; however you must be able to work within the UK.

To apply, please visit our careers page at [www.scottishseafarms.com](http://www.scottishseafarms.com)  
Closing date for applications: Friday 24th August 2018



## Two sales opportunities

**BASED IN CAMPBELTOWN AND LOCHGILPHEAD**

- + £ Excellent Basic**
- + £ Bonus**
- + Private Health Care**
- + Pension**
- + Good Holidays**

If you've got the energy, drive, determination and ambition, we can offer you an exciting and rewarding career with one of Scotland's foremost independent newspaper publishers. You will be responsible for representing our range of award winning publications, offering high quality advertising packages to local businesses. You will benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort. A full driving licence is essential.

Please apply by email with full CV and contact details to: [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)



## Finance Manager

Salary: up to £28,000 pro rata (dependent on experience).

Part time, permanent post (2 days/15 hours per week).  
Remote working will be considered.  
Closing date: 11th September 2018

Kilmartin Museum is looking for an appropriately qualified Finance Manager to join our team to oversee all aspects of the financial management of Kilmartin Museum Company Ltd, its subsidiary Trading Company, and a £6.8 million Redevelopment Project.

Full details of the post and an application pack can be downloaded from our website [www.kilmartin.org/home/get-involved/vacancies/](http://www.kilmartin.org/home/get-involved/vacancies/).



Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. We currently have the following vacancies:

**Yardman - Loch Etive, Argyll**  
**Fish Farm Technician - Loch Etive, Argyll**

Previous aquaculture experience is desirable but not essential as full training and support will be provided. A full driving licence is essential. These are full time positions working a 40 hour week, Monday to Friday including weekend cover on a rota basis. You would be expected to undertake additional hours as required in order to accommodate the needs of the business. We offer attractive salaries dependent on experience.

If you are interested in applying please send your CV, to:-

HR Department, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd,  
Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS.  
Office - 01698 810008, E-mail: [hr@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:hr@dawnfresh.co.uk)

Closing date for applications is: 27 August 2018



A vacancy has arisen for an experienced **legal secretary** to join the busy team at Stevenson Kennedy, Solicitors, Oban. Attractive salary and benefits await the successful candidate.

Apply with CV to Linndhu House,  
19 Stevenson Street, Oban PA34 5NA.  
Email [gordon@stevensonkennedy.co.uk](mailto:gordon@stevensonkennedy.co.uk)

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mr John Godfrey Day has registered his croft, 3 Ichrachan, Ichrachan, Glenorchy & Innishail on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 2nd May 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5326.

## FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Peter John Riley has registered his croft Ardchiavaig (uisken), Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 18 February 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5053.

## FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mrs Agnes McEachern, has registered their croft 9 Portnahaven, Kilchoan on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by April 20, 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5277.

## CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

J A McFadzean  
6 & 7 Kinlochel, Kilmallie  
1.68 ha – Amenity ground  
90925

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 13/09/18 Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot

The Crofting Commission takes the protection of your privacy seriously. To safeguard your personal data and make sure that it is accurate, we only collect and/or store the data necessary to carry out our functions as a regulatory body. You can find a copy of our Privacy Notice at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/openness-and-custom-care](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/openness-and-custom-care).

## Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

## Argyll and Bute Council

### PLANNING

These applications listed below 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, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://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
18/01627/PP	Formation of access track	Gallanach Farm Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6TE
18/01691/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 15/01889/PP (Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank)	Land South West Of Collevineach Fasnochloch Appin Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:  
[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



### GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Bear Scotland Limited of Inveralmond Road, Perth, PH1 3TW is applying to add an operating centre to keep 2 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at 74c Glengallan Road, Glenshellach Industrial Estate, Oban, PA34 4HG. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](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
18/03694/FUL	Plot 1 Garden Ground 90M West Of Ardleven, 26B Glencoe	Erection of house
18/03688/LBC	6 High Street, Fort William	Removal of partitions & doors to extend wc to include shower, installation of new flooring
18/03684/FUL	Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel Spean Bridge	Alterations & Extension
18/03619/FUL	Bay Cottage, North Ballachulish Onich, Fort William	Change of use of garage to holiday letting unit including installation of balcony
18/03695/FUL	Land 150M SE Of Craigahulish Achaphubuil, Fort William	Erection of house with integral garage, shed and 2 no Glamping Pods
18/03647/PIP	Land 400M NE Of Blair Mhor Industrial Estate, Lochyside Fort William	Mixed-use masterplan comprising residential (Class 9 & flatted), Hospital (Class 8), STEM Centre (Class 10), commercial (Classes 1 & 2) & community uses
18/03716/FUL	National Trust For Scotland Visitor Centre, Glenfinnan	Formation of access to A830 (T) and associated car park and footbridge
18/03548/PIP	Land 40M South Of Spring Cottage, Old Town, North Ballachulish	Erection of house
18/03663/FUL	Land 25M SE Of Bruach Mhor, West Laroch, Ballachulish	Erection of new dwelling house

Time period for comments is 14 days & 21 days for 18/03688/LBC

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

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2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or

in person.

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6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

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adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

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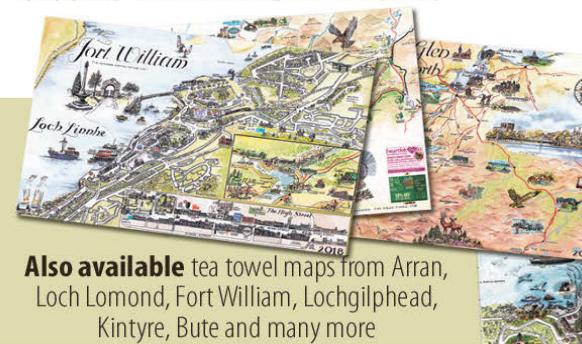
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## Bicycles

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## Building / DIY

3½ INCH JAWED SWIVEL VICE Good working condition. Contact for price, Telephone 01546 886629.

ASSORTED NAILS UP TO 6 INCHES Contact for a price, Telephone 01546 886628.

ASSORTED NUTS, BOLTS AND WASHERS Assorted nuts, bolts and washers. Contact for a price, Telephone 01546 886628.

AVERY BERKEL FX220 SCALES One Set. Includes Battery and Mains. Maximum of 15kg. Good working condition. Contact for a price, Telephone 01546 886628.

BRINSEA INCUBATOR OCTAGON 100 with rocker and assorted trays. Contact for a price, Telephone 01546 886628.

CARPENTERS BENCH VICE good working condition. Contact for price, Telephone 01546 886628.

REPLACEMENT CHIMNEY POTS for older houses, ornate Victorian/Edwardian pots in various sizes and colours, £40 Telephone 01631 564578<sup>2</sup>.

## Car Accessories

NEW TYRE 185/65 R14 Arrow Speed radial on steel Peugeot rim never used. 4 stud wheel, ready to fit. At PA29 6XG Near Tayinloan, £20 Telephone 07809 143406.

## Cars and Car Parts under £250

SET OF FOUR BK RACING alloys wheels with weather master white wall tyres. S/TS 205/70/R15 plus wheel nuts. Very good condition. Absolute bargain at, £99.99 Telephone 01631 564578<sup>2</sup>.

## Domestic Appliances



ESSE SOVEREIGN oil fired cooker for cooking, hot water and central heating. Currently in use, to be uplifted September 2018. Sold as seen, £350 Telephone 07729 041766.

HOTPOINT twin tub washing machine, rarely used, £99 Telephone 01397 712231.

MINI VACUUM "Easy Home", VGC, £8 Telephone 07765 503085.

PANINI SANDWICH MAKER Crofton, never used, £10 Telephone 07765 503085<sup>2</sup>.

STEAM CLEANER hand held, Pifco 1000W, VGC, £10 Telephone 07765 503085<sup>2</sup>.

## Domestic Pets

REGISTERED COLLIE PUPS Black, White and Tan, for Particulars telephone, Telephone 07919 071747.

## Furniture

'RISE & RECLINE' CHAIR perfect condition, one year old, bargain at, £200 Telephone 01586 553674.

CHAIRS Two very sound wooden chairs with turned legs. Varnish finish. Oban, £5 each Telephone 07900 822202<sup>2</sup>.

ROUND MAHOGANY DINING TABLE 42" diameter with 4 matching chairs, excellent condition, £50 Telephone 01852 300320<sup>2</sup>.

SMALL WHITE WARDROBE two door wardrobe. 64cm x 51 deep x 170 high, metal hanging bar, buyer to collect, £30 Telephone 01880 821245.

## Garden

BARBECUE Landman Grill Chef. Never used. With full 13kg patio gas cylinder, £60 ono Telephone 07765 503085<sup>2</sup>.

HANGING BASKETS half size. 5 with liners and fall of mature begonias which will flower until October, £25 Telephone 07765 503085<sup>2</sup>.

VINTAGE CART WHEELS and smaller implement wheels. Colourful garden display items. Prices from £30, Telephone 01631 564578<sup>2</sup>.

VINTAGE CHIMNEY POTS Vintage chimney pots in various sizes and styles, make lovely garden planters. Prices from £40, Telephone 01631 564578<sup>2</sup>.

VINTAGE LAWN ROLLERS cast iron and decorative, for working use or colourful garden feature, various sizes from £90, Telephone 01631 564578<sup>2</sup>.

## Garden Machinery

LOMBARDINI 6LD 360/V DIESEL E Lombardini 6LD 360/v Diesel Engine in GWO. Out of Westwood ride on mower. Single cylinder electric start PA29 6XG bargain, £95.00 Telephone 07809143406.

## Hobbies and Crafts

PEARLISED PAPER & CARD, white, blue and pink colours in stock, available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print on, Telephone 01586 554975.

## Kitchen

TABLEWARE Duet beige stoneware. Plates 29cm, 21cm. Bowls 20cm. 4 of each. Gallete stoneware bowls, 23cm, 6 of. As new. All for, £10 Telephone 07765 503085<sup>2</sup>.

## Leisure and Lifestyle

BABYLISS BIG HAIR pet it airstyler no 2886u. Still in box and under guarantee, £25 Telephone 01631 564901<sup>2</sup>.

## Mail Order

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Places include: Stirling, Fort William, Glencoe, Aberdeen, Isle of Skye, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Loch Lomond, Kelso, Aviemore, Forfar, Rum and Eigg, Shetland, Glentrool and Dryburgh. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order online at [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk) or telephone 01371 851868.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Places include: Inveraray, Appin, Oban, Seil, Isle of Mull, Campbeltown, Tarbert, Machrihanish, Fort William. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk) or telephone 01371 851868.

## Marine

2 OFF Used but in good condition, MM TCL4 marine tank access hatches. Access diameter 180mm. Retail £33. Oban, £16 each Telephone 07900 822202<sup>2</sup>.

8MM UNWORN galvanised calibrated chain. One length 22 meters, £55. One length 12 meters, £30 or £80 the lot, Telephone 07900 822202<sup>2</sup>.

BOAT STEERING WHEEL small boat 6 spoke stainless steering wheel. Old but in very good condition. Usable to ornamental. Bargain at, £50 Telephone 01631 564578<sup>2</sup>.

BRITISH SEAGULL OUTBOARD ENGIN after 6pm, £60 Telephone 01631 581280 after 6pm.

BRITISH SEAGULL OUTBOARD ENGIN spares. Most parts available. From £10 Telephone 01631 581280 after 6pm.

SEVEN ASSORTED BOAT FENDERS £7 each or £40 the lot. Oban, Telephone 07900 822202<sup>2</sup>.

VINTAGE MAHOGANY BOAT RUDDER in excellent condition. Useable or ornamental. Bargain at, £45 Telephone 01631 564578<sup>2</sup>.

WHALE BABYFOOT foot operated water pump suitable for boat or caravan. Retails at £25. Oban, £12 Telephone 07900 822202<sup>2</sup>.

WHALE MARINE PUMP 38mm diverter valve. New and unused. Retails at £57. Oban, £25 Telephone 07900 822202<sup>2</sup>.

## Printing and Stationery

PROFESSIONAL MATERIAL , market your business effectively with professionally designed leaflets, posters and flyers from Krisp Print. Contact on 01586 554975.

THANK YOU CARDS new baby or wedding, with a photo of your new arrival or big day. Truly individual, a treasured keepsake. Call Krisp Print on 01586 554975.

## Trailers



IFOR WILLIAMS SHEEP TRAILER 10ft (310cms), 2 level stock trailer with double axle and locking towbar in good condition, Any reasonable offer considered Telephone 01546 886628.

## Wanted

PEUGEOT 306 GTI Looking for old car, Peugeot 306 GT. Reg S564 BHJ. SENTIMENTAL, Telephone 07738 682946.

## PERSONAL NOTICES

# THANK YOU

Lorn & Islands Hospital

Due to a short and nasty illness and being admitted to Lorn & Islands Hospital, I wish to thank all the staff from A&E, doctors, x-ray/scanning department, catering and especially ward A, for their exceptional care and attention.

Also, thanks to my local GP and nurse, for their care in my recovery at home.

Thanks to everyone, Jimmy Robertson (Seil)

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**DEATHS**

**ANDERSON** - Iain William McLaren (ex Clydesdale Bank, Tobermory), died August 6, 2018 in Canterbury. Dear husband of Ethel, loving father of Alasdair and beloved brother of Kathleen Holland. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Age UK, The Collins Unit, Canterbury. Further details from John Kemp, Funeral Directors, 17 St Dunstans Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8AF. Telephone 01227 784488.

**HUNTINGFORD, MBE**  
- Joyce Catherine, passed away in the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, aged 86 years, she will be sadly missed. Funeral took place on Tuesday August, 14, 2018, at St. John's Cathedral, Oban, followed by interment in Muckairn Cemetery, Taynuilt.

**MACAFFER** - Peacefully, after a long illness at The Marian House Care Home Edinburgh, Mary, aged 89 yrs, beloved wife of late Dugald, much loved mother of Elizabeth and Ed, and dearly loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral service in the Round Church, Islay on Tuesday, August 21 at 11.30am thereafter to Kilnavie Cemetery.

**MACINTYRE** - Christine (née McDougall) (Corty Mhurcaidh Nile)(Leanish, Barra/ Edinburgh/Glasgow). Peacefully after a long illness on August 7, 2018, Christine, much beloved wife of the late Calum, loving mum of Murdo, William and the late Catherine. Requiem Mass will be held on Monday, August 20 in St Patrick R C Church, Cowgate Edinburgh at 12.30pm thereafter to Mount Vernon Cemetery for 2pm. Christine will be received into church on Sunday at 5.45pm. RIP.

**MACKINNON** - Peacefully at Lorn and Isles Hospital on August 11, 2018, Margaret aged 93, of 10 Glen Isal, Tobermory. Wife of the late William MacKinnon, loving mother to Donald, much loved granny and great-granny. Funeral service to be held at Cardross Crematorium at 12.15pm on Monday August 20, 2018.

**O'NEIL** - David. Peacefully at home Sunday August 12, 2018 at the age of 85. Much loved husband of Rosemary, father of Sally and Julie and stepfather of Caroline and Kenney. Private funeral, no flowers. Many thanks to all involved in his care.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**MACDONALD** - The family of the late Mrs. Alexandrina Macdonald, would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported us at this time, these include all those who attended her funeral and those who sent condolences, the Rev. D. Cameron, Church Officers at Achnaba Church, the staff at D & A Munn and the staff at the Falls of Lora Hotel. Their help and support is greatly appreciated.

**MCGAW** - Irene, Tina, Jamie and all the family would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support following the recent sad loss of their mum Eileen. Special thanks to all the staff on Ward I, Lorn and Islands Hospital, for their exceptional care and kindness to our mum during her time there. Thanks to Ian MacInnes of D&A Munn Funeral Directors, for the thoughtful and caring way they carried out the funeral arrangements, to Donald Mackinnon for a lovely service, also thanks to the Royal Hotel for the catering and finally to all those who

came to pay their last respects and who generously donated £534.70 to be divided between Argyll Animal Aid and Macmillan Day Bed Unit in Oban.

**ROBERTSON** - Joan, Catherine and David wish to thank everyone for the kind expressions of sympathy, cards and floral tributes following the sad loss of Donald John. Many thanks to Rev Donald McQuarrie for his comforting service, John McLellan Funeral Directors for all their support and Cavin O'Connor for the eulogy. We would also like to thank everyone who attended the service, Glenfinnan House Hotel for funeral refreshments and those who donated generously to CAU, Belford Hospital.

**MEMORIAMS**

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of a dear auntie, Tootsie, (Sarah), who died August 16, 1989.

Silent thoughts of times together  
Hold memories that will last forever.  
- Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.

**CRUICKSHANK** - In loving memory of Flora, August 22, 2013 and Duncan, August 15, 2015. Our cherished parents and grandparents.

Another year gone by but never forgotten.  
- Catherine, Duncan and families xx

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of Chrissie, a much loved mum, sister, auntie and friend, who passed away at Fanmore, Mull on August 17, 2017.

Missed, loved and remembered every day.

**Oban Times**  
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

**MACGILLIVRAY** - Katherine. Mum, four years have passed since you left  
Miss you and think about you every day  
You've left me with so much care and love

That will last forever  
You will always be by my side.  
- Paul.

**MACINNES** - 2nd anniversary. Precious memories of our beloved mum, granny and great-granny Peggy, who sadly died on August 13, 2016.

Thank you for the years we shared  
The love you gave, the way you cared  
Deep in our hearts your memory is kept  
Too dearly loved to ever forget  
Love and miss you always  
- Your loving family Eriskay and Oban.

**MILNE** - Janice. In loving memory, died August 14, 2005, sadly missed by Jimmy, Gary, Raquel, Samantha and Robert (Milne).

**MOWBRAY** - In memory of Robin, dearly loved husband, dad and granddad, died August 20, 2008.

Remembered with great love and missed every day.  
- June. Stephen and Robbie.

**OWEN** - In loving memory of our dear mum, gran and great-gran who passed away on August 18, 2016 and our dear dad and grandpa who passed away on August 25, 1997.

Forever in our thoughts and prayers.  
- Tom, Lily, Elizabeth and families.

**POTTER** - Treasured memories of a dear husband, father and Danda, Thomas Potter, who died at An Airigh, Dalmally on August 15, 1980.

Loved and remembered always by his wife Catherine and family.

**ROBERTSON** - In loving memory of my dear wife Heather.  
Your presence I miss  
Your memory I treasure  
Loving you always  
Forgetting you never.  
- Donald.

**WELLS** - In loving memory of our dear son, dad and brother Gary, who sadly left us on August 19, 2014.

The tears in our eyes  
We can wipe away  
The ache in our hearts  
Will always stay.  
- Mum and Dad xx Lewis,  
Robert, Jack and Niamh xxxx  
Sharon, Dawn, John and  
Aine.xx

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**Tel 0300 100 0200**  
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North Connel, PA37 1RE

**MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE**  
**Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch**  
*Donations always gratefully accepted*

Please contact  
**Marie Curie Care**  
Mannin, 2/5 Lismore House  
Station Road, Oban  
01631 571009



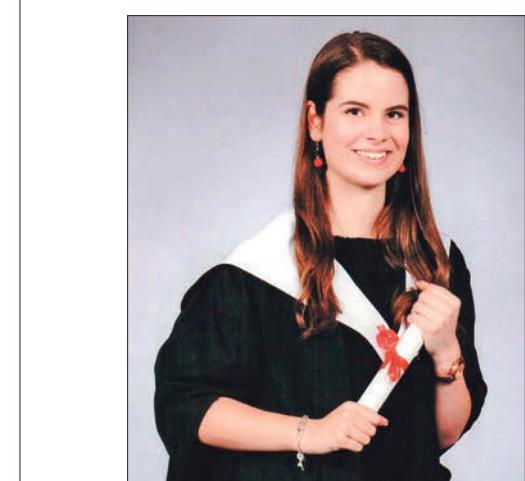
**LOIS MOYES**

Lois Moyes, Maryburgh, recently graduated, with First Class Honours in BA Fashion Womenswear, from Heriot-Watt University, School of Textiles and Design. Lois is the granddaughter of Lorna and the late Colin Campbell, Oban and the late Flora and Teddy Moyes, Lochawe.



**EWAN ALEXANDER MACGREGOR**

Graduated with a Masters Degree with Merit in International Relations from the University of Strathclyde, in addition to his current Law Degree. Ewan is the son of Mr Alastair and Dr Kate MacGregor, Cluaran House, Ardconnel Farm, Connel. Ewan is a former pupil of Kelvindale Primary School, Glasgow, Achaleven Primary School, Connel and Oban High School.



**RACHEL MACDOUGALL**

Graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a MA (Hons) Degree in Primary Education with Merit in Gàidhlig. Rachel is the daughter of Peter and Morvern MacDougall, Oban, granddaughter of Sarah and the late Peter MacDougall and Irene and the late Samuel Hannah, Oban. A former pupil of Rockfield Primary School and Oban High School. Rachel will be completing her probation year at the Edinburgh Gaelic School, Bun-Sgoil Taobh na Pàirce.



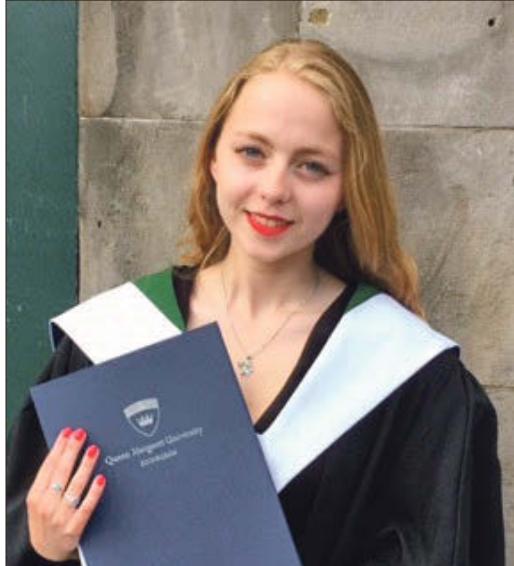
ELIZABETH JANE MACEACHERN

Graduated from the University of Stirling with a Bachelor of Arts with Honours Professional Education (Primary) with specialism in Early Years. Elizabeth is the Elder daughter of David and Valerie MacEachern, sister of Elaine, granddaughter of Isobel and the late Donnie MacEachern and the late George and Margaret Dempster. A former pupil of Achahoish Primary School and Lochgilphead High School.



CLODAGH CAMPBELL MACKENZIE

Graduated from Napier University with a 2:1 Bachelor of Science degree with honours in Animal Biology. Daughter of John (Seonaidh) MacKenzie who was born in Oban and works for BBC Alba and mum Zoe, used to work for The Oban Times. Clodagh's granny, Margaret MacKenzie lived in Morvern Hill, Oban with Clodagh's seonair Jackie. Clodagh is a former pupil of Portree Primary, Central Primary Inverness, Bun Sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir-Nis and Inverness Royal Academy.



BECKY WILSON

Graduated from Queen Margaret University with a BA Honours Degree in Drama and Performance. Becky is the daughter of Alan and Lyndsay Wilson, Taynuilt. She is a former pupil of Taynuilt Primary School and Oban High School.



CALUM SANDISON

Graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a Master of Arts with Honours in Architecture. Calum is the son of Stewart and Margaret and is a former pupil of Lochside and Lochaber High Schools and is continuing studies at the University of Strathclyde on the Master of Architecture Advanced Architectural Design Programme.



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## Heavens above! Tiree needs a new minister

Parishioners on the heavenly isle of Tiree are hoping their prayers will be answered and they find a new minister soon.

White sandy beaches and crystal clear waters are just some of the perks of the job.

The island paradise might not have the tropical temperatures of the Caribbean but the Kirk is offering the right person a unique opportunity to live and work there.

The Church of Scotland's only congregation on Tiree in has a vacancy for a minister who will be lucky enough to live in a manse just yards from a beach.

Members are looking for someone whose heart will truly resonate with this unique community.

The parish covers all 30

square miles of the island, which does experience good weather and is known as the 'sunshine isle', with church numbers changing through the seasons.

With a long history of Christianity and a close sense of community, the job will appeal to someone with a desire to fully immerse themselves in island life, said Jo Bennett, who is the clerk of the congregation's nominating committee.

'People talk about Iona as a thin place – a place where the distance between heaven and earth collapses. I think Tiree has that too.'

'In summer we get visitors from around the world but in winter it may be much smaller.'

## THOUGHT for the week

We reached the top of Speinie Mor and the views were superb: Tobermory nestled below and Loch Sunart sparkled under Ardnamurchan; Rum and Eigg and the Skye Cuillins as clear as day; spinning round, Morvern with an endless row of mainland peaks above and the whole length of the Sound of Mull stretching down to Oban; round to Ben More and then Iona and its white sandy beaches; Tiree, Coll and, in the far distance, the Western Isles.

It felt like everything was within easy reach. It felt like we were in the centre of it all.

People travel from the central belt and beyond to Argyll to get away from it all. They even hear of Columba seeking sanctuary away from Ireland too.

Sitting atop Speinie Mor, you realise that Columba was actually looking for a central hub from where his mission could radiate abroad.

The seas were the roads back then and every shoreline was in easy reach.

There was even the motorway up the great glen to Inverness and King Brude of the Picts.

Then again, the message of the love of God was never to be something for the fringes of our lives – it was always meant to right at the centre.

Rev Johnny Paton,  
Church of Scotland minister for North Mull parishes.

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OT

## GOLF

## Open success for Martin

Martin Rae won the Glencruitten Open on Saturday with a score of 63 (BIH). Runner-up was James Muir, who won the Handicap Trophy with a score of 63 - 3 = 60 (BIH). Runner-up in the handicap was Dugald MacLean with a score of 68 - 8 = 60.

On Saturday the first round of the Cameron Trophy takes place with the second round of the Summer Eclectic and on Sunday the second round of the Cameron Trophy and Summer Eclectic third round.



Martin Rae.

## Gents' Open at Killin

Results from the Killin Gents' Open held on August 4. Scratch : The Davies Trophy - 1. Gavin Dott (Kenmore) 67 BIH; 2. Greg McLellan (Stirling) 67; 3. John D Cowan (Taymouth Castle) 70.

Handicap : The Melia Quaich - 1. Sean Dunstaffnage (Glencruitten) 63 BIH; 2. Richard Downie (Polmont) 63; 3. Jim Ronald (Killin) 64 BIH.

The Wee Claret Jug: (Best Local Overall) - Jim Ronald. Longest drive: Category 1 (9th only) - Gavin Dott (Kenmore); Category 2 (7th only) - Anthony Johnstone (Killin).

Nearest the pin: Category 1 (8th and 17th) - Jim Ronald (Killin); Category 2 (5th and 14th) - David Watt (St Fillans).

All in 2 (6th only) : Greg McLellan (Stirling).

Magic 2s: Joe Gordon (Dumbarton), James Gordon (Cameron House), John Lauder (Cardross), John Elliot (Langholm), Martin Tait (Glencruitten), Aiden McCuish (Glencruitten), Jim Burton (Balbirnie Park), Sean Dunstaffnage (Glencruitten), Mons Bolin (Killin), Blair Paterson (Muckhart) x 2, Michael Dawson (Tillicoultry), Graham Herd (St Fillans), Dickie Lewis (Killin), Jim Ronald (Killin), Kenny Campbell (Prestonfield). CSS 65.

## Graham wins at Dalmally

Graham Melvin won Dalmally Golf Club's annual Strathorchy Trophy, shooting a net 62 to beat off the challenge of Terry McNair and Graeme MacKechnie, who both returned net scores of 64.

Meanwhile, the summer eclectic concluded with the McLure Cup being awarded to Billy Ross, who returned a fine net score over four rounds of 52. In a closely fought affair in a format that can see one good score at a single hole making the difference, just a stroke separated each of the top three. Tony Graham with his 53 was pipped at the post for second with Jim Livingstone a further stroke back.

## Results from Taynuilt

Club Championship: fourth round - 1 Alan Wilson 68-9=59; 2 Robert MacLarty 73-12=61; 3 Alex Needham 75-14=61.

Club Championship scratch - 1 David Howie four round total = 270; 2 Andy Ronald = 275; 3 Andrew Diggory = 288; 4 Donald MacVicar = 288.

Club Championship handicap - 1 Andy Ronald four round total = 250; 2 Robert MacLarty = 253; 3 David Howie = 258; 4 Alex Needham = 258.

Senior Club Champion: best three round total - David Howie = 186.

# Saints ready for the new season

Oban Saints	8
Oban Saints Select	0

## Pre-season friendly

Let down by scheduled opponents South Lochaber Thistle, Oban Saints played their final pre-season friendly ahead of the new season against an Under-19s select at Glencruitten last Wednesday evening.

Huge thanks are due to the Under-19s Select for stepping in as late substitutes and for putting in a spirited performance despite the odds being heavily stacked against them.

The youngsters, with evergreens Alex Craik and Ross Maitland providing some valuable experience, repelled the early Saints advances. However, the pressure eventually told and Fraser MacFarlane opened the scoring after 16 minutes cracking home a drive from 12 yards.

Scott Maitland rattled the crossbar in the 25th minute before young goalkeeper Jake Weir pulled off good saves from Shaun MacIver and Dougal Graham.

Saints gaffers past and present, Alex Craik and Willie Gemmell, came head-to-head in the 36th minute when Craik slid in with a well-timed challenge to halt a promising driving run forward from Gemmell. Craik's intervention was latched onto by Jordan Norman, who launched a counter-attack up the right which saw Ben Pollock fingertip a viciously dipping Lewis Buchanan effort onto his crossbar.

Within 60 seconds of hitting the woodwork, the youngsters found themselves two goals down when Ruaridh Horne's endeavour on the right wing set up James Ford for an angled shot across the keeper

Despite the scoreline the Under-19s' goalkeeper Jake Weir acquitted himself well and produced another fine save in the 50th minute to deny Kerr Newbigging.



It was a 9am start for some of the Oban Saints squad last Saturday when fitness trainer Jemma Campbell put them through their paces going up and down Jacob's Ladder. Jemma has been taking the club's pre-season training and the boys are now feeling the benefit.



Former Saints' gaffer Alex Craik heads this cross away before Craig MacEwan can pounce.

Match report and photo: Derek Black

which nestled in the top corner of the net.

A moment's hesitation in the Under-19s rearguard was punished by the lively Fraser MacFarlane in the 39th minute when he dispossessed Nathan Allan before burying another tidy finish beyond Jake Weir to give Saints a three-goal half-time lead.

Saints made three changes for the start of the second half, withdrawing Ben Pollock, Dougal Graham and Shaun MacIver and introducing Graham Douglas, Kerr Newbigging and Craig MacEwan.

MacEwan made an instant impact, setting up Fraser MacFarlane for his third of the evening inside the opening 60 seconds.

Despite the scoreline the Under-19s' goalkeeper Jake Weir acquitted himself well and produced another fine save in the 50th minute to deny Kerr Newbigging.

## FOOTBALL

James Ford doubled his tally in the 55th minute with a crisp low strike across Jake Weir to move the Saints tally onto five.

Lewis Cameron got in on the scoring act in the 57th minute, tucking a way a Ruaridh Horne cross from the right.

Saints made two further changes for the closing 30 minutes with Jamie Graham and Steven MacLeod coming on to replace Paul Carmichael and Dene Cassells. The Under-19s also made changes giving a run to young Aaron McKay and that veteran of many friendlies, Trialist.

A quiet evening for Graham Douglas was interrupted when Kerr Newbigging was penalised for a foul on Jay Cooper 25 yards from goal and left of centre. Ross Maitland's effort towards the near post was on target and Douglas had to look sharp to scamper along his goal-line and turn the ball behind for a corner kick.

Maitland stayed on dead-ball duty and sent a good delivery from the corner flag onto the six-yard line from where Alex Craik headed narrowly wide of target.

Still looking for his first goal of an injury disrupted pre-season, Craig MacEwan was unable to direct a header from a Scott Maitland cross on target in the 72nd minute thanks mainly to a strong aerial challenge from Lewis McPhee.

Ross Maitland wanted too



Ross Maitland.

much time to work the ball forward from the edge of his own penalty area in the 73rd minute and was caught in possession by James Ford. With the Under-19s defence already pushing up, Ford had time and space to measure a sweet curled finish into the bottom corner and complete his hat-trick.

Another good delivery from the right from Ruaridh Horne 60 seconds after the restart found the head of Craig MacEwan, who drew another fine save from Jake Weir, flinging himself to his right to push the ball away.

Another mistake at the back was cruelly punished by Lewis Cameron who rounded off the scoring with five minutes remaining.

The real action starts for Saints this Saturday with the visit to Glencruitten of newly promoted Dunoon Amateurs for a first Premier Division encounter between the two Argyll clubs. Kick-off is 2pm with referee Jimmy Litster in charge.

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Left to right are Jim Steven, Kate Forbes, Derek Keir and John Finlayson.

# The future of shinty

The Camanachd Association is pushing ahead with a two-pronged initiative to increase the number of children playing shinty in all parts of Scotland.

This is the Scottish Year of Young People and the Camanachd Association, in its 125th year, is keen as part of its ongoing drive to increase participation in shinty to encourage more young people to play the game.

Initial talks have already taken place at a specially arranged meeting with Highland Council head of education Jim Steven to discuss the importance of schools and clubs working together to grow participation in shinty and how this can best be achieved. Also present at the meeting were Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Kate Forbes, Camanachd Association chief executive officer Derek Keir and John Finlayson, a former Skye Camanachd player and manager who is both a Camanachd Association director and a councillor with Highland Council, who organised the meeting.

There were discussions around the many different approaches available to grow the game in line with the Camanachd Association's strategic plan, with input from schools and, with the support of Ms Forbes and other MSPs, it is hoped to raise the profile of the game and offer support to schools from the Camanachd Association's development staff.

Mr Finlayson said: 'The meeting clearly demonstrated the will to support and empower schools and communities to offer young people of all ages the chance to take part in a sport that promotes health and wellbeing, friendships and a pathway in a game which, while it can offer representative opportunities, still has its roots in local communities. We also want to ensure sustainability at club level and having more

youngsters playing shinty will obviously support the development of pathways for player progression. It would be great to see more schools working with our development officers and having shinty as part of the school curriculum. The support being offered by Camanachd staff will be available throughout Scotland.'

Mr Keir said: 'The first experience many young people have in sport comes through the school environment. Therefore, in order to broaden the number of young people experiencing shinty, we are offering CPD (continuing professional development) for teachers across Scotland to provide the training required to ensure that every first experience in shinty is positive and it connects with a pathway into a local club.'

Ms Forbes added: 'Children in the Highlands and beyond don't get enough opportunities at school to try out shinty and pursue the sport.'

'The future of the sport and the competitiveness of the leagues are dependent on children inheriting our love of the game. That is why I was delighted to meet, at John Finlayson's suggestion, with himself, Derek Keir of the Camanachd Association and Jim Steven at Highland Council.'

'It was a very productive meeting with us working together to identify ways of promoting the game to ensure there are enough opportunities for young people to play shinty at school level and as part of PE.'

One of the outcomes from the meeting is that Camanachd Association director Lyndsay Bradley will speak at a head teachers' conference and highlight where the Camanachd Association can provide support through their development officers who are keen to open communications with the schools. There will be benefits all round as there is a

## SCHOOL SHINTY

feeling among head teachers that pupils' involvement in extra-curricular activities such as shinty not only have health benefits but also have a positive effect on improving pupil attainment.

The second phase of the initiative is a specially arranged forum which takes place at the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, on Sunday September 2.

The forum is billed as a major opportunity to shape the future of shinty and the topics for discussion include whether the Schools Camanachd Association should be re-established as a separately constituted body with office-bearers and separate financial accounts. Alternative models will be considered such as a Camanachd Association Schools Working Group or Committee or indeed whether the current Camanachd Association Youth Working Group should be extended to administer youth and schools.

Other topics for discussion include the long-term player development of primary and secondary school aged players and their participation in festivals, tournaments and single fixtures and whether these should take place at area, regional, district or national level.

Competition entry criterion is also sure to be at the fore given recent controversy regarding the primary school age MacKay Cup competition.

The forum starts at 1pm and all interested parties are welcome. The views from the forum will be collated and considered by the Camanachd Association Youth Committee.

This initiative comes at the same time as the Camanachd Association has advertised for a marketing and communications organisation to develop and raise the profile of shinty.

## Martial arts

IAIN RODGER

editor@obantimes.co.uk



### Kyokushinkai Karate

With the school summer holidays over, the club is actively looking for new members. If you are thinking of a great way to get fit and be able to defend yourself, or have a child over eight who would like to, then Kyokushinkai Karate is perfect for you. It teaches all aspects of the martial arts, including self-defence, stand-up fighting, throws, joint locks and controlling someone on the ground. Students under the tuition of instructor Iain Rodger have taken part in Scottish, British, European and World Championships, all acquitted themselves very well. The training is hard but rewarding and grades are recognised throughout the world.

If you think this style of karate is for you please contact Iain Rodger (6th dan) for a friendly chat on: 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk, alternatively send a message to Caledonia Kyokushin on Facebook.

### Kickboxing

Beginners are always welcome at Senshi Do Kick Boxing. Junior session, ages five-14, are on Wednesday 4.30 to 6pm and senior session from 6pm to 7.30pm for ages 14 and over.

No matter your ability or fitness level you'll be made to feel welcome. All the people who train there know how it feels to start, how hard walking through the door feels, but once you are in you will be made to feel comfortable. Your first session is free so there is nothing to lose by trying it out.

Find us on Facebook Senshi Do Kickboxing or email shihanwill@gmail.com for more details

### Shukokai Karate

The clubs are re-opening after their summer break as follows: Dalmally on

### ATHLETICS

## Open sports day at Lochgilphead

Mid Argyll Athletic Club will host its annual open sports day next Sunday August 26, at Lochgilphead Joint Campus. The running events will be held on the Astroturf and the jumps and throwing events will take place on the new all-weather jumps area and adjacent grass area. The new jumps facility was installed in 2016 and was the first of its kind in Argyll and has been a great asset

for the local club as well as the schools at the Joint Campus.

The sports day will start at noon with all entries on the day from 11.30am.

There will be running, jumping and throwing events for six age categories starting at under-seven up to under-17.

The Scottish Athletics age qualification date of September 1 will apply to all age groups except the under-sevens where

August 21 at 7pm, Oban High School on August 23 at 6.30pm and Inveraray on August 24 at 7pm. All the clubs are taking on new students from those dates until the end of September.

Anyone looking for more details on these clubs should contact Kenny Gray (5th dan) on kenni.gray@btinternet.com or 07884 183905.

### BJJ

Oban BJJ has been concentrating on leg locks and ankle attacks following last month's seminar. With a few competitions coming up and lots of new faces going to compete for the first time the club will be introducing competition classes giving those attending rounds of controlled sparring.

The MMA side has continued to grow and they have been concentrating on counter attacking and angles. MMA is every Tuesday and Thursdays at 7.30 and is open to everyone.

Oban BJJ can be found on Facebook or email @coogiepots@gmail.com

### Wado Kai Karate

The Park Primary School class (part of Kaishin Wado Kai) is now closed for the summer break but will resume on August 27.

If you have a child aged seven-10 and want to know more about this class, please contact Mike on 07709 229284 or email m.faulkner@btinternet.com

Kaishin Wado Kai at Dunbeg School is on a Tuesday from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. All ages are welcome at the club training sessions. Mike Faulkner said: 'We are a small and friendly club with four black belt trainers available to help students at any time.' For more details contact Sensei Chris Bruce (7th Dan) at crb999@btinternet.com



There will be running, throwing and jumping at the Mid Argyll Athletics Club sports day.

OT

## BOWLS



Winners of the Carpet and Flooring Services Open Pairs Alex Carmichael, left, and Duncan MacAlpine with sponsor Ian McPherson.

## Alex and Duncan win Open Pairs competition

Oban Bowling Club held its Carpet and Flooring Services sponsored annual Open Pairs Competition on Saturday August 11.

After the round robin play was completed, there were two semi-finals which were between Marian Carr and Anne Stewart against Sandy Carr and Robert Dairon with Sandy and Robert just edging it after an extra end.

The other semi-final saw Oban pair Alex Carmichael and Duncan MacAlpine come out on top against the Ardrishaig pairing of Joan Robertson and Tommy MacRae.

The final was another close encounter but Alex Carmichael and Duncan MacAlpine came out the winners, leaving Sandy Carr and Robert Dairon with the runner-up spot. The trophy was presented by Ian McPherson of Carpet and Flooring Services Oban.

## GOLF



Prize-winners from the Taynuilt Open.

## Taynuilt Open results

The S & S Services-sponsored gents' open was played at Taynuilt Golf Club on Sunday August 12.

Handicap results: 1 Douglas Fraser (Carrick GC) 70 - 11 = 59; 2 David Laurie (Taynuilt GC) 85 - 24 = 61 (BIH); 3 Mark Grant (Taynuilt GC) 75 - 14 = 61. Gross results: 1 Graham MacColl (Glencruitten GC) 66; 2 Mark Henrickson (Taynuilt GC) 69; Donald MacVicar (Taynuilt GC) 70.

Longest drive at 1st / 10th - Graham MacColl (Glencruitten GC). Nearest the pin at 3rd / 12th - Hugh Nicolson (Taynuilt GC); nearest the pin at 8th / 17th - Alex Needham (Taynuilt GC).

# Green Machine win

On a cracking day for rugby, with the sun splitting the sky and the pitch at Glencruitten in fantastic condition, Oban Lorne welcomed four other squads to their second annual Tower 10s tournament.

Joining Oban on the day were local sides Lochaber and Isle of Mull along with National Division 3 side Hillhead/Jordanhill and Craig Dunain.

Oban fielded two sides on with a 1st XV and a Oban High School former pupils team led by Fergus Bradbury.

This abbreviated version of the game is perfect for

pre-season, allowing new head coach Andrew Johnston to evaluate a number of players ahead of next weekend's West Shield match against Strathaven.

Oban fielded two very strong looking sides with a mixture of youth and experience through both teams.

The first match of the day saw Oban 1st XV welcome local rivals Lochaber who brought a youthful squad down from the Highlands. A tight first half was played with both teams struggling to adapt to the speed of the game and saw only one try

scored through Oban's Andy MacDougall on a powerful surge from five metres out.

The second half was a different story altogether with two further tries for Oban from Craig Wright and Matt Walker, with Lochaber securing two late consolation tries as Oban fell off a couple of tackles. Oban won in the end four tries to two.

Next up was the Oban FPs led by Fergus Bradbury who played Inverness Craig Dunain led by former Oban player Struan Simpson. The Oban team found their feet quickly and raced into a three-try lead in the first half with scores from Allan Wright, Daniel Spiers and David McLaughlin all converted by Finlay Carmichael.

Craig Dunain scored a couple of great tries of their own in the second half before a try for Stephen Povey gave Oban a bit of breathing space. Final score was four tries to two for the FPs.

Oban then met Hillhead Jordanhill in the next match. The team from National League 3 were expected to be the sternest test of the day.

Oban started strongly and were quickly on the scoreboard with a try for new club captain Iwan Rhys Roberts. This was quickly followed by a try for another new member of the squad, Callum Murray, who is a new PE teacher at the high school.

Oban took a two-try lead into half-time. Hills hit back

## RUGBY

early in the second period with a well-taken try out wide. Oban responded well to this with two further tries for Callum Murray and one for Matt Walker to see them home. A very assured performance against a team from two leagues above.

Friends from over the water from Isle of Mull were the next opponents for the FPs team and their strong tradition in sevens rugby shone through as they raced into an early two-try lead with a couple of fantastic long-range scores. The FPs team managed to rally at half-time and scored three unanswered tries through Allan Wright and a double from David McLaughlin to edge out the islanders by three tries to two.

Mull had to back up this fixture with a small rest period against the Oban team. They carried on where they had left off in the previous game causing problems for the Oban defence with their speed of play and were rewarded with a well worked try from Sean Black. Oban responded with another try from Callum Murray whose pace looks set to cause opposition defences problems in the coming season as he is a flying machine.

Further tries for Oban came from Radi Maksimov, the Bulgarian international showing good acceleration and strength to score under the posts. Another for Iwan



Scottish Rugby president Dee Bradbury hands over the Tower 10s trophy to Oban Lorne's new captain, Iwan Rhys Roberts.

## Currie battles for Grampian Rally win

Mull rally driver Alasdair Currie, 20, scored his third win in the 2018 Scottish Rally Championship at last weekend's Grampian Forest Rally in Aberdeenshire.

The Tobermory rally ace clinched the Junior Scottish rally championship win after battling a mechanical

problem during the last two stages of the event.

The Argyll team, Grant MacNiven from Oban and Currie set the pace on the opening four stages of the event to build a comfortable minute lead from their closest rivals.

The dominant Ford Fiesta



Alasdair Currie and Grant MacNiven in action during the Grampian Rally.

ST team had left the midday service area after carrying out checks on the car and were on their way to stages five and six when the gearbox jammed into third gear and left the crew with little ability to carry on.

However, the fighting duo weren't prepared to give up on their championship hopes and decided to battle on, nursing the Fiesta through the remaining two stages.

Fortunately, Currie had done enough in the morning to keep his rivals at bay after dropping more than a minute with the mechanical issue to win by nine seconds.

Alasdair said: 'I thought the day was finished the minute I couldn't select any gear in the car.'

'To come home with the win after a day like that is a real achievement.'

'We dropped a lot of time,

but we were lucky that there weren't many uphill sections where we could have stalled in third gear but we lost an incredible amount of time on the fast sections.'

Currie now takes control, currently leading the Junior Category, Class 6 (FWD 2000cc), FIA 2WD and the Fiesta ST cup with one remaining round of the 2018 Scottish Rally Championship. The Armstrong Galloway Hills Rally in Castle Douglas on September 10 will host the penultimate battle of the season.

He added: 'We have had a really tough season, and to be back in contention for the title after two retirements is a real surprise. I'm one step away from becoming Scottish champion, and as a team we will make sure we take this battle right to the end.'

# Tower 10s trophy



Oban Lorne and Oban High School FP teams pictured after last Saturday's Tower 10s event. Photos: Stephen Lawson

Rhys Roberts and another for Callum Murray to a single score from Mull saw Oban win by four tries to two.

The FPs next opponents were Lochaber, who were growing with confidence as the tournament progressed. A great try from young Robert McLaughlin from Dalmally was a great start. This was followed by a brace from David McLaughlin either side of half-time and topped off by Allan Wright, who looked impressive at scrum-half all day. Lochaber scored two consolation tries.

Next up for Oban was Craig Dunain and the team were full of confidence and enjoying the way the competition was developing. This was a fantastic performance with Oban in complete control. A total of seven tries were scored with another brace for Callum Murray along with tries for Matt Walker, Radi Maksimov, David Cameron and Iwan Rhys Roberts leading to a comprehensive victory.

Oban's last match of the day was the inter-club game against the FPs. Oban dominated the first half with tries from Andy Ritchie, Calum MacLachlan and Radi

Makimov. Oban were playing a very expansive game and this was causing problems for the FPs' defence, who leaked three further tries to Lorne MacLachlan, Borisow Vasil and another for Iwan Rhys Roberts to a single reply from young Sean Gordon, who looks really promising. A wee bit more confidence and we will see how fast he can really be.

The last game of the day was the FPs v Hillhead Jordanhill who had been rotating their squad of 22 players in each game. A couple of injuries meant it was a mix and match Oban team who struggled with an element of fatigue and just couldn't get going. Hillhead ran in three tries to Oban's one to bring an end to the competition.

The new president of Scottish Rugby, Dee Bradbury, presented the Tower 10s trophy to newly appointed Oban captain Iwan Rhys Roberts to bring to the end a very successful day.

Some excellent rugby was on display from all teams which gives hope for the forthcoming season.

Oban Lorne have still a number of players to make an appearance this season and



Fergus Bradbury, who was playing for Oban High School FPs, receives the third place prize from his mum, Dee.

the squad is looking fit and strong.

Oban Lorne would like to thank all the clubs who travelled to take part in Saturday's event and will look forward to welcoming the teams back to Glencruitten for 2019's festival.

Many thanks must also go to the ladies team for organising the burgers, Willie Malone for organising the referees and to Argyll and Bute groundsman Ian Hay for preparing the pitches for the event.

## Oban Lorne appoint new captain

Oban Lorne are delighted to announce the appointment of Iwan Rhys Roberts as 1st XV club captain for the 2018/2019 season.

The Welshman, who has impressed in the back line over the past season, takes over from fellow back Craig Wright, who has led the team for the past two seasons.

It is an exciting time for Iwan to be appointed captain with a large number of new and young players moving into the squad as the team

look to bounce back from last year's relegation to West Division 2.

Everyone at the club wishes Iwan and his team all the best ahead of the new season.

## Tennents West Regional Shield – preliminary round

Oban Lorne take to the field this Saturday for their first competitive fixture of the new season as they welcome fellow West Division Two side Strathaven RFC to Glencruitten.

The two sides will contest for a place in the 1st round of the West Regional Bowl.

The first round tie will be played on Saturday August 25 with Oban or Strathaven facing the winner of the Cambuslang v Annan tie that will also be played on Saturday.

Kick-off this weekend is at 3pm, and all welcome to come along and watch.

Oban Lorne's first Tennent's West Division 2 fixture of the season will be played at home to Cumbernauld RFC on Saturday September 1, kick-off 3pm at Glencruitten.



The Green Machine's Lorne MacLachlan being chased down by Fergus Bradbury.

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## WEATHER

### Thursday

Sunshine and showers  
Moderate breeze from the west south west  
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.

### Friday

Heavy rain  
Moderate breeze from the south west  
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.

### Weekend Outlook

Light rain on Saturday  
Cloudy on Sunday  
Gentle breeze from the west south west  
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.



## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday August 9, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	03.14	0.9	08.57	3.5
	15.18	0.7	21.07	3.6
Fri	03.59	1.2	09.39	3.3
	16.03	1.0	21.48	3.3
Sat	04.47	1.4	10.29	3.0
	16.53	1.4	22.36	3.0
Sun	05.44	1.7	11.48	2.9
	17.49	1.6	23.51	2.8
Mon	06.56	1.8	13.27	2.9
	18.58	1.8	**.**	**
Tues	02.11	2.7	08.31	1.8
	14.42	3.0	20.30	1.8
Wed	03.53	2.9	09.38	1.6
	15.33	3.2	21.52	1.7

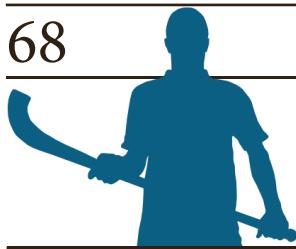
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

## Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**



# SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

# Lovat reach Camanachd Cup

Lovat will meet Newtonmore in the 2018 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final, Newtonmore stay on top of the Premiership and Fort William top the Marine Harvest National Division on goal difference following the shinty action last Saturday.

## Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-final

**Lovat 3**  
**Kingussie 3**

After extra-time

Lovat won 2-1 on penalties.

Lovat will play Newtonmore in next month's Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final after they finally saw off Kingussie in a penalty shoot-out in the 4.05pm throw-up at The Bught Park, Inverness.

Lovat's Danny Kelly accrued a badly-timed suspension for passing through the disciplinary points threshold. Mark Kelly and Scott MacKenzie remain longer term absentees, but Drew Howie was fit to take up his usual place in defence.

Kingussie's Kieran MacPherson was still out through injury, captain Rory MacGregor was on the bench and Roddy Young started in attack.

There was a minute's silence ahead of throw-up to remember Alan McLaren, who scored for Lovat's 1953 Camanachd Cup winning team, who died recently.

Lovat made the better start and created a couple of half-chances before Kingussie scored from their first attack of the game to take the lead on two minutes. Louis Munro's strike from a central position was blocked by a Lovat defender. The ball broke to the right where James Falconer took a touch to the outside before shooting low past Stuart MacDonald in the Lovat goal with the ball bouncing by the diving keeper by his right post.

Roddy Young set up Falconer three minutes later but this time he took the ball wide on the left and his back-hand effort went wide of the keeper's left post.

It was an open start to the game and Marc MacLachlan had a fresh-air swipe from inside the Kingussie 'D' with the goal at his mercy.

A Lewis Tawse run down the right asked questions of the Kingussie defence and his low cross found Greg Matheson on the left who fired a great shot which Kingussie goalie Craig Dawson did well to parry with his club at the expense of a corner.

Play quickly switched to the other end and Falconer went clean through, one-on-one with the keeper, but Stuart MacDonald flew off his line and spread himself to turn the ball away, injuring himself in the process.

Lovat claimed for a penalty when



**Lovat keeper Stuart Macdonald (in blue) is mobbed by his team after Lovat won the penalty shoot-out over Kingussie to reach the Camanachd Cup final.** Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Greg Matheson was pushed by Calum Grant on the edge of the 'D' but they had to settle for a free-hit.

Having exited both the MacTavish and Macaulay cup competitions at the semi-final stage, Lovat were determined to go one better this time and drew level on 23 minutes. Graeme MacMillan delivered a perfectly-weighted cross from the right to Greg Matheson who ran onto the ball and took a delightful first touch before tucking the ball low into the net from inside the 'D'.

Lovat suffered a blow when defender Callum Cruden had to go off after being accidentally injured on the face by a teammate's caman. Martin Mainland came on in his place.

At the same time, Kingussie's Fraser Munro took over from Lee Bain in attack.

Kingussie had a great chance to regain the lead when Roddy Young was chopped down by Daniel Grieve as he darted into the 'D' from the Kingussie right. Alexander Michie struck the resultant penalty well enough but Stuart MacDonald showed just why he is Scotland's number one as he stretched high to turn the ball away with his stick.

There were chances at both ends late in the half but it remained 1-1 going into the interval.

A low Ruaridh Anderson shot went wide of Stuart MacDonald's right post a minute into the second half.

Kingussie had made the better start to the second period and they went back in front on 51 minutes. Fraser Munro played the ball to

James Falconer on the left. Munro continued his run and took a lovely touch from Falconer's return ball before calmly scoring from inside the 'D'.

Lovat were on the ropes and a great run from Roddy Young was thwarted by Stuart MacDonald who blocked the ball with his feet.

Stuart MacDonald then made a fine reflex save to keep out Louis Munro's powerful strike from the right.

Lovat started to come more into it. They can usually rely on Greg Matheson to dig them out of a hole and he did just that on 67 minutes.

Marc MacLachlan's back-hand shot was saved with his feet by Craig Dawson but the ball bounced out to Greg Matheson who gleefully knocked the rebound into the net to level the contest again.

James Falconer had the ball in the net again with 20 minutes remaining but it was ruled out as the referee's whistle had already gone for an infringement.

With 10 minutes to go, Martin Mainland was shown a yellow card for flattening Fraser Munro.

Stuart MacDonald saved and cleared following a Louis Munro strike from the right, whilst Duncan Davidson went close at the other end seconds later.

Thomas Fraser replaced Bailey MacKay for Lovat as several players started to show the effects of a tiring contest.

With no further scoring, referee Archie Ritchie took the tie into ex-

tra-time. Kingussie brought on Rory MacGregor and Ryan MacWilliam at the start of extra-time with Savio Genini and Fraser Munro withdrawn, although Genini was

to return. The additional half an hour was less than a minute old when Graeme MacMillan fought for possession and the ball broke to Thomas Fraser who played in Marc MacLachlan. He found Greg Matheson who swept the ball into the net and Lovat led for the first time in the tie.

Louis Munro was yellow-carded after a tussle with Duncan Davidson.

Chris Johnstone took over from Graeme MacMillan who was still moving uncomfortably after the earlier knock, although he also later returned.

A James Falconer strike went just the wrong side of the post as Kingussie fought to get level.

Drew Howie needed treatment for a head cut but was able to continue.

With the first period of extra-time coming to a close, Craig Dawson made a brilliant reflex save with his caman to keep out Thomas Fraser's powerful shot from the left.

Kingussie now threw everything at Lovat and Stuart MacDonald used his body to save James Falconer's shot from the right.

Lorne MacKay was booked for throwing his stick to put off Rory MacGregor as he shot goalwards. Rory MacGregor played the resultant free-hit to Ruaridh Anderson and his shot dipped off the crossbar. Stuart MacDonald then made a

great double save to deny Roddy Young but Kingussie full back Robert Mabon, who had been pushed forward, forced the ball over the line to make it 3-3 with a couple of minutes remaining.

Just as with the first semi-final between Newtonmore and Kilmallie, it was now penalties that would decide who would go through to the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final.

Kingussie's regular penalty taker Alexander Michie was up first but Stuart MacDonald saved well to his left with his stick.

Lovat's regular penalty taker Greg Matheson went next and powered the ball home to give Lovat a 1-0 lead.

Savio Genini and Lorne MacKay both saw their attempts well-saved.

Stuart MacDonald made his third save, this time from Rory MacGregor and when Graeme MacMillan thumped the ball high into the net it was to prove to be an important goal.

Kingussie's Louis Munro had to score and he did and Lewis Tawse had the chance to win it but saw his effort saved with his feet by Craig Dawson so it remained 2-1 to Lovat with a penalty each remaining.

The pressure was on Kingussie's James Hutchison and his strike was saved with his legs by Stuart MacDonald and Lovat were through to the final.

New Scotland head coach Garry Reid selected Lovat's Greg Matheson as his BBC ALBA man of the match.

Lovat have now reached three of the last four Camanachd Cup finals and will meet Newtonmore at Mossfield, Oban, on Saturday September 15.

This will be a repeat of last year's final which Newtonmore won 3-2.

## Marine Harvest Premiership

**Newtonmore 4**  
**Glenurquhart 0**

There were contrasting fortunes as Newtonmore went three points clear at the top of the table after beating Glenurquhart 4-0 at The Eilan, a result which relegates Glenurquhart to National Division shinty next season.

Newtonmore's Glen MacKintosh and Glenurquhart's Ally MacKintosh missed out through suspension.

Newtonmore took the lead on 16 minutes from a free-hit with Michael Russell playing a bouncing ball through for Evan Menzies to score.

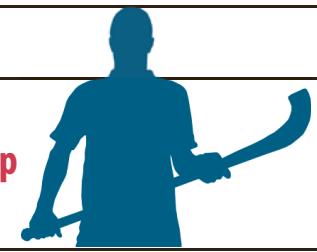
Steven Macdonald made it 2-0 on 33 minutes when his lob on goal from around the half-way line deceived Glenurquhart keeper Stuart

Camanachd Cup  
Macaulay Cup

MacTavish Cup  
Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup  
Balliemore Cup

Strathdearn Cup  
Bullough Cup



# final after penalty shoot-out

MacKintosh and the ball ended up in the net.

Evan Menzies got his second on 71 minutes as he ran in and rounded the keeper to score.

With five minutes remaining, a Steven Macdonald shot rebounded to Evan Menzies and he completed his hat-trick to make it 4-0.

It took good goalkeeping from Glenurquhart keeper Stuart MacKintosh to restrict Newtonmore to four goals against the under-strength visitors.

This was a solid win for Newtonmore as they safely negotiated what could have been a potential banana skin.

## Kinlochshiel 7 Lochaber 3

Kinlochshiel bounced back from the previous week's defeat to Oban Camanachd by beating Lochaber 7-3 at Kirkton.

Keith MacRae remained out for Kinlochshiel but there is hope he could play again this season after he underwent keyhole surgery on his injured knee during the week. Oliver MacRae was also missing, so Fraser MacVicar came into the side with Scott MacLean and Duncan 'WD' MacRae on the bench.

Lochaber went into the match having taken five from their last six league points. Martin Johnstone and Donnie MacRae were missing and Brennan MacDonald was their only substitute.

John MacRae almost put Kinlochshiel ahead on 14 minutes but his 20-yard shot crashed off the post.

MacRae found the net on 18 minutes though when he ran at the Lochaber defence and scored a good individual goal.

Lochaber levelled four minutes later when Shaun Nicolson played a long ball to full forward Danny Delaney who shrugged off Finlay

MacRae before passing to Findlay MacDonald on the left who drilled a shot high into the top corner of the net.

Kinlochshiel restored their lead a couple of minutes later. John MacRae played a good one-two with Duncan Matheson before finding Jordan Fraser who beat keeper Alistair MacDonald with a fine shot from 16 yards.

Duncan Matheson, who just turned 16 a couple of days earlier, proved a handful for the Lochaber defence and it was fitting he got Kinlochshiel's third goal on 44 minutes. Ally Nixon played a nice ball into the Lochaber defence and Duncan Matheson pounced, juggling the ball into the 'D' before knocking it past the helpless keeper to make it 3-1 at the break.

There was a good midfield battle from the start of the second half, especially between centres Paul MacRae and Shaun Nicolson.

Kinlochshiel introduced Scott MacLean for Ally Nixon on 58 minutes and he made an immediate impact, using his strength to lay the ball off for his colleagues.

And it was Scott MacLean who made it 4-1 on 63 minutes when he found space on the left and turned his man before his shot took a slight deflection on its way into the net.

Almost straight from the restart, John MacRae battled for possession and played an inch-perfect pass to Jordan Fraser who ran into the 'D' and stroked the ball past the keeper to make it 5-1 with 64 minutes gone.

John MacRae got his second on 72 minutes when he went on a mazy run from the left and although he was fouled a few times on the way, referee John Angus Gillies played advantage and MacRae beat the keeper on his left side from 15 yards.

Lochaber never let their heads drop though and they scored 10 minutes from time following a free-

hit awarded after Finlay MacRae pushed Danny Delaney over. Ben Delaney hovered over the free-hit before playing a perfect pass to Shaun Nicolson who had run round the defence to the right and he made no mistake, beating the keeper by his right post.

Shaun Nicolson scored again a couple of minutes later sending a speculative lob goalwards from 40 yards out. Kinlochshiel keeper Scott Kennedy went to palm the ball away but it bounced below his hand and into the net.

John MacRae crowned his man of the match performance when he grabbed his hat-trick with five minutes remaining. MacRae collected the ball on the left and beat a defender before shooting low into the net to make it 7-3.

Mark MacDonald and Conor Cormack combined well in the Kinlochshiel defence, whilst forward Duncan Matheson impressed throughout the afternoon.

Shaun Nicolson was best for Lochaber with Barry MacDonald also doing well.

## Skye Camanachd 1 Kyles Athletic 5

Kyles Athletic warmed up for this Saturday's Artemis Macaulay Cup Final with a 5-1 win over Skye Camanachd at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Iain Nicolson and teenagers John Gillies, Jamie Gillies, Ruairidh MacLeod, Martin Pringle and Ross Gordon all returned to the Skye squad.

Kyles Athletic forward Sandy MacKenzie was available again following suspension, whilst Roddy MacDonald remained out but hopes to be on the bench this Saturday. Donald Irvine and Andrew King were missing but Grant Irvine started.

Kyles were 4-0 winners when the sides met at Tighnabruaich seven days earlier and they flew out of the blocks in this one, taking the lead after two minutes. Sandy MacKenzie sent the ball out to the right where Grant Irvine crossed low for Gordon Whyte, who had surged forward from the middle of the park, and he scored.

Skye levelled on eight minutes. John Gillies, playing at full forward, took the ball down and played it to Ruairidh MacLeod who drilled a shot low into the net to make it 1-1.

Robbie MacLeod put Kyles back in front on 20 minutes when he sent a bouncing 25-yard shot into the net after Skye had failed to clear a free-hit.

Iain MacLeod saved twice with his legs in quick succession to deny Colin MacDonald and Robbie MacLeod.

There was a touch of fortune

to Kyles third goal as Sandy MacKenzie's effort from wide on the right took a bounce, deceiving the keeper, to make it 3-1 and it stayed that way until the break.

Kyles substitute Ross MacRae made it 4-1 on 61 minutes, striking the ball across the keeper from the left following a series of Kyles Athletic corners. Skye substitute Iain Nicolson almost pulled a goal back but his strike went by keeper John Whyte's right post and Whyte then saved with his hand from James Pringle.

Dunkie Kerr saw an effort saved before Skye failed to deal with a Scott MacDonald free-hit from the left and Robbie MacLeod hooked the ball into the net for his second goal of the game to make it 5-1.

## Oban Camanachd 5 Caberfeidh 0

Oban Camanachd followed up

the previous week's win over Kinlochshiel by beating Caberfeidh 5-0 at Mossfield.

Malcolm Clark and Scott MacMillan returned from suspension and both started on a strong Oban Camanachd bench which also included Keith MacMillan and David Lafferty, who was unused.

Caberfeidh's Liam Symonds was banned and Ally MacLennan was missing. Veteran Graham MacGregor played with manager Jodi Gorski listed as a substitute.

Oban Camanachd took the lead on four minutes. Daniel Cameron launched the ball forward from the centre circle and it deflected off defender Scott MacLachlan's leg and past keeper Ewen Pilcher who was coming off his line.

Willie Neilson made it 2-0 on 14 minutes when he ran in and bundled the ball home from close range after

Continued on page 70

## Fixtures

**Wednesday August 15**  
**Marine Harvest**  
**North Division 2**  
Caberfeidh v Inverness - 7pm  
Steven MacLachlan

**Saturday August 18**  
**Artemis Macaulay Cup Final**  
Kyles Athletic v Kinlochshiel  
Graham Cameron  
Mossfield Park, Oban, 2pm

**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Lovat v Newtonmore  
Martin Maclean - noon  
Kingussie v Skye 3pm

**Marine Harvest**  
**National Division**  
Fort William v Inveraray  
Inverness v Kilmallie  
Brian MacKay

**Marine Harvest**  
**North Division 1**  
Kingussie v Glengarry - noon  
Newtonmore v Aberdeen Uni

**Marine Harvest**  
**South Division 1**  
Ballachulish v Aberdour  
Bute v Col Glen  
Tayforth v Inveraray - noon

**Marine Harvest**  
**North Division 2**  
Caberfeidh v Lovat  
Kilmallie v Lochcarron  
Strathglass v Lochaber  
Strathspey v Beauly - 1.30pm

**Marine Harvest**  
**South Division 2**  
Oban Celtic v Bute

## Results

**Wednesday August 8**  
**North Division Two**  
Beauly 1 v 1 Boleskine

**Saturday August 11**  
**Tulloch Homes**  
**Camanachd Cup semi-final**  
Lovat 3 v 3 Kingussie  
Kingussie won 2-1 on penalties

**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Kinlochshiel 7 v 3 Lochaber  
Newtonmore 4 v 0 Glenurquhart  
Oban Camanachd 5 v Caberfeidh 0  
Skye 1 v 5 Kyles Athletic

**Marine Harvest**  
**National Division**  
Beauly P v P Inveraray  
Due to a bereavement  
Oban Celtic 1 v 4 Fort William

**Marine Harvest**  
**North Division One**  
Skye 6 v 0 Kinlochshiel  
Aberdeen Uni P v P Kingussie  
To be rescheduled  
Fort William 1 v 1 Glenurquhart

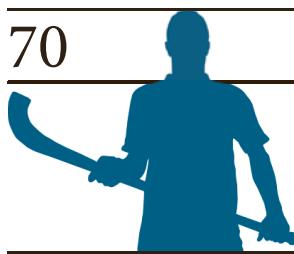
**Marine Harvest**  
**South Division One**  
Kyles Ath 0 v 1 Lochside Rovers  
Aberdour 3 v 1 Taynuilt  
Inveraray 6 v 0 Tayforth  
Kilmory 0 v 2 Ballachulish

**Marine Harvest**  
**North Division Two**  
Boleskine 3 v 3 Caberfeidh  
Lovat 3 v 2 Strathglass  
Lochaber 3 v 4 Strathspey  
Lewis P v P Inverness  
Inverness unable to field a team.  
Points to Lewis.



Head over heels: Kingussie's Ruairidh Anderson and Lovat's Martin Mainland. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated.



# SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

**Continued from page 69**

Caberfeidh failed to clear a Daniel MacCuish corner.

Chrissy MacMillan pushed forward on 29 minutes and sent another long ball into the 'D'. Keeper Ewen Picher stopped the ball and the rebound fell for Daniel MacVicar whose strike hit the goalie and rebounded back off MacVicar's caman and into the net to make it 3-0.

Caberfeidh's Craig Morrison had an effort ruled out when a teammate was offside so it stayed 3-0 at the break.

When Lorne Dickie lobbed a dangerous ball into the goal area, Ewen Pilcher did well to keep the ball out of the net under pressure.

Daniel MacVicar got his second on 63 minutes.

MacVicar gathered the ball on the left and made space before striking a head-height shot across the keeper on the angle to make it 4-0.

Lorne Dickie rounded off the scoring 10 minutes from time when he ran round the back of the defence following a free-hit at the edge of the 'D' and had time to stop the ball and pick his spot, making it 5-0.

Oban Camanachd's next match is at Lochaber at the end of the month, whilst Caberfeidh travel to Newtonmore the same day.

The win means Oban Camanachd are just a point behind fourth-placed Lovat although they have played a game more.

## Marine Harvest National Division

**Oban Celtic 1**

**Fort William 4**

Fort William lead the Marine Harvest on goal difference after beating Oban Celtic 4-1 at Ganavan.

Oban Celtic were without Michael MacKinnon, John Hill, David Hill, Fulton Ronald, Andy MacDonald, Andy Hunt, Neil Carmichael, Lee Askew George MacMillan, Dylan Cooke, Kieran Carnie and Kieran



Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon.

## Macaulay Cup Final this weekend

Kyles Athletic and Kinlochshiel line up in the 2018 Macaulay Cup Final on Saturday August 18.

The match at Mossfield, Oban, throws-up at 2pm. BBC2 is covering the match live.

Gallacher, Ally McKerracher returned. Fort William also missed some regulars including the injured Arran MacPhee.

Oban Celtic went down to 11 players when David MacInnes was sent off by referee Ross Brown on 17 minutes.

Lachie Shaw scored on 30 minutes to give Fort William a 1-0 interval lead the mixture of Oban Celtic first and second team players were holding their own.

However, Lewis Morrison added a second three minutes after the restart and Lachie Shaw got his second on 52 minutes to make it 3-0.

Ross MacMillan pulled a goal back a couple of minutes later for Oban Celtic but Grant Disher was on target five minutes from time to make it 4-1.

A concern for Oban Celtic is that Ross MacMillan had to leave the field shortly after scoring with a suspected broken hand. He would be a real loss for the run-in and for the South U21.

Oban Celtic's resources were so stretched that manager Kenny Wotherspoon was forced to come on in MacMillan's place.

After the match, Kenny Wotherspoon said: 'I don't usually use excuses but we had a major selection headache going into this game with John Hill's wedding taking place.'

'We used our free-week for his stag-do and with cup runs and such, it's the luck of the fixture setting that we would have a game today having not played last week and with nothing again this coming week.'

'The boys did ok though considering we went a man down so early on and it may have been different if we had kept a full team on the park.'

'Attention now turns to the South U21 squad and we have a game this week at The Winterton.'

### Beauly P

### Inveraray P

The game between Beauly and Inveraray at Braeview Park was postponed following the passing of Alan Hercher.

As a youth, Alan Hercher forced his way into the Beauly first team before he went on to enjoy a successful career as a professional footballer.

He also coached at the Braeview Park club after his playing days were over.

## Marine Harvest North Division 1

**Skye Camanachd 6**

**Kinlochshiel 0**

Skye Camanachd ran out 6-0 winners in their reserve team derby against Kinlochshiel in a noon throw-up at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Skye manager Kenny MacLeod fielded a strong side and kept faith with Lorna MacRae who played so well on her debut the previous week.

Kinlochshiel boss Willie MacRae fielded a young side.



Oban Camanachd's Scott MacMillan in action against Caberfeidh.

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

He was missing Scott MacLean and Fraser MacVicar who were called up by the first team. Nathan Wearh was also missing.

Kinlochshiel goalie Graham Kennedy made two good saves – one with his stick and one with his feet – to prevent Angie MacDonald giving Skye an early lead.

Iain Nicolson ghosted forward from his full centre role on 24 minutes and hit a great shot high into the net from left of centre to put the hosts in front.

Ross Gordon added a second on the half-hour mark when he gathered a Lorna MacRae ball from the right, took a touch and turned before rifling the ball into the roof of the net.

Another good stop from keeper Kennedy kept out a Lorna MacRae effort as the play continued towards the Kinlochshiel goal.

The visiting goal had a let off when Iain Nicolson ran forward and played in Ross Gordon but his shot came off the keeper's stick and hit the inside of the post before being cleared for a corner.

Kinlochshiel hadn't threatened the Skye goal until a minute before the break when young substitute Archie MacRae hit a shot from wide on the right which was saved with his hand by Skye goalie Ryan Morrison.

Graham Kennedy made another save from Lorna MacRae with 20 minutes remaining but Ross Gordon sent the rebound high into the net.

Ross Gordon completed his hat-trick on 81 minutes when he took down a high ball from Iain Nicolson and blasted it past the keeper to make it 4-0.

With the home support willing her to score, Lorna MacRae saw an effort come off the post on 86 minutes but Ross Gordon was again on hand to turn home the rebound and claim his fourth goal of the afternoon.

However, as the match moved into the final minute, a nice Skye passing move ended with Stewart Taylor's shot rebounding to Lorna MacRae and she fired the ball home to get her first goal at second team level

stick above his head on 68 minutes. Lennon Campbell had a late chance when one-on-one with the on-rushing keeper but his effort went just the wrong side of the post.

The Lochside defence of Scott McKillop, Jordan Keir, Ewen MacCorquodale and Craig Easton played really well while Calum Kirsop more than merits a mention.

Christopher Blair and full centre Rupert Williamson were best for Kyles.

The Kyles seconds are now three points ahead of Bute and Lochside but Bute have played a game fewer than both their rivals.

### Aberdour 3

### Taynuilt 1

Aberdour beat Taynuilt 3-1 at Silversands.

Angus Thorburn, David MacKenzie and a late Ruaraidh Reid effort made the difference for Aberdour.

Chris Parr scored the Taynuilt goal on 78 minutes.

### Inveraray 6

### Tayforth 0

The Inveraray second team were convincing 6-0 winners in their bottom of the table clash with Tayforth at The Winterton.

Inveraray player/manager Graham MacPherson was free of a two-match ban and he made a couple of changes from the previous week with Gregor Mather back in goal and Garry MacPherson starting his first game in six weeks.

Tayforth had a couple of injury absentees as well as the influential Niall MacPhee who was unavailable.

Tayforth started the brighter and hit the post in the first few minutes.

But it was Inveraray who hit the net on 11 minutes through Garry MacPherson after a well-worked Kenny Kirkhope corner.

Tayforth lost their full back with a nasty thumb injury forcing a reshuffle.

Inveraray doubled their lead on 20 minutes when centre man David MacPherson found Campbell Watt in acres of space.

The youngster dribbled the ball along the line and fired an angled drive into the net.

Craig Taylor helped himself to two well-taken goals on 38 and 40 minutes to make it 4-0 at half time.

Inveraray made a good start to the second half but faced an inspired Tayforth keeper who saved several shots from the Inveraray forward line.

Garry MacPherson on 72 minutes and captain John Mackenzie on 76 minutes found a way by him to make it 6-0.

Tayforth then had their best part of the game and scored a well-taken goal but it was rightly disallowed by referee Graham Fisher as a Tayforth player was in the 'D' suffering from cramp.

Inveraray will be happy with what was their best win of the season whilst Tayforth will hope their injuries aren't too serious.

## Kilmory 0

### Ballachulish 2

Ballachulish scored a goal in each half to beat Kilmory 2-0 at MacRae Park.

Kilmory's Duncan MacBrayne and Ballachulish's Cain MacPhee were both free of suspension.

Alan Clark put Ballachulish ahead 12 minutes from the start and Lewis Bryson made it 2-0 12 minutes from the end.

Good play from Lewis Bryson set up the opener as he slotted a pass through to Alan Clark who fired a shot into the net from just outside the 'D'.

A great ball up the line from winger Craig McLauchlan found Alan Clark who played a ball into the 'D' and, after a scramble, the ball broke to Lewis Bryson who rifled a shot into the roof of the net to make it 2-0.

This was a great game with both teams hitting the bar and there outstanding performances from Ballachulish pair Cian MacPhee and Ally Banks.

## Marine Harvest

### South Division 2

Vastano and Xander Ross gave Strathspey the win.

Strathspey's Fraser MacDonald had a tremendous game in defence.

### Lewis Camanachd W/O Inverness 0

Lewis Camanachd were given a walk-over when the Inverness seconds were unable to raise a team for their trip to Shawbost.

## Marine Harvest

### South Division 2

#### Strachur P

#### Glasgow Mid Argyll P

The Marine Harvest South Division 2 title decider between Strachur and the Glasgow Mid Argyll colts at Strachurmore will now take place on Saturday August 25.

## WCA round-up

There were a number of Women's Camanachd Association fixtures played over the weekend with most of the matches taking place on Sunday August 11.

## Marine Harvest

### National Division 1

#### Glasgow Mid Argyll 0 Skye Camanachd 12

Skye Camanachd's title push remained on course when they beat Glasgow Mid Argyll 12-0 in their 2pm throw-up at Yoker.

Sarah Corrigall scored five times whilst Jenna Beaton (4) and a Lorna MacRae hat-trick made up their tally.

#### Fort William 0 Badenoch 15

Badenoch stay hot on Skye's heels following their 15-0 win over Fort William at An Aird.

Kirsty Deans netted eight times with doubles from Shannon Macwhirter, Megan Ralph, Jeanette McGregor and a Mairi Stewart strike all counting.

#### Aberdour 0 Lochaber 12

Lochaber were also big winners, beating Aberdour 12-0 in their 1.30pm throw-up at Silversands.

Kirsty Delaney bagged five goals with Amy Disher (4) and Natalie MacDonald (3) getting the others.

#### Strathspey 8 Ardnamurchan 0

Strathspey won the battle of the newly-promoted sides, beating Ardnamurchan 8-0 in their 1pm throw up at Grantown Grammar School. Doubles from Jade Callum, Beth Rodgers and Jess Hart and goals from Stacy Tinney and Stacey Hutton sealed the win.

## Marine Harvest

### North Division 2

#### Skye Camanachd 3

#### Strathglass 4

The Skye Camanachd seconds lost 4-3 against Strathglass in their 11.30am throw-up at The Playing Field, Broadford, on Saturday 11 August 11. Abby MacLean scored all three Skye goals.

A Lachlan Campbell brace and a strike from his son Max Campbell counted for Lochaber, but a Struan Ross double and goals from Xavio

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## INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Green Machine win Tower 10s trophy  
Saints ready for the new season

# MacIntyre loses out in sudden-death Finnish



Oban's Robert MacIntyre is heading into the business end of the Challenge Tour season in the top 30 in the Road to Ras Al Khaimah Rankings after narrowly missing out on his breakthrough win on the circuit.

The Glencruitten left-hander, who recently turned 22, made home player Kim Kuovi pull out all the stops to come out on top in the Vierumaki Finnish Challenge at the Vierumaki Resort, in north-east of Finland. The pair shared the lead heading into the final round and fought out a thrilling head-to-head battle in the €180,000 event.

He started for home with a bogey – his only blip of the day – before bouncing back with birdies at the 12th and 13th before finishing with five solid pars.

The 2015 Scottish amateur champion led outright after Kuovi made his only bogey of the round at the 14th but the 27-year-old Finn birdied the 17th to force a play-off. That was decided at the first extra hole, where Kuovi holed from 15 feet for a birdie to

## GOLF

claim his second win on the Challenge Tour this season after winning the Belt & Road Colourful Yunnan Open in April.

MacIntyre shot rounds of 68, 66, 67, 66 for a 21-under-par aggregate – a total that would have seen him win all but two of the previous events on the circuit this season.

'This is some game we play,' wrote MacIntyre on Twitter. 'A great week, gutted to miss out on the win but what a game of golf that was.'

Kuovi agreed, saying: 'It was just a great battle with Rob, he played awesome. He put the pressure on me all the way around and I just kept fighting, and I was the lucky one to come out on top.'

The effort earned MacIntyre ranking points that saw him jump 45 spots to 27th in the Road to Ras Al Khaimah.

Robert MacIntyre in action during the Vierumäki Finnish Challenge

Report and photograph: Bounce Sports



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## Fort William cinema now set to be rebuilt

**EXCLUSIVE**  
by Neill Bo Finlayson  
[nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk)

After 12 years without access to the silver screen, hopes of re-establishing a cinema in Fort William have been given a major boost this week.

The former Studio Cinemas building in the centre of Cameron Square has been bought as part of a massive project to build a new two-studio cinema in the town, with construction expected to start early next year.

The man behind the project, Moidart entrepreneur Angus MacDonald, officially purchased the building on Friday August 10 from current proprietors DV8.

The 55-year-old from Roshven, who also owns The Highland Bookshop on the High Street, will take ownership of the building on September 28.

The plan is to completely demolish the current building and construct a new cinema complex on the site, which Mr MacDonald hopes

will be the 'most beautiful' building in Fort William and the centrepiece of Cameron Square.

Although the architect is yet to be formally commissioned for the project, Mr MacDonald has said he has been impressed with early plans.

He explained: 'The current proposal is to have a cafe-bar at the front of the building and two big screens at the back. The aim is to make it the most beautiful building in town.'

The current building replaced the old Fort William Town Hall, which burned down in 1975, and comprised a two-screen cinema and a tourist office.

Studio Cinemas eventually closed in 2006 and two years later the building was bought by Northern Irish fashion retailer DV8.

Mr MacDonald, who is solely funding the project without seeking public money, said the property was not

Continued on page two

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One lucky reader could soon walk away with a guaranteed £2,500, courtesy of The Oban Times' Spot the Ball competition.

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### Skye Games has global appeal



The Isle of Skye Pipe Band entertained the crowds at this year's Skye Highland Games. For full report and photographs, turn to pages 14 and 15.

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## Plantation man was growing cannabis in hall cupboard

A sheriff heard this week how police officers searching the home of a Fort William man found cannabis plants growing in a cupboard.

Craig Mitchell Hulston, of Campbell Court in the town's Plantation area, had previously pleaded guilty to two offences by letter.

Hulston, 53, had admitted to producing cannabis at his home on October 27 last year and to being in possession of cannabis on the same date.

Procurator Fiscal David Morton told Fort William Sheriff Court that police officers attending a nearby road traffic collision had detected a strong smell of cannabis from both the front and rear of the property.

The officers had some relevant intelligence and so a search warrant was obtained.

'The officers attended the property and the accused



freely admitted cannabis cultivation, with plants growing in a cupboard in the hallway,' explained Mr Morton.

'A systematic search took place. The accused told officers he was growing the plants for his own use. There were also various other small amounts of cannabis discovered during the search.'

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald deferred sentence until September 11 for a criminal justice social work report and for further clarification of the values of the drugs involved.

# Owner admonished over sheep worrying

## Family pet bit lamb and pulled it to ground

The owner of a dog that worried livestock and pulled a lamb to the ground at Kilchoan was admonished at Fort William Sheriff Court this week.

Due to ill health, Helen Margaret Anne Ferguson, of Grianan, Kilchoan, was not in court this week to hear Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald's verdict, but her daughter was.

Ferguson, 54, had pleaded guilty at a previous court appearance to being the owner of the dog in question, a Labradoodle named Tinkerbell, which had worried sheep in a field at Ben Hiant, Kilchoan, on September 9 last year.

The court heard that the dog had bit a lamb and pulled it to the ground.

Procurator Fiscal David Morton told the court the offence took place around 1pm on a Saturday afternoon when neighbours of Mrs Ferguson became aware of sheep running from the shore to a field in an area of common grazing.

'It seems a gate had been left open and witnesses saw, in the corner of the field, that there was a lamb on the ground being bitten by a dog, which belonged to Mrs Ferguson,' he said.

One witness was driving past and honked his car horn in an effort to distract the dog and stop the attack, while other local people were able to chase the dog away.

Some of those involved knew it was Mrs Ferguson's

dog and it was subsequently reported to the police. The farmer of the sheep involved had been offered compensation but the lamb had survived and the matter was not taken any further by the parties involved and seemed to have been quickly resolved.

However, defence agent Hamish Melrose, who told the court the incident had also been captured on video, said the first his client knew there was a problem was when police officers came to her home about two weeks later.

'This dog is a family pet and was two years old at the time. Since the incident there has been no recurrence of this kind of behaviour by the dog,' said Mr Melrose.

'It happened on an adjacent

croft and the dog had got through a gate which had been left open. Since then measures have been taken to ensure the dog cannot get out so easily.'

Mr Melrose said the family had hired a dog trainer from Carlisle for three days of specialist behaviour training and since then the animal had shown no signs of repeating the offending behaviour.

'Hopefully, this was very much a one-off incident,' added Mr Melrose.

Mr Morton told the sheriff he had no information that any injuries had been suffered by the sheep or that veterinary treatment had been required and in those circumstances, Ferguson was admonished by the sheriff.

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## Fort William cinema set to be rebuilt in Cameron Square

Continued from page one

for sale when he approached the company to buy it.

Named Spear's Entrepreneur of the Year in 2017, Mr MacDonald first made his name in the 1990s and 2000s by building two successful financial publishing firms.

Since returning to Lochaber he has set up the Moidart Trust, opened The Highland Bookshop and is now co-owner of the Highland Soap Company. He is also the author of the Ardnish series of novels.

He said: 'I've had success in business and want to help my home town flourish. I feel strongly that a thriving cinema will add to the attraction of Fort William as a place to live and visit, providing an important evening and poor weather entertainment venue.'

'The site chosen for the cinema must be the best in town, a fantastic position for a gorgeous new building.'

Previous attempts to reinstate a cinema in Fort William have failed, not only at the Cameron Square site but at others around the town.



The former Fort William Town Hall pictured in 1973 before it burned down; Angus MacDonald, pictured, plans to demolish the current building to make way for a new cinema. Photographs: Alba.photos.

bers, it should cover its costs.' Lesley Benfield, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce added: 'As the number of people staying in or moving to Lochaber grows in line with opportunity, so will the demand for amenities such as the proposed cinema in Cameron Square and other indoor facilities in Fort William.'

Asked about the commercial viability of his new project, he replied: 'With 20,000 people living with an hour's drive, and large visitor num-

## Union welcomes Abellio move

Union boss Manuel Cortes has welcomed the news that Abellio has agreed to recognise his union, the TSSA, for its contact centre in Fort William.

Mr Cortes held a meeting on Tuesday August 14 with Abellio in the wake of the news that four members of staff at the call centre would not have their employment continued after their jobs were transferred to Glasgow.

He said: 'We are now seeking assurance from Abellio that the jobs will remain in Fort William. I'm expecting to hear from them soon but I was somewhat reassured by the fact they are seeking to fill vacancies. It is very clear that we are now in the process of putting in place a recognition agreement that will allow our members' voices to be heard loudly and clearly.'

Mr Cortes added: 'Thank you, too, to the Lochaber Times for exposing past union-busting tactics which have no place in Fort William or anywhere else.'

# Campaigners slam 'callous' Blackford

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
[nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk)

MP Ian Blackford has been accused of orchestrating a 'callous' and 'disingenuous' attempt to 'rewrite history' by supporters of the late Charles Kennedy.

The Lochaber MP has attracted criticism from campaigners who worked closely with Mr Kennedy after a recent interview with a national newspaper in which the SNP politician said he was 'proud of the way' that he conducted the general election campaign in 2015.

In the interview, Mr Blackford was asked about his defeat of Mr Kennedy and the relationship between the two candidates during the campaign. In particular, he was asked about claims that he had stormed into the Liberal Democrat campaign



Ian Blackford MP.

office and acted aggressively towards staff.

The SNP Westminster leader said in the interview that 'wasn't the case'.

He said he visited the office to shake hands with Mr Kennedy after a public meeting the night before and there was 'absolutely no issue' between the two.

Mr Kennedy, who served

the Lochaber constituency for 32 years, died less than a month after his election defeat in his home in Fort William, on June 1, 2015.

In the interview Mr Blackford went on to say that he did not enjoy the election campaign against him run by Mr Kennedy's team, which he said was 'pretty nasty'.

Now however, former campaign manager for Mr Kennedy, Candy Piercy, who was a senior member of his 2015 campaign team, has criticised Mr Blackford's recent comments.

'In the past weeks, we have seen politicians from across the spectrum defend Charles Kennedy,' Mrs Piercy told the Lochaber Times.

'His reputation as a kind, helpful and honourable man is known throughout his constituency and the country.'

'The 2015 election is in

the past, but people in the Highlands, in Scotland and across the UK remember what really happened.

'Mr Blackford's recent orchestrated attempt to rewrite history is both callous and disingenuous.'

'It will no doubt make many of Mr Blackford's constituents question his motives and think long and hard about trusting him in the future.'

Several high-profile campaigners and politicians, such as former Liberal Democrat leader Sir Menzies Campbell and former Labour minister Brian Wilson, have also condemned Mr Blackford's comments, accusing him of altering the facts of the 2015 election campaign.

Mr Blackford was contacted by the Lochaber Times in relation to this matter but was unavailable for comment before going to press.

## Spean Bridge guest house co-owner in court

The co-owner of a guest house in Spean Bridge appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court this week.

Eddie Harris, 42, of Inverour Guest House in Spean Bridge, pleaded guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner likely to place a reasonable person in a state of fear and alarm on July 25 this year, when he cut up his partner's passport.

The court heard that the accused suffers from various health issues, including separation anxiety.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald was told Mr Harris had the support of his partner who was in court. She deferred sentence until September 11 for a community justice social work report and bail was continued.

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## Stramash praises migrant families

Fort William nursery Stramash has hailed the contribution made to local services such as its own by families who have moved here from outside the UK.

The outdoor learning centre is working with the Scottish Government and other partners to support the #wearescotland campaign which aims to ensure that migrants to Scotland feel welcome.

'We have had children from every continent in our nursery,' explained Fort William team leader Cameron Sprague, who himself moved

to Scotland from the United States. 'Having families moving here from outside the UK means that we have more children and we can do more.'

Ten of the 72 children in the Fort William nursery are currently from outside the UK, from countries ranging from Chile to Hong Kong.

'People coming from outside of the UK enable us to maintain the level and quality of local services that people here rely on,' added Mr Sprague. 'Across the Highlands, inward migration helps to ensure

the long-term future of local communities, both socially and economically.'

Based at the former BA Club in Fort William, Stramash draws children from remote areas up to an hour away for its nursery, schools programmes and holiday clubs.

Maree Todd, minister for children and young people, said: 'Stramash is a prime example of how small, rural businesses provide not just a service to those who make Scotland their home, but often employment too. This in turn has a positive impact on the local community.'

## Man who groped Mòd reveller sentenced

A Lancashire man who ended up on the Sex Offenders' Register after groping a Lochaber woman in a Fort William bar during the 2017 Royal National Mòd was back in court for sentencing this week.

Warren Plant, 51, of Poulton Le Fylde, had denied sexually assaulting the woman on October 21 by touching her bottom under her skirt but over her underwear.

Plant had also pleaded not guilty to a second charge of touching the bottom of another woman in the bar

on the same night, over her clothing, with his hand.

After a trial lasting two days in June, Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald found Plant guilty on the first charge, but found charge two not proven.

Sentence was deferred until this week for the preparation of a community justice social work report, but Plant was immediately placed on the Sex Offenders' Register after being convicted.

This week defence agent Alan Gravelle told the court that the incident had only lasted seconds and was at

the lower end of the overall spectrum of such offences.

'But it still has had a profound effect on his life - his marriage has broken down and he is now living with his brother,' said Mr Gravelle, adding in mitigation his client had told him that on two occasions he had been injured coming to the aid of other people.

Sheriff MacDonald said the placement on the Sex Offenders' Register would last six months and she also ordered a six-month supervision order be imposed.

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## MSP in call to save public loos

Proposals which could see the closure of up to 29 public toilets have been slammed as 'short-sighted' by Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron.

The consultation, by Highland Council, is considering a review of current provision, including some 'rationalisation' of 29 existing toilets and the possibility of introducing charges. The review continues until October, during which time no toilets will close.

Scottish Conservative MSP Donald Cameron announced his backing for the campaign, having heard from various constituents since his election about a lack of toilets in the region.

Mr Cameron said: 'It is short-sighted for Highland Council to consider shelving more than a quarter of its public toilets and I will be writing to the chief executive to make my views clear and to ensure these important amenities are saved.'

# Ambassador in Arisaig for tribute to soldiers

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
[nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk)

The Slovak ambassador to the UK visited Arisaig last week as part of the centenary commemorations of the founding of Czechoslovakia in 1918.

Lubomír Rehák was welcomed to Arisaig on Wednesday August 8 by councillors Allan Henderson and Denis Rixson. They

joined local people at the memorial to Czech and Slovak soldiers on Arisaig's sea front, where the ambassador laid a wreath in honour of Czech and Slovak personnel who were trained in Arisaig.

He gave a moving tribute to the Czechoslovak Special Operations Executive (SOE) agents deployed in enemy occupied territory in the Second World War, one in

three of whom lost their lives. He spoke particularly of Josef Gabčík and Jan Kubík, who died following Operation Anthropoid, which resulted in the assassination of SS Obergruppenführer Heydrich in Prague. Gabčík and Kubík both underwent their paramilitary training in Arisaig.

During his time in the area, Ambassador Rehák visited local sites associated with SOE wartime activities, including Arisaig House, SOE headquarters, Traigh House and Garramore.

The ambassador rounded off his visit to Arisaig at the Land, Sea and Islands Centre with an informative and fascinating talk about the history of central Europe.

In concluding his remarks, he expressed his sadness and disappointment in the UK's withdrawal from the EU and the divisions created which he said would compromise the strength and unity of the European Union to the detriment of the EU and the UK.

Ambassador Rehák praised the Land, Sea and Islands



The ambassador laid a wreath at the memorial in honour of Czech and Slovak personnel who were trained in Arisaig.

Centre and thanked the people of Arisaig past and present for honouring the memory of the Czechoslovakian soldiers who were based in the village.

Anyone wanting to know more about the SOE and its

work in the area during the Second World War can visit the Land, Sea and Islands Centre, which has a fascinating exhibition and additional resources. It is open throughout the year.

## VIEW FROM The Chamber

Making connections and increasing understanding of each other's businesses is an important part of the work of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce.

That's why, as well as business training events and social get-togethers, we also offer business showcases and site visits in our busy events programme. It's a great way for us all to learn more about the range of fantastic businesses operating in Lochaber that we know about ... but don't really know about.

Chamber members enjoyed a visit to The Underwater Centre last week to find out more about what the company does there.

Around 20 people from member businesses went along for a fascinating insight into the range of subsea training and equipment sea-trials going on below the surface of Loch Linnhe.

Participants learned The Underwater Centre is the world's leading subsea training centre, equipping commercial divers, remotely operated vehicle pilots and support staff with the highest



Lochaber Chamber members find out more about operations down the pier from Mark Gibbons of the Underwater Centre.



levels of training to work in the subsea industry around the world.

Chamber members also got the rare opportunity to walk down the private pier to observe operations.

Our next site visit and lunch will be at Marine Harvest on Thursday September 13. If

you have always wanted to see behind the scenes at its operations and find out more about Lochaber's part in this global company, join the Chamber and sign up to attend. We look forward to meeting you there.

At Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, we're committed to helping our members achieve their business goals.

If you'd like to join, give us a call on 01397 705765 or visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk).

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## Community centre gets grant boost

Sunart Community Company has received more than £40,000 from the Scottish Land Fund to help buy the former Strontian visitor centre.

The visitor centre on the Ardnamurchan peninsula closed last autumn, which VisitScotland said was in response to the popularity of digital services among visitors.

The award of £41,000 will go towards a community buy-out bid. Funded by the Scottish Government, the Scottish Land Fund supports rural and urban communities to become more resilient and sustainable through the ownership and management of land and land assets.

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes welcomed the news and said she hopes to meet with some of the groups. She said: 'There are few communities as enterprising and hard-working as the one in Strontian.'

# Big turnout for new Belford workshop

Lochaber people showed their commitment to shaping the future of the area's health and social care at a well-attended workshop in Fort William last Thursday.

The event, run by an external healthcare planner, was held to formally make the strategic case to replace the Belford Hospital with a new rural general hospital on the Blair Mhor site.

Some 100 representatives from local communities, members of the public, voluntary and third sector organisations, elected representatives and NHS Highland staff attended the event at the Nevis Centre.

Chief officer for Highland Health and Social Care Partnership David Park said he was pleased to have a

cross-section of views at the workshop.

There were presentations on NHS Highland's perspective on the case for change with the ageing population, workforce challenges and the fact the Belford Hospital building is now holding back progress.

During the day, there was thoughtful debate which was generally positive.

Among the concerns was disappointment there is still not a site layout plan. Transport congestion on the A82 and recruitment challenges were recurring themes.

NHS Highland's senior charge nurse (theatres) at the Belford Hospital, Pauline Yeung, said: 'It is of little surprise there was such interest in this event as the people of Lochaber care deeply about

the Belford Hospital and local health and social care. It was wonderful to see such partnership working at this stage of the process and this will be a key element of shaping the future of the replacement Belford Hospital and wider health and social care services in Lochaber.'

NHS Highland's head of public relations and engagement, Maimie Thompson, explained the next step would be to draft and share the strategic assessment document before finalising it and submitting it to the Scottish Government. NHS Highland hopes to do this over the next few weeks.

Ms Thompson also commented that, with all the discussions around recruitment, staff retention is important.



Retired GP Chris Robinson asks questions.



NHS speakers, left to right, Eric Green, head of estates, Ross MacKenzie, area manager west division, and Tracy Ligema, head of service north and west division.

# Public outcry over Glen Etive hydro plans

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
[nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk)

Conservationists, mountaineering groups and members of the public have lodged vociferous objections against plans to build multiple hydro schemes in Glen Etive.

Seven planning applications have been submitted to Highland Council to build run-of-river schemes at sites across Glen Etive on land owned by the Dalness Estate, all of which have received numerous objections.

There has been significant opposition to the developments from the public in particular – the first time this has happened with run-of-river hydro schemes in Scotland.

If planning permission is granted to the applicant, Dickins Hydro, the schemes will be built within the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe National Scenic Area, the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne Special Protection Area and within Wild Land Area 9 Loch Etive Mountains.

The application for the Allt

Fhaolain scheme alone has had more than 30 objections from mountaineering groups, conservation organisations and members of the public. Objectors claim the development would affect the water supply to the popular Inbhirfhaolain mountain hut, which belongs to the Dundee-based Grampian Club and has provided shelter to mountaineers since 1961.

Former Scottish Natural Heritage board member Nick Kempe argues these hydro scheme applications are a 'wake-up call' for those who care about the landscape. He told the Lochaber Times: 'Unbelievably, Scottish Natural Heritage, the government agency with responsibility for our national scenic areas, has concluded that over five miles of permanent new access track, 15 hydro intakes and seven new buildings can be constructed in Glen Etive without affecting the integrity of the landscape there.'

Dickins Hydro was contacted by the Lochaber Times in regard to its seven planning applications but was unable to comment before going to press.

this logic SNH would not object to a dam across Glen Coe – and Highland Council should reject its advice and the planning applications.'

Among the most noticeable groups to complain is the John Muir Trust, which has lodged objections to three of the proposed hydro schemes on wild land grounds.

John Low, policy officer for the John Muir Trust, said the schemes would have a 'terrible visual and physical impact' on what he describes as an 'inspirational' landscape.

'It's clearly not the right place,' he said. 'The impact on the landscape and its scenic qualities would be significant.'

'The fact a number of organisations, groups and many individuals are making the case against these proposals highlights a growing call for these applications to be rejected.'

Dickins Hydro was contacted by the Lochaber Times in regard to its seven planning applications but was unable to comment before going to press.

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## WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

Age Scotland Veterans' Project is running a free training day at Ben Nevis Hotel tomorrow (Friday August 17) from 9.30am to 3pm.

The event aims to boost people's confidence and ability to work with and support older military veterans and older people affected by dementia.

Caol-based Lochaber Sensory Care for sight and hearing support will be at Abbeyfield House Care Home, Ballachulish, from 10.30am until 12.30pm on Monday August 20 offering free help and advice to anyone with a sight or hearing impairment – residents and the public.

Nether Lochaber Craft Fayre will take place in the hall at Onich on Saturday August 25 from 10am to 4pm. On sale will be cakes, jams, cards, crafts, jewellery and candles.

Refreshments and soup also available. Contact Berit on 01397 705539 for more details.

# School heads praise pupils

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
[nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk)

As students across the country opened their exam results last week, one Kinlochleven pupil celebrated her exam success on the other side of the world.

Former school captain Jo Shepton, 18, can add two Advanced Higher As in Physics and Maths and an A in Higher Graphic Communications to the four As and a B she achieved in her Highers last year.

On top of this achievement, Jo has earned her Gold Duke of Edinburgh award which included 400 hours of volunteering in her community during her time at Kinlochleven High School.

With that impressive clutch of qualifications, the teenager received five unconditional offers for universities across the country.

'I am really happy with my results this year,' said Jo. 'It has been stressful at times and it took a lot of hard work. It has really stretched me and pushed me to my



limits. I hope this will put me in good stead for studying astrophysics at the University of Edinburgh next year.'

Jo received her SQA results while in Western Australia, where she is taking a year out before starting her degree in September next year.

She is currently on Rottnest Island, an A-class nature reserve and home to the Quokkas, a small native marsupial.

Mrs Machin, Kinlochleven High School's head teacher, said: 'Jo works so hard and

contributes so much. She was one of our school captains this year, Young Volunteer of the year at the 2017 Voscars, always playing an active role. I was not surprised when she received unconditional offers from five of our most prestigious universities.'

'At this time of year, schools are often asked about exam results and statistics and we sometimes lose sight of the amazing individual achievements of our youngsters.'

Lochaber High School head teacher Scott Steele also said

Former Kinlochleven High School captain Jo Shepton received her exam results in Western Australia.

of pupils, staff and the supportive parents for the exam results.

He said: 'Congratulations to so many of our young people who achieved well this year in their exams. I am particularly pleased a number of our young people are having success with one or more Higher qualification in S4. In S4, particular mentions go to those pupils who achieved to a high standard in two Highers in addition to their National 5 exams; Janie Patterson, Alistair Tait and Ben Gregg. In S5, particular mentions go to Kay Christian and Lyall Morris for achieving five Highers.'

'Well done, too, to so many of our young people this year for the huge range of wider achievement and volunteering they have been engaged in and the continued success with the Duke of Edinburgh award.'

Ardnamurchan High School has the highest percentage uptake of the award in Highland.

'I wish all our leavers the very best.'

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# Fundraiser Liz donates £3,500 to Belford Hospital

A Fort William fundraiser is close to hitting the £40,000 mark for her charity work over the years after she presented staff at the Belford Hospital with a four-figure cheque last week, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

Liz MacMillan raised £3,500 in just six weeks by selling donated items and organising raffles online to help buy a new laser pen for locating veins.

She also donated £150 to Macmillan nurses in the area with extra cash from the fundraising effort.

Liz, who has been raising funds for a number of Lochaber people and causes over the last 10 years, explained the push to raise the £3,500 was inspired by a friend who had been in hospital and told her about the importance of this equipment.

In total, she has now raised close to £40,000 for local charities and is hoping to hit the £50,000 in the near future - but not before a well-earned break.

'I love it,' she told the Lochaber Times. 'I love helping people and wish I could



Liz, second right, hands over the cheque to Belford Hospital staff Pauline Yeung, left, Mandy Sillars and Dr Patrick Byrne last Thursday.

do it full time, all the time. I'm quite a big softie and keep hearing of people that need help and treatment, so I just keep going.'

'It's hard going sometimes though and I'm taking a break from it for a month I think.'

Liz's tenacious fundraising efforts show the power of social media as she says she would not have been able to raise these amounts without the use of her Facebook page.

'I've been doing it for probably over 10 years, but basically over the last four or five years on Facebook it's become more intense.'

'I used to run car boot sales and the odd raffle which would make two or three hundred pounds every few months.'

'Now on Facebook I can raise much more.'

To follow her progress, 'like' Liz's charity fundraising page on Facebook.

# Tribute paid to Chrissie, 104

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Loving tribute has been paid to one of Lochaber's oldest residents, Chrissie Hamill, who has died aged 104.

Mrs Hamill passed away peacefully on Monday August 6 at her self-contained flat in Victoria Court, Fort William.

Despite a life hit by many tragedies, well-known Mrs Hamill led a full and active life until hip trouble took its toll. However, she still enjoyed feisty conversations and opinionated debates, said her son-in-law Robert MacFarlane who lives in South Africa.

'She will be missed by many and while her funeral will be a time of sadness, it will be a celebration of life. I presume she would have been the oldest or at least one of the oldest residents in the area. She was definitely the oldest staying at Victoria Court,' said Mr MacFarlane.

Born just before the outbreak of the First World War, Christina MacLean was the fourth of seven children born to Archibald MacLean and Jeanie Hay, living across the loch from Fort William, where her father was the Treslaig ferry man. She attended



secondary school in Oban and on completing her education trained as a children's nanny in London, spending many happy years with a family down south with local connections.

She came back home in 1943 to help look after her father who was unwell and met her husband Sam Hamill, an army engineer working in the area. They married on November 18 that year, shortly before Sam left for active duty abroad. He was away for nearly three years, latterly as part of the occupation forces in Japan, said Mr MacFarlane.

She was widowed in 1965 when Sam died following a long illness, aged just 51. By then Mrs Hamill had moved back to Lochaber and lived for

many years in Corpach before being one of the first residents of Victoria Court where she had lived since.

In 1996 she lost her 47-year-old daughter Tina to an accident in South Africa and then in 2009 her son Sam died from a long illness at the age of 64.

'Chrissie was well known in the area and led a very active life until hip problems restricted her movement in her mid-90s. Before that she would be seen walking to and from the shops, only latterly taking a taxi back with her shopping bags,' said Mr MacFarlane.

In 2014 she celebrated her 100th birthday in Victoria Court surrounded by family and friends and received a telegram from the Queen.

In 2017 she made headlines when she underwent emergency surgery at the Belford Hospital, creating a record for the Belford and probably for Scotland. Chrissie continued to live in her self-contained flat in Victoria court helped by carers, family and friends who kept a close eye on her.

'She had a constant stream of visitors who could enjoy a feisty conversation with Chrissie. She had her opinions on current affairs and could debate them ably,' added Mr MacFarlane.

Mrs Hamill, a longtime member of Duncansburgh Church, is also survived by four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, a daughter in law and numerous nephews and nieces in Fort William.

Chrissie Hamill, above, on her 100th birthday and, left, Chrissie, second left, with her family at home near the loch.



## Family and friends walk for Martin



Close friends and family of Fort William man Martin Duncan, who died last year, paid tribute to him with a group walk from Kinlochleven to Fort William on Saturday. Dozens of walkers made the 16-mile trek through the Mamore mountain range in memory of Martin, who died aged 35. A keen golfer and shinty player, Martin was involved in a number of clubs in the area, including Fort William Golf Club and Kilmallie Shinty Club.

## MacPhail

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angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



*Without brash ambition to grab for the prize  
No dash to be flash or be fast.  
But steadfast and steady they furrowed the field  
With a plough their people passed down.*

*By the strength of their skill,  
unmatched was the yield  
Healed land, by their hand, is their crown.  
And conquer they have, but with nobody beaten  
They have won but no one has lost.  
On the power of their poem, a race starved and has now eaten  
And a cliff from abyss has been crossed.*

*They have led with the beam of a lighthouse at sea  
And guided a ship from the reef.  
If the ship of the Gael continues to be  
Nod then to their pen and belief.  
Pioneers of a path to share wide their song*

*They showed the way first for us all,  
And all who come after in debt will belong  
For their grit to commit to their call.  
Through blood to the Brothers the gifts of the bards*

*Then a well of deep riches combine  
For working the well are god-given guards  
Turning thought and the water to wine.  
Humble the ways of true leaders*

*of men  
With grace and humility's hand,  
When asked 'What is Runrig?',  
time and again  
To this day they will say, 'Just a band.'  
But just a band they are not, and never have been  
From inception, through change and transition  
From the seed to the sapling, their song evergreen  
With a key to the tree of tradition.  
What they've done for their people cannot be repaid  
Giving confidence back to the young.  
Past members and present all built what was made.  
To our side now the tide they have swung.  
And now from their stage they have planned their last bow  
In the way they have lived for their goal –  
With dignity, wisdom and guiding the prow  
All done, while at one with their soul.  
Fir ghasda, fir ghaisgeil, stèidh'chte  
daingeann san tìr  
Le sùil ghèur air cuireachd's air buain;  
Le feamainn an dualchais chuir iad todar air fonn.  
Le gach tonn dhùin iad 'Cearcall a' Chuain'.*

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# 'Fantastic' Sunart Show is

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
neillayson@obantimes.co.uk

Organisers have hailed this year's Sunart Agricultural Show as a 'huge success' as a big crowd flocked to Strontian to see the best livestock, terriers and handicrafts the area has to offer.

With sunny spells throughout the day, Strontian Showfield had a real buzz about it on Saturday as visitors crowded round the busy stalls and toured the show pens to get a glimpse of this year's entries. There was plenty to keep youngsters entertained, including Bubbles the Clown and the games stalls, which kept faces smiling.

In the competitions, Robbie MacDougall was crowned Champion of Champions this year with his Castle Grant-bred Cheviot Three Shear.

David Wright had another successful show, winning an array of competitions with his cattle entries, while Sam MacKenzie and John Nudds once again performed well with their Blackface sheep.



Show secretary Nikki Robertson said that the show was a 'huge success', but more importantly she was relieved to get some brighter weather.

She said: 'With the weather forecast at the beginning of the week saying it was to be wet, we were delighted to have a warm day on Saturday.

'The field had lots of

attractions, and the sheep and poultry entries were up this year, and the local craft tent had full tables. Among the new attractions this year were a dozen or so vintage motorbikes – with Loch Shiel Garage bringing its Foden truck – which were a huge hit with the children and their dads.'

The adults donned their dancing shoes in the evening and enjoyed a lively night of entertainment thanks to music by Robert Nairn.

Nikki continued: 'The committee would like to thank all the volunteers who come along to help with the show and stock judging day. We always welcome new



committee members and hold regular meetings.'

If anyone would like to join the committee, they can con-

tact Nikki by emailing: sunart show@yahoo.com

For full show results, visit www.lochabertimes.co.uk



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# huge success



Clockwise from top left: crofter David Wright with his champion cow; Tim Coldwell was one of the bikers showing their Harley Davidsons; Alison Blair, left, and Sarah Kennedy of Lochaber Beekeepers' Association; Ally Davidson with Spark who won the best working terrier competition; John MacDougall won the Champion of Champions with his Castle Grant-bred Cheviot Three Shear; Seumas McIntyre was helping out at the Lochaber Geopark stall; Kirsty Laurie with Goldie; Julie Robertson models her new hat; Olivia Sexton on Duke; David MacKenzie and his terrier Traigh who won the terriers' race; Strontian Show judges in serious contemplation; Megan Park and Narla the terrier, who won the best working terrier bitch competition; and young Katie MacGregor with her mum Laura. All photographs: Iain Ferguson.

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# Union boss says ferry service tendering must be scrapped

Trade union leader Manuel Cortes, who represents around 100 CalMac staff, says the critical ferry service must be publicly funded in the future.

Mr Cortes stopped off in Oban as part of an eight-day tour of the Outer Hebrides to visit Transport Salaried Staffs' Association (TSSA) members.

TSSA general secretary, Mr Cortes is demanding an end to the franchising of Hebridean ferries and wants to see any future tendering of services scrapped.

In 2016, CalMac beat off Serco to win an eight-year contract to run the Clyde and Hebrides ferry services. At that time trades unions and Labour MSPs argued that the franchising system was unnecessary and a waste of public money.

Mr Cortes said: 'Everyone living in or visiting the Hebrides knows the ferries are critical to their survival. That's why we can't let up the pressure until their future is



**Manuel Cortes.**

secured as a publicly-funded service and the franchising model that hinders its development is ended.'

The TSSA claims outsourcing the lifeline services to private contractors is still part of the SNP transport agenda even though the political party had 'blamed Europe' for tendering those services.

Mr Cortes added: 'The cat is now out of the bag. The European Commission told the Scottish Government that it has nothing to do with

them, guv'nor. SNP ministers must now scrap any future tendering of these lifeline services.'

Mr Cortes said he wants to see the SNP government taking the Hebridean routes back into public ownership by allowing CalMac to run them from 2019.

'It makes no sense to allow profits to be made on publicly subsidised ferry services. The SNP has run out of excuses not to bring these services into public ownership. Their EU bogeyman was put to rest by the European Commission.'

'As we have always argued, it's a lack of political will in Holyrood which prevents Scotland's ferries, railways and buses from being run in the interests of its people rather than profits.'

During Mr Cortes's tour he visited ports in Lewis, Harris, North Uist, Skye, South Uist, Coll, Barra and Mallaig, and was also in Fort William visiting workers at Abellio's call centre.



The tug o' war took centre stage again.

# Plenty of laughs at fun-filled Knoydart Games

Labelled an 'alternative' Highland Games by its organisers, the Knoydart Games focuses more on silly games and good laughs than caber tossing and Highland flings.

The annual games day is always a great family day out and this year was no different, with plenty of activities, races and music to keep both the children and adults entertained.

A cloudy but generally dry day allowed all visitors and participants to make the most of the outdoor activities and lounge on the grass enjoying the day against the picturesque backdrop of Loch Nevis.

The tug o' war took centre stage again this year, which resulted in two Knoydart teams fighting it out for this year's trophy.

The dog show was once again one of the most popular events of the day, attracting 27 participants. Entrants were put through their paces in the agility classes, as well as the more fun events, including 'best six legs', which prompted some great catwalk struts.

As always, the youngsters had the run of the games with plenty of races and activities to keep them entertained. However, the water slide, in-



The ceilidh had folk on their feet all night.

tended for the children, ended up as an adult's play park by the end of the day.

Delicious food was served up in the form of a pig-on-a-spit, as well as a burger barbecue, while the community bar at Knoydart Community Hall kept the drinks flowing and everyone in good spirits. As well as lots of visitors staying on Knoydart for the weekend, friends from Mallaig and nearby areas also joined in the fun.

The day concluded with the raft race, which saw the youngest participant, Victor Elvis Stockwell, and his race partner Freya Holroyd take the trophy against the Viking Tribe.

Tribe, who were just as surprised as the spectators that their bath raft did not sink. As the afternoon activities drew to a close and after a quick tidy up and change over, the evening entertainment got under way.

The Rowan Leslie Band, with local guest musician Galen Brook, kept the crowd dancing until the wee small hours with a fantastic ceilidh.

Stephanie Harris of Visit Knoydart said: 'The Knoydart community are extremely thankful to all the volunteers who helped put the day together, as well as all the attendees who took part and donated generously.'



From left: Victor Elvis Stockwell and Freya Holroyd beat the Viking Tribe in their bath tub to the raft race trophy; the water slide, intended for the children, ended up as an adult's play park by the end of the day, below.

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# Lochaber Fèis success

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
[nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk)

More than 100 youngsters honed their traditional music skills at last week's Fèis Lochabair.

Whether they were sharpening their musical talent or picking up an instrument for the first time, the students were put through their paces in Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar over five days of festival action.

From accordions and bagpipes to Gaelic song and step dancing, children of all ages, from nursery up to primary seven, were tutored by some of Lochaber's best working musicians.

The week culminated in a special concert on Friday evening which was enjoyed by everyone.

It was a particularly emotional concert for Fèis chairwoman Deirdre Beck who stepped down from the role after 15 years.

Current Fèis secretary Laura Moir presented Deirdre with flowers and a gift in front of the gathered crowd of participants, parents and siblings who showed their appreciation for her work over the years.



Concentrating hard during an accordion class.



The junior Fèis choir performing to parents.



Deirdre Beck, right, was given a special presentation as she stepped down as chairwoman of Fèis Lochabair after 15 years. The presentation was made by Laura Moir, present fèis secretary.



Clarsach classes were popular.



Tutors Sarah MacLeod, left, and Fiona MacIntyre teach children an action song.



Left: Fiddle classes proved popular again this year.

## Urgent plea for new committee volunteers

Following Friday's final concert, the Fèis Lochabair committee warned there is a risk there will be no festival next year if no new volunteers come forward.

The dedication of the current committee for more than a decade has been unwavering but there is concern about the lack of new people getting involved.

The Fèis is a huge part of keeping the Gaelic language and traditional music alive.

People are being encouraged to attend Fèis Lochabair's annual general meeting, the date of which is to be confirmed.

For more information about Fèis Lochabair, contact the committee through their Facebook page.

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## Faster Skye broadband welcomed

Glendale and Waternish on Skye are to get superfast broadband.

The news follows the announcement by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon of increased provision of superfast broadband across Scotland.

Ian Blackford MP welcomed the decision. He said: 'I am delighted Glendale and Waternish will benefit from the fibre network.'

'I have long campaigned for high speed connectivity in remote areas. The Scottish Government has committed to 100 per cent high speed connectivity across Scotland by 2021 and I am delighted this programme is more than exceeding expectations. High speed connectivity is vital for business, especially in remote communities where people can work from home.'

'Visitors, too, expect to be able to connect their phones and tablets everywhere they go.'

## Pupils make the grade

Pupils in the Outer Hebrides received their exam results last week, with the number achieving National 5 being higher than the national figure. This also represents an improvement of one per cent in pass rates in Eilean Siar compared to 2017.

Percentage passes at Higher are in line with the national pass rate.

Advanced Higher (SCQF level 7) results show a small decrease in the number of presentations. However, percentage passes in Eilean Siar have increased by 5.5 per cent compared to 2017.

# Feis an Rubha hits all the right notes

It was another successful Fèis an Rubha this year, with 56 children attending the event at Sgoil An Rubha on Lewis.

The youngsters enjoyed learning guitar, fiddle, clarsach, melodeon and drums as well as taking part in singing and drama workshops, all led by experienced tutors, from Monday July 30 to Friday August 3.

Anne Macaulay, chairwoman of the Fèis an Rubha committee, said: 'We had 56 at the fèis. They enjoyed it and the concert on Friday night went well.'

'The numbers were slightly down but the croileagan artificially inflated it last year. Numbers attending the main event are going up.'

'Most of the participants were from Point but there were three this year who were home from Glasgow Gaelic School.'

The main fèis is for children aged eight to 18, while there is also a class for those aged five to seven and a cròileagan for children aged three to five.

Attendance normally costs £35 for the first child and £30 for siblings but the organising committee wanted to lower this cost barrier to some taking part.

They sought funding from community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust to provide free places for families in receipt of the school clothing grant and the community wind farm donated £500.

Calum Alex Macmillan, Fèisean nan Gàidheal development manager, said the funding of free places by the trust had allowed Fèis an Rubha to reach more young people.

Such financial support would 'make a real difference for families within the local community'.

He added: 'Fèisean nan Gàidheal and member fèisean endeavour to



Above: Fifty-six youngsters took part in Fèis na Rubha this year.

All photographs: Sandie Maciver of SandiePhotos Photography.

**Right:** Girls get to grips with the accordion at Fèis an Rubha.

provide opportunities for all young people to access traditional music tuition and experiences in the Gaelic arts.'

Donald John MacSween, Point and Sandwick Trust general manager, helped establish Feis an Rubha about 15 years ago in the now demolished Aird School. He said he was 'so pleased' to see the feis has grown.

'It is fantastic to see it now firmly established as a regular and popular event with participants eager to learn new musical skills from dedicated tutors.'



Youngsters enjoyed trying their hand at playing the drums during the event.

The annual Feis an Rubha was held at Sgoil an Rubha, Point, in the final week of July.

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## Breakdown prompts ferries call

Power problems on board the MV Loch Seaforth travelling to Stornoway from Ullapool last Thursday shows adding to the fleet must be the 'highest priority' for the service.

That is according to Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan, who welcomed the news the MV Loch Seaforth has been repaired and is back in service.

Dr Allan said: 'First and foremost, it is worth recognising the efforts of engineers and crew who repaired the fault and returned MV Loch Seaforth to service in such a short time frame.'

The passenger ferry, with 343 people on board, was affected by a power cut caused by a problem with the main engine cooling systems. It eventually made it to port on one engine.

RNLI lifeboats from Stornoway and Lochinver escorted the ship into Stornoway Bay.

Dr Allan continued: 'This episode gives a stark illustration of just how quickly a serious situation can develop when the fleet is stretched to the very limit. I was in regular contact with CalMac, Transport Scotland and the cabinet secretary for transport throughout the evening and, while there were contingency plans being developed, it is clear they would have involved a series of redeployments which would inevitably have brought disruption to other areas. Completing the next two vessels for addition to the fleet must be the highest priority.'

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# Forbes marks Fairy Pools land transfer

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
[nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk)

Kate Forbes MSP officially marked a land transfer at the iconic Fairy Pools that will help improve infrastructure at the world-famous tourist hotspot.

The constituency MSP for Skye joined representatives from the local community and the Minginish Community Hall Association at a celebration event on Friday August 10, as MCHA has acquired 12.3ha from Forest Enterprise Scotland – which will be used to build an expanded 130-space car park and new toilet facilities.

With visitor numbers to the Fairy Pools in excess of 100,000 per year, Ms Forbes has been supporting MCHA in its efforts in partnership with the Outdoor Access Trust.

Building works – which will be carried out in two phases – has already begun on the site, with the entire site due to be completed early next year.

Ms Forbes said: 'There are diggers at the Fairy Pools building a new car park, and I



was delighted to officially cut the cake to celebrate.

'For two years, the good people of Glenbrittle have struggled to get through the build-up of traffic at the Fairy Pools.

'Finally, with a lot of hard work, persistence and political will, Minginish Community Hall Association has the money, the land and plans to build a car park.'

Last year the Skye MSP organised and led two well-attended tourism summits with local businesses, community groups and tourism

organisations, which looked at tourism-related problems and potential solutions. She also orchestrated a visit from Tourism Cabinet Secretary Fiona Hyslop.

'This is an inspirational example of communities turning assets into money-making enterprises for local benefit,' Ms Forbes continued.

'The car park will create an income stream for the hall association.'

'It's great to see charging already in place at the smaller car park and so the commu-

**Kate Forbes cuts the celebratory cake at the Fairy Pools site with Nick Duffill of the Minginish Community Hall Association and Keith Bryer of the Outdoor Access Trust Scotland.**

nity are already receiving a small income.'

The MSP for Skye and Lochaber added: 'Tourism should be a benefit to local communities – not just individual businesses.'

'The project at the Fairy Pools seemed almost impossible for months, with challenging geography, a high budget and so many stakeholders. However, it shows what is possible.'

'Communities should always be in control of what's happening on their front doorstep and should see the economic benefit of the growth in tourism, as they will now do at the Fairy Pools.'

'It's an example to other communities of what can be achieved when they feel at the mercy of powers outside their control.'

## Police name Skye road crash victim

Police on Skye have confirmed the identity of the victim of a fatal road crash on the A87 on the Isle of Skye on Wednesday August 8.

He was Ewen Mackay, 54, from Teangue, Skye.

His family issued the following statement through Police Scotland: 'We are heartbroken that Ewen has been taken from us. He was a devoted husband and father as well as a friend to many. As a family, we would respectfully ask for privacy at this time.'

Mr Mackay was the driver of a Ford Transit Connect van which was involved in the collision about a mile north of the Sligachan Hotel. The incident was reported to police at 8.49am.

Mr Mackay's 16-year-old son was a passenger in the van and was airlifted to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, where he continues to receive treatment for serious injuries.

Also involved in the incident were a white Audi Q7, a blue Mercedes C-class and a silver Vauxhall van.

Sergeant Ewan Calder said: 'Our thoughts remain with Mr Mackay's family and friends at this sad time. Our inquiries to establish the full circumstances of this collision are ongoing.'

'We are grateful to everyone who has assisted us so far and would ask anyone with information which has not yet been passed to police makes contact as soon as possible.'

Call 101 quoting reference NP3317/18.

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## Man dies at Loch Shieldaig fish farm

A 62-year-old man, understood to be a prawn fisherman, has died following an incident at a fish farm in Wester Ross.

Police Scotland said the alarm was raised at a farm on Loch Shieldaig in Torridon just before 9am on Tuesday August 7 following reports of a person in the water.

Portree and Kyle Lifeboat, along with other Maritime and Coastguard Agency

search and rescue assets, were called to the scene.

A spokesperson for Police Scotland told the Lochaber Times: 'The man's body was recovered from the water and he was pronounced dead at the scene.'

'Inquiries are ongoing to establish the full circumstances, although the death is not believed to be suspicious.'

'His next of kin are aware and a report

will be sent to the procurator fiscal in due course.'

RNLI Portree issued a statement that said: 'Having made best speed the life-boat arrived on scene after 57 minutes where the Coastguard rescue helicopter crew and other medics were already in attendance. The circumstances of this tragic incident are now being investigated by Police Scotland.'



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**Champion Lucasz Wenta from Poland throws the weight.** Skye Highland Games 04



**Isle of Skye Pipe Band entertained the crowds.** Skye Highland Games 03. All photographs: Sara Bain.



**The ladies' race.** Skye Highland Games 12



**Dancers compete on stage.** Skye Highland Games 17

## Skye Games shows

Report and Photographs  
by Sara Bain  
[editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

An historic 141 years of a unique and proud way of life was celebrated on Portree's famous Lump last Wednesday at the annual Isle of Skye Highland Games.

And tradition continued with the weather this year, with the customary downpour on the Wednesday giving way to clear spells just in time for the games.

The day saw fewer numbers in attendance than previous years, owing to a fatal accident in the morning which closed the A87 north of Sligachan for almost 12 hours.

Honorary secretary Allan Stewart said: 'The committee was very sorry to hear of the tragic accident which took place early in the morning of games day.'

'Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this sad time. This obviously put a cloud over what is one of the busiest days in our calendar.'

Despite no records being broken this year and a fewer numbers of residents and visitors, the 2018 event was packed with spectators and saw competitors from across Scotland and other parts of the world compete against each other in the traditional heavy field events, athletics, piping and Highland dancing.

Three Bernisdale competitors particularly shone on the day: Martin Munsie in the heavy competitions, Ewen Bradley in the field and track, and Malin Lewis in the piping.

Highlight of the games was the heavy competitions where giant competitors pitted their strengths against each other in an open and spectacular



**Malin Lewis with a hoard of prizes for piping.**

Skye Highland Games 15

display of muscle and might. The heavies showed off their talents at throwing hammers, 28lb and 56lb weights, putting the stone, tossing the caber and hurling a massive weight over a very high bar ... backwards.

Reigning world champion Lucasz Wenta proved the strongest on the day taking home the Isle of Skye Estate Agency Trophy for best competitor in open heavy events.

Martin Munsie was awarded the Rosemary Nicholson Trophy for best local competitor.

On the track and sand, Ewen Bradley sprinted home with the Robertson Memorial Challenge Cup for Best all round local athlete after winning a number of trophies including the two, four and eight-lap races and the long jump.

The Toronto Cup for best all round local piper went to Malin Lewis who took home a number of coveted trophies on the day for his outstanding performances.

Edinbane's Archie MacLean won the Dougie MacLeod Cup for best all-round local piping (under 18) as well as

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The crowd basks in the sun at the Lump in Portree. Skye Highland Games 01



Young sword dancers compete for a trophy. Skye Highland Games 07

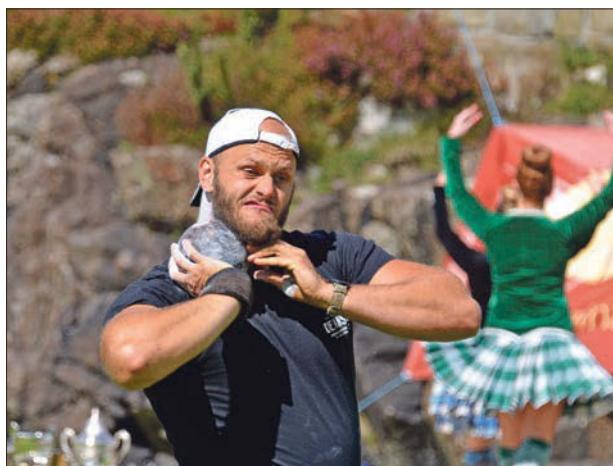


A contestant leaps in the high jump.

Skye Highland Games 05



Bernisdale's Ewen Bradley with a winning long jump. Skye Highland Games 16



Vladislav Tulacek from the Czech Republic prepares to put the stone. Skye Highland Games 11



The men's two-lap race. Skye Highland Games 09

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# European folk music takes centre stage at Skye

Traditional music by top Scottish and Spanish musicians features in this week's Skye Festival programme.

The annual two-month festival is celebration of performing arts and island culture and takes place this year until Tuesday August 28.

Orcadian duo Saltfish Forty have won a devoted following throughout the UK and beyond, successfully transcending the duo format's conventional confines.

They come to An Talla Mhòr on Friday August 17.

Tuesday August 21 brings an evening of exciting, passionate and powerful music from northwest Spain when multi-award-winning maestro of the Galician gaita Anxo Lorenzo performs a concert with his band in TDC main hall.

Anxo is renowned for his high octane, mesmerising performances and is a pioneer of the gaita pipe in a wide array of musical genres. Prepare to be spellbound.

Highland fiddle player Adam Sutherland is the recent MG Alba Scots Trad awards composer of the year.

The outstanding musicians in his band – Marc Clement on guitar, Angus Lyon on accordion, Hamish Napier on keys, Iain Copeland on drums and John Paul Spiers on bass - include members of Session A9, Blazin' Fiddles, Sketch, Nae Plans and Hue and Cry. They will perform the hits from Adam's first record Squall as well as material from his new solo album Some Other Land. The concert takes place in TDC main hall on Wednesday August 22.

For something completely different, three of Scotland's most popular crime writers came to Armadale Castle, Gardens and Museum of the Isles on Sunday.

Michael J Malone, Caro Ramsay and Douglas Skelton held afternoon workshops for writers of any discipline and a meet the authors talk in the evening for readers, writers and lovers of crime fiction.

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# East meets West at Lewis festival

Purvai 2018 gets under way this August with a host of internationally acclaimed artists including Deepa Nair Rasiya, Gupreet Singh Notta, Kaviraj Singh Dhadyalla, Dalbir Singh Rattan and Kathak dancer Kanchan Maradan.

The festival, being held at An Lanntair, brings South Asian dance, music, writing, textiles and food to the Outer Hebrides in an eclectic arts festival, celebrating Scotland's diversity of connections with India.

The headline event will be a 'Summer Evening of Indian Raag', taking place tomorrow (Friday August 17) and featuring one of the most highly acclaimed female Indian vocalists in the UK today, Deepa Nair Rasiya.

This year a new initiative for the festival, the Purvai Summer School - Yatra Óigradh - will be an opportunity for children aged eight to 13 years to experience a range of art forms including kathak dance, singing, drumming, puppet making and more.

This will lead to a multi-media performance on Saturday August 18 when children will take inspiration from the Yatra performance of last year's festival and tell the sto-



Deepa Nair Rasiya, Indian classical vocalist and headline act for Purvai 2018.

ry, through dance, music and puppetry, of the world-famous collector extraordinaire Colin Mackenzie who was born in Stornoway in 1754 and lived and travelled in India for most of his life, amassing the world's largest collection of Indian art and artefacts.

The exhibition programme will include Cry Calcutta, by notable photographer Thomas Patrick Kiernan, and Document by Fòcas, which brings together three Scottish artists and three Indian artists in a stunning new collaborative show of photography.

Purvai 2018 will also bring a new literary event, New Passages, to An Lanntair on Tuesday August 21, which will celebrate and present new writing from collaborations between Scottish writers Nalini Paul and Abir Mukherjee, and Indian writers Sandip Roy and Sampurna Chattarji.

Alongside all this, the festival will offer local people and visitors the chance to take part in workshops in Indian drumming, yoga, Indian folk and Kathak dance and Indian kite and puppet making.

Deepa Nair Rasiya, Indian classical vocalist and head-

line act for Purvai 2018, said: 'This will be my first visit to Stornoway and I am thrilled at the prospect of performing vocal Indian music at this year's Purvai Festival.'

'I can already sense the magic and enchantment of the event and look forward to it with much anticipation.'

Catherine Maclean, Purvai curator at An Lanntair, said: 'These new works and commissions are really what it is all about - opportunities for artists to collaborate across disciplines, cultures and genre to create ground-breaking new works that are relevant and representative of now.'

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# Buyout plans for lighthouse

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

A community buyout of the Flannan Isles lighthouse station, where three men mysteriously vanished more than a century ago, is one step closer.

The handsome building in the village of Breasclete on the Isle of Lewis was home to the keepers of the Eilean Mor lighthouse on the Flannan Isles, 20 miles west in the Atlantic Ocean.

Over a century ago, in December 1900, the three men charged with keeping the lighthouse shining – Thomas Marshall, James Ducat and Donald McArthur – mysteriously vanished.

A relief vessel, the Hesperus, sent to investigate, ominously found no one waiting to welcome them ashore, the beds unmade and an overturned chair by the kitchen table. The missing keepers had kept their log until 9am on December 15.

Captain Harvie sent a telegram to the Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB) dated December 26, 1900,



**A memorial to three keepers who mysteriously vanished from the Flannan Isles in 1900 was installed at a ceremony on Lewis.**

stating: 'A dreadful accident has happened at the Flannans. The three keepers, Ducat, Marshall and McArthur have disappeared from the Island ... The clocks were stopped and other signs indicated that the accident must have happened about a week ago. Poor fellows they must have been blown over the cliffs or drowned trying to secure a crane.'

An official investigation

by the NLB, led by superintendent Robert Muirhead on December 29, 1900, concluded: 'From evidence which I was able to procure, I was satisfied that the men had been on duty up till dinner time on Saturday the 15th of December, that they had gone down to secure a box in which the mooring ropes, landing ropes etc. were kept, and which was secured in a crevice

in the rock about 110 ft (34 m) above sea level, and that an extra large sea had rushed up the face of the rock, had gone above them, and coming down with immense force, had swept them completely away.'

On December 15 last year, 117 years to the day since someone first noticed the light of Eilean Mor had gone out, a memorial is being unveiled to

those who were lost.

A bronze wave sculpture set on Lewisian gneiss and sandstone was set on the shore of Loch Roag, within sight of both the quay, which was the departure point for the ill-fated crew and An Taigh Mhòr, the lighthouse station built and designed in 1899 by David Alan Stevenson to house the families of keepers serving on the island.

Now a community group, Urras an Taighe Mhòr, has secured funding for 'a feasibility and technical study on the potential purchase and development' of An Taigh Mhòr.

It announced: 'The funding, totalling £17,740, has been achieved through submissions to both Scottish Land Fund and Architectural Heritage Fund. The community are extremely grateful to both funding bodies for their support of this project.'

John Watt, the Scottish Land Fund chairman, said: 'The Scottish Land Fund is pleased to be able to assist Urras an Taighe Mhoir in its endeavours to purchase An Taigh

Mhòr. While this award may only be the first step of any future community buyout, it shows how a relatively small amount of funding can be of great significance in helping communities begin the process of purchasing a local asset.'

'The community look forward to working with the team in developing a plan for the acquisition and development of this iconic building. As part of the feasibility study, further public consultation is planned and the community welcome all to attend meetings or contribute ideas through the trust.'

If you live in the area – Linshader to Tolsta Chaolais and wish to become a member of Urras an Taighe Mhòr or if you live further afield and have a specific interest in the project, wish further information on supporting the development or wish to engage in the public consultation meetings planned, please like our Facebook page Urras an Taighe Mhoir for updates, or contact [urrasantaighemhoir@gmail.com](mailto:urrasantaighemhoir@gmail.com).

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## Iolaire tapestry panel loaned to Lewis

A panel from the Great Tapestry of Scotland depicting the Iolaire disaster of January 1, 1919, will be on display at Museum nan Eilean Lewis Castle as part of an exhibition commemorating the tragedy.

The loan, which has been agreed between the museum and the Great Scottish Tapestry Trust, will enable visitors to the exhibition to see a unique example of public remembrance of those on board the Iolaire.

The tapestry as a whole is composed of 160 hand-stitched panels which depict the history of Scotland since 8,500 BC, designed by artist Andrew Crummy and made by more than 1,000 volunteers from across the country.

It has been exhibited across Scotland, including in the Scottish Parliament. Parts of the tapestry have previously been seen in the Outer Hebrides at Museum nan Eilean Uist and Barra on the Isle of Benbecula.

The panel commemorating the loss of the Iolaire was stitched during 2012 and 2013 in Harris and South Uist by Tracey MacLeod, Moira MacPherson and Gillian Scott-Forest.



**Finished Tapestry Panel for the Great Tapestry of Scotland project. [www.scotlandstapestry.com](http://www.scotlandstapestry.com)**

Nick Smith, heritage manager at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, said: 'We are grateful to the Great Scottish Tapestry Trust for agreeing to loan this panel and for their support and assistance as the people of Lewis and Harris prepare to remember the centenary of the loss of the Iolaire.'

Jan Rutherford of the Great Scottish Tapestry Trust, said: 'The trustees were deeply moved to know that the Iolaire panel from the Great Tapestry of Scotland is to be displayed at the heart of this exhibition at Museum nan Eilean to commemorate the disaster.'

'The work of the artist Andrew Crummy and the stitchers who created this hauntingly beautiful panel has brought the Iolaire back to the attention of an international audience who had perhaps lost sight of this moment in history over the years.'

'People view the panel – stitched with great care and love – at temporary exhibitions across the country, learn its story and respond with great emotion. Many walk away in tears.'

'All involved with the Great Tapestry are delighted that we have been able to send it on loan for this occasion.'



Every generation could join in the fun at the gala day.



The wheelbarrow race was a lot of fun.

# Fun for all at Kyleakin Gala



Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band provided the music.



A young piper strains to reach a note with the Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band.

by Sara Bain  
[fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

The 2018 Kyleakin Gala kicked off on Saturday afternoon at the end of the record-breaking Skye Bridge 10K.

This year's annual road race saw Jenny Bannerman of Inverness Harriers coming in at 35.55, smashing the 16-year record of Anne MacPhail by 68 seconds.

There was an excellent turnout of residents and visitors to the village green where families were treated to a wide array of entertainment, including displays by the Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band and dancers from the Lorayne McLucas Performing Arts Academy.

Children spent the afternoon enjoying the activities with fun runs, Body Zorbing and bouncy castles for the energetic and face painting, target sports, a coconut shy and displays by the emergency services adding to the enthusiastic atmosphere of the day.

In the marquee, Kyleakin's charities and community groups manned stalls to raise awareness of their work, while a bar, raffle and refreshment and food stalls kept the adults happy all afternoon.

Calum Nisbett, chairman of Kyleakin Gala committee, said: 'We were very pleased to see the gala was so well attended this year.'

'It was great to see so much support from the local community as well as visitors.'

'We tweaked the format this year by having a family bingo night on the Friday in place of a dance, and it worked brilliantly with a tremendous turnout in the marquee. The children's disco held prior to the bingo was also a great success.'

Mr Nisbett added: 'While the final tallies are yet to come in, we expect to have raised enough to donate to local groups who were vital to the running of the gala, as well as go out to the community in search of a worthy fundraising project following



The face painting was a popular attraction.

the success of the Kyleakin Community Minibus.

The gala is only made possible by the involvement and support of the community and huge thanks go out to all those who donated their time and energy to make the weekend possible, as well as to everyone who came along to support all of the events.'

The gala celebrations ended with a dance in the marquee to the music of one of Perth's most successful bands, Red Pine Timber Company.



Kyleakin Connections had a stall at Green.

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# LETTERS

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## Gratifying response to consultation on hospital plans

The provision of health services remains, perfectly understandably, one of the hottest topics across all of our communities.

And among the most keenly studied health-related issues in Lochaber has been the replacement of the Belford Hospital in Fort William and wider health and social care services in Lochaber.

So it is gratifying to report this week on the significant level of interest shown in a workshop in the town last week.

One hundred representatives from local communities, members of the public, voluntary and third sector organisations, elected representatives and NHS Highland staff attended the event at the Nevis Centre.

It follows that it is unsurprising the chief officer for Highland Health and Social Care Partnership David Park voiced his pleasure at the number of people who contributed a cross-section of views at the workshop.

What is also pleasing is the degree of positivity from the broad spectrum of those who took the trouble to contribute to the debate.

The next step is to draft and share the strategic assessment document before finalising it and submitting it to the Scottish Government, hopefully within the next few weeks.

We await the document's publication with considerable interest.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve 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 phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed.

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For press freedom with responsibility

## Mortality rates from cancers will fall in future

I question the figures given as accurately portrayed under the early detection of cancers programme for Argyll, inferring that the targets have not been reached ('Early diagnoses of cancers fall', The Oban Times, August 9).

In the future, because of our unique system of early detection and diagnosis here, we shall become a leader in this field, with the current 65 per cent mortality rate reducing hopefully to 35 per cent over the next decade or so, due to a number of factors.

As we are all subject to some levels of pollution and contact with various toxins daily, perhaps mainly from the food we eat, these must be reduced, but perhaps more so from what our food is packaged in.

Historically, in the Western Isles and Highlands, a lot of the food, especially fish, is smoked. But smoking has known carcinogenic factors, so ditching the barbecue for oily fish twice a week may help reduce the current dramatic rise in women's cancers referred at Glasgow.

Also, the general public is subjected to supermarkets full of food covered in soft, sticky plastics – fish, meat, chicken, vegetables, bacon, cheese, pizzas and so on are all wrapped in microscopically-laden toxic plastic packaging, which leach out on contact and more so under heat.

So food packaged in cardboard boxes or glass or tin should be also be preferred and eating 15 per cent of your diet as organic will also help keep us healthy, along with our five a day.

However, the biggest fight is to get the multi-billion-pound packaging industry to package less, as well as more safely and responsibly.

So eat more good quality, locally-sourced food. After all, we are spoiled for choice in the Argyll and the Isles area – preferably not wrapped in toxic soft plastic.

The recipe for health and longevity is one daily small tot of the water of life or a glass of port – the oldest woman in the world had two a day and lived to the age of 122 – and to eat like a mouse.

**Stephen Jones,  
Burnside Place, Millpark, Oban.**

## Outraged by charging for the right to pray

The media is presently full of furore concerning claims of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

But what of the growing prevalence of anti-Christian attitudes in our society?

Recently our parish priest made a pilgrimage visit to Iona. That sacred isle was where Columba strove to sainthood and the place of his death.

It is the tiny Atlantic dot from whence dark ages Scotland was to be infused with the light of the Christian message.

'It was my first visit,' the Father had said, 'and my last. I won't be paying £7.50 again anytime soon to pray ... It's a very special place, and a

### GET IN TOUCH

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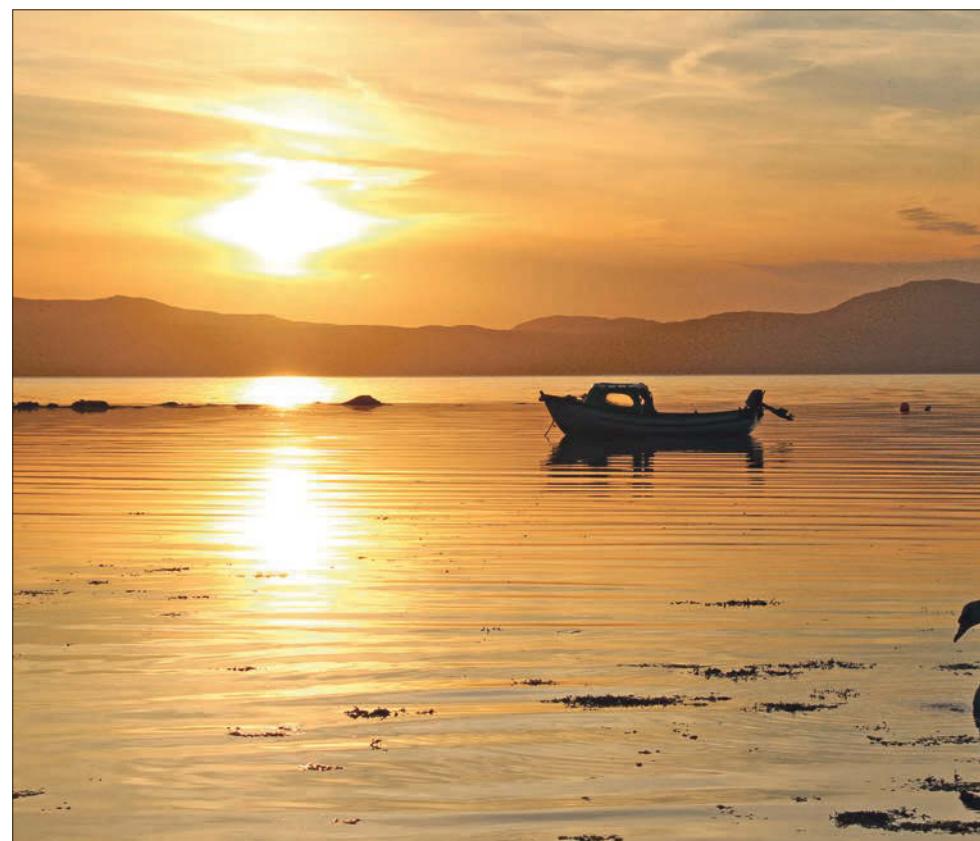


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## YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase people's images each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here,

simply send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street,

beautiful island, but if you are going to visit, you'll need a small mortgage.'

I actually felt ashamed as a Christian at being taxed to visit and pray at the birthplace of Scottish Christianity.

The abbey and related sites are now under the control of Historic Environment Scotland. I have been visiting Iona on average twice a year for 30 years, and never once have I paid to pray where Christians have worshipped for 1,400 years. Nor do I, on principle, ever intend to.

The abbey now has souvenir shops, tearooms and 'commercial opportunities' for local artists, but it is definitely not a theme park. It is holy ground. The sand and stones are quite literally sodden with the blood of hundreds of Christian martyrs. And that matters, still, to Christians everywhere.

Historic Environment Scotland may have improved the site but it has surely soiled its sanctity in valuing its spiritual importance, and those who visit because of it, so little.

And there are in this other passive collaborators: those who handed on the keys unmindful, and seemingly uncaring, of the greedy secular threat.

People who had no thought of protecting

the rights of the modern pilgrim to make communion with those who had gone before, and to pray in thanks for the example of Columcille and his spiritual children.

Historic Environment Scotland seems to be the very manifestation of 'that man' whom Samuel Johnson spoke of: 'That man is little to be envied whose patriotism would not gain force upon the plain of Marathon, or whose piety would not grow warmer among the ruins of Iona.'

No Christian should be taxed to pray at Iona Abbey. No one, least of all Christians, should endure this state-sanctioned barrier to faith. There should be a sign, clear and prominent, stating that all Christians are welcome to this holy place – free of charge. The toll has already been paid.

**Gerard Sweeney,  
Stonefield Avenue, Glasgow.**

## Why are all the cafes in Oban closed on a Sunday?

I visited Oban on Sunday August 12 and found it a very lovely town.

# DISTRICT NEWS

## KNOYDART

A former chapel building on Knoydart could be producing real ale in the near future if plans are approved by Highland councillors.

A planning application has been submitted this week to change the use of St Agatha's Chapel, in the heart of Inverie village, to a micro brewery.

The old church building, believed to have been built in 1886, is attached to St Agatha's Manse and was deconsecrated in 1999. Since it was sold off to become a private dwelling in 2002, the 19th-century building has been used for storage and a wood workshop.

The planning applicant, Matthew Humphrey, now proposes to use the building to brew craft real ales.

If planning permission is granted, the brewery will make and sell beer to local retailers and hopes to eventually provide at least two jobs.

Ingredients will need to be shipped to the brewery using the remote Inverie Pier and beer for sale outside of Knoydart will leave the same way.

The business plan is for a low volume start, 400 litres per month, increasing in 2019 to 2,400 litres per month and growing no larger than 9,600 litres per month from 2020.

Brewing will only be carried out between 8am and 6pm once a week, according to the applicant. No alterations to the building are required.

Work has started on the new Carnach Bridge in Knoydart.

The vital link for walkers closed in February having fallen into disrepair in recent years.

Last week, the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society posted an update saying: 'The replacement bridge is under construction in a yard in Fort William, from where it will be transported to Mallaig. Meantime, the estate has been taking advantage of the good weather and low water levels to reinforce the piers.'

'The plan is for it to be in by winter, hopefully October, but November at the latest. However, the timescale for transporting the bridge up the loch and installing it are dependent on having good weather. Thanks to everyone who has contributed.'

The Carnach Bridge is a vital link for many completing the Knoydart variant of the Cape Wrath Trail. In normal conditions the river is very deep at this point and there have been drownings here in the past. However, in this year's unusually dry conditions, crossings are possible with care further upstream.

## Stalwart honoured by Royal British Legion Scotland



Branch president Lieutenant Colonel retired Kevin Lane presents Mark McCann with the Area Certificate of Merit.

## FORT WILLIAM

Fort William Town Team (FWTT) hopes to enter the town's High Street into the Scottish Urban Regeneration Forum awards this year and are looking for feedback from residents before it applies.

This is the 20th anniversary of the awards for best practice in community regeneration, delivered in partnership with the Scottish Government. The category FWTT wants to enter is 'Scotland's Most Improved Place'.

Sue Keen, FWTT secretary, said: 'The whole community has put in a huge amount of effort and in the past five years the town centre has become much more cared for and a valued place to work, relax and welcome our thousands of visitors each year.'

'So we are seeking your views on how you think the improvements in the town centre

have affected you. We would really love to hear what you think.'

For more information on the awards, go to [surf.scot/surf-awards](http://surf.scot/surf-awards). Applications must be submitted by mid September.

A choir from Dudley in the West Midlands is returning to the area for a concert in Fort William's Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church on Saturday August 18 at 7pm.

Groups from Dudley have been coming to Fort William for many years, with strong friendships formed, and the 2018 concert by The Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir is a chance to renew those links.

The Dudley link, which was started by Bert Bissell, is marked by a peace cairn on the summit of Ben Nevis and a monument in The Parade. Windows from Bert's church in Dudley are installed in the vestibule at

A dedicated member of Fort William's branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland (RBLS) has been honoured.

Mark McCann has been presented with an Area Certificate of Merit after 34 years' outstanding service and 'selfless loyalty and dedication' to the branch and RBLS.

Mr McCann has held two key roles having served as poppy convener for seven years and president for four years.

A former member of the RAF Police, Mr McCann has supported the branch for a number of years and has actively recruited younger members and nurtured them into branch committee activities. He recently attended his 50th Remembrance Day parade in Fort William where he has always marched, until recent years.

Although now no longer a branch office bearer, Mr McCann still attends branch meetings and is a willing supporter of the branch 10-pin bowling and takes part in other events, health permitting.

The award citation read: 'Mark has been a selfless member of the branch, often taking on tasks others could not, and as a consequence we feel Mark fully deserves this recommendation for the Area Certificate of Merit.'

Mr McCann was presented the award in the Ben Nevis Hotel by branch president Kevin Lane.

Duncansburgh MacIntosh. Many groups from the two towns have climbed together. This year around 60 people are coming, including civic leaders from Dudley.

Admission to the concert, which starts at 8pm, is free but there will be a collection for Lochaber Mountain Rescue.

## PLOCKTON

The Lochalsh branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland raised £277 for its funds at a bingo session in Balmacara House.

It also received a donation of £250 from the Dirty 30 event.

The branch will unveil a plaque at Kyle Railway Station on Monday December 31 as part of the Iolaire disaster commemorations.

Plockton had three inches of rain in July. The

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warmest day was 26.6C and coldest was 7.9C.

In the past few weeks, deaths in Lochalsh have included Jack Beattie, Plockton, and Margaret MacQuarrie, Plockton, who had recently moved to Glasgow. Sympathy is expressed to relatives.

CM MacRae.

## FORT AUGUSTUS

Fort Augustus has been named among the best-rated hidden gem locations in the UK, according to TripAdvisor's Holiday Lettings.

Ratings and reviews from HolidayLettings.co.uk found Fort Augustus among the top 10, with an average rental review score of 4.9 out of five.

In a blog post, Holiday Lettings touts Fort Augustus as a scenic destination, highlighting its 'enviable spot at the southern tip of majestic Loch Ness'.

It also describes the village as a 'heaven for cyclists and walkers taking in the views along the Great Glen Way'.

## BRIDGE OF ORCHY

The A82 at Tulla Cottage, north of Bridge of Orchy, will close overnight for repairs next week.

Work starts on Sunday August 19, from 9pm to 7am for 10 nights. There will be no closure on Friday August 24 or Saturday August 25.

A diversion will be in place via the A85 and A828 between Connel and Ballachulish.

Drivers of high-sided vehicles should note there is a height restriction on the diversion route for vehicles 4.2m on the A828 at Connel Bridge.

Vehicles above the height restriction can travel on the A82 to Tulla Cottage where they, along with any motorists requiring local access, will be stacked until they can be escorted through the site.

Emergency services will be able to get through the works at all times.

## LOCH SUNART

A small arts and literature festival has been developing on the shores of Loch Sunart over the past 12 years.

The biennial Three Lochs Book and Arts Festival takes place on Saturday September 22 and organisers say this year's event will be bigger and better than ever with events at various venues.

Highlights this year include a talk from Outlander star Scott Kyle about the making of

the popular series and family story time with Ross Collins, well-loved author of There's a Bear On My Chair and other books for pre-school pupils.

BBC Folk Musician of the Year (2012) Tim Edey will host a Celtic guitar masterclass prior to his concert on the Saturday evening and there will be a pop-up bookshop courtesy of Fort William independent bookshop, The Highland Bookshop.

Adam Nicolson has recently taken over as festival patron from Alexander McCall Smith who supported the event for 10 years. Adam has links to the community and his highly-acclaimed book The Seabird's Cry fits nicely with one of this year's themes – nature and wildlife.

With Jim Crumley, John D Burns, Polly Pullar, Dougie Cunningham and film-maker Hamza Yassin also attending, most aspects of enjoying wildlife and the great outdoors will be covered.

The festival evolved after a forward-thinking events and arts promoter wanted to make full use of a new community space in the local high school.

This, combined with an enthusiastic on-site librarian and a higher than average number of amateur writers living in the community, led to the first Three Lochs event taking place in 2005.

Since then the festival has slowly developed to become a standout day in the Sunart events calendar.

More information can be found at [three-lochs.co.uk](http://three-lochs.co.uk).



Loch Sunart.

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## Retro Roamer

[fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

### More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

Sally O'Sullivan, editor-in-chief of the magazine 'Good Housekeeping' was being interviewed on the wireless on Anne Robinson's show. She was responding to a query from a listener in Wales who wanted to know how she could get rid of the midges in her garden. The editor, with the Irish name, advised she should clear away all stagnant and standing water in her garden. Additionally she could invest in castor oil seeds as the midges 'don't like the resultant plants'. As a last resort, Ms O'Sullivan suggested that anyone bothered by midges should contact their local council. An approach should be made, said she, to the environmental health services department for its personnel to eradicate the midge menace. I can just picture the reaction if everyone in Lochaber laid siege to the council offices demanding our local authority tackles our midges!

Two local joiners working on the scaffolding outside the Edinburgh Woollen Mill shop where JL Geddes used to be were replacing the ornate black lettering on the gable wall. As they inserted the new letters, they were arguing about the spelling, not of 'Woollen' but, would you believe, 'Edinburgh'? They got it right, in the end. And 'Mill' too!

Two old pals – not joiners – were wending their weary way up Lundavra after a heavy night, or a night on the heavy. As they tackled the hill, the glare from the headlights of passing cars was picking out an object, apparently moving about on the road. 'Look,' said one, 'there's a wee animal trapped on the road. It'll get run over if we don't rescue it.' His friend agreed. 'I can see its eyes shining in the lights,' he said. The dynamic duo held up their hands – and the traffic. The double act then swooped down on what they fondly imagined to be a hedgehog, tortoise or some furry animal. They picked it up gently and discovered it was a plastic plant pot. The 'eyes' were, in fact, the two holes in the bottom of the pot and the headlights had been shining through these.

The registration number of Terry Confield's new motor includes his initials TFC. But Donald MacFarlane, the local authority on such things, begs to differ. He reckons the TFC stands for 'Torlundy Forestry Commission' where Terry works.

How about the two retired ladies, in their early 60s, who travelled to Fort William on

their first caravan holiday. They arrived at the caravan park desperate for a cup of tea. Just as the kettle was about boiling, the gas ran out. They went to see about a replacement gas bottle. Got it. Came back. 'What did you do with the matches?' asked one. Her travelling companion didn't know. They decided to go into town and get matches along with a few other messages. Got back and scrubbed the idea of having a cup of tea. Opted for beans on toast. Couldn't find the tin opener. Sought diligently till they found it. But they could not get it to work. Meanwhile, the toast popped up but it set off the smoke alarm. Toast burnt. Supper abandoned. Settled for a bar of chocolate apiece. We'll continue, a wee bit, with their saga. Next morning our two heroines opted for an away day to Mallaig. Off they went along the Road to the Isles. On the way back, the one who lost the matches was navigating. 'I'm sure we turn right, here,' she said. Her pal did just that. At Lochailort, down the 'New Road' they sallied, and had an unscheduled trip to Ardnamurchan. By the time they returned to Fort William they both agreed there would be no cooking that evening. Fortunately they got a late night meal in Fort William. It was there they regaled staff as to their exploits. And the staff told me.

The big guns in Highland Region's planning committee came down from Inverness, Ross-shire and Caithness – you name it – to decide the future of An Aird. My usual view of 'democracy in action' is, of course, from the press table in Lochaber House. So it was enlightening to watch elected members at work, sitting in the hall at St Mary's primary – one of the Lochaber schools likely to figure in the council's 'consultation to close' list. My abiding impression is they had all made up their minds as to the outcome before they left Inverness, Ross-shire and Caithness. After the seemingly tiring walk around An Aird, it was noticeable one high ranker nodded off in the hall. During the meeting another councillor was observed to be reading an Agatha Christie paperback. The thriller, perhaps appropriately as it was on school premises, was screened by the pupils' time-honoured ruse of hiding it among other official reading material. Meanwhile there was a lot of examination of watches, shuffling of papers and paperbacks, rustling of coats, picking up of handbags and meaningful clearing of throats as councillors looked pointedly at the exit. Then they were gone, aboard their specially hired coach, back to Inverness, Caithness and Ross-shire.

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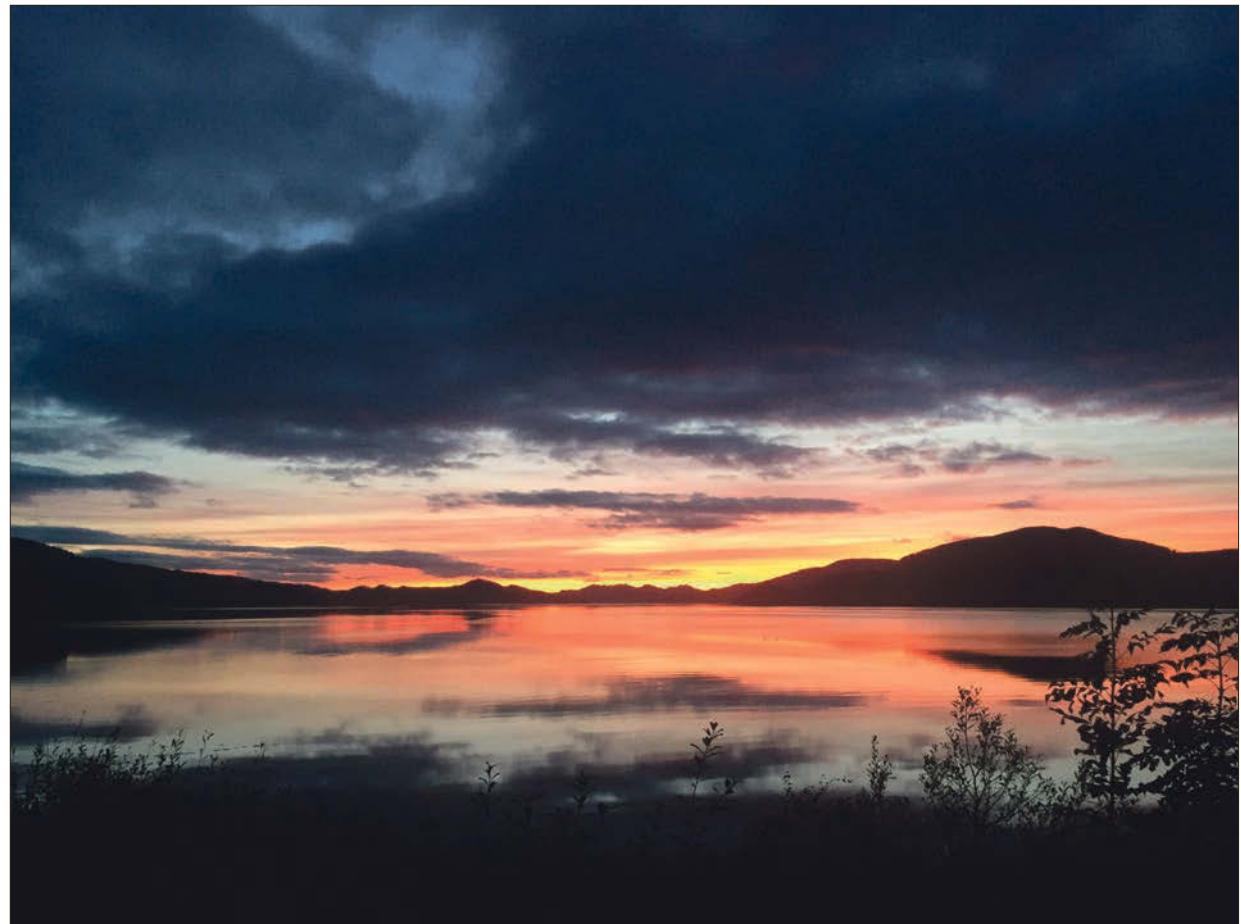


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## Picture Perfect – Oban Times' #myargyll entries in the frame



Jen Kerr sent in this shot of Kilchurn Castle at Loch Awe as part of the #myargyll competition.



Karen Gordon sent in this fantastic sunset for our #myargyll competition. We were inundated with your photographs and over the coming weeks look out for more from our readers.



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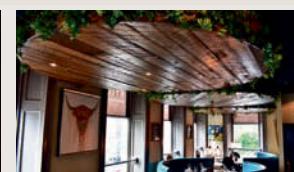
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The restaurant has recently introduced a dry ager to experiment with flavour and cuts, making the Kyloe experience even more exclusive.

Steaks are complemented by a robust à la carte

menu which features Scottish seasonal produce, responsibly sourced and simply prepared to create a series of compelling dishes.

The unique and interesting wine list has been sourced through numerous wine merchants and features Kyloe's signature wine 'Angus the Bull', a South Australian Cabernet Sauvignon which is perfect with steak.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:  
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## GOLF



Robert MacIntyre in action during the Vierumäki Finnish Challenge. Report and photograph: Bounce Sports.

## Robert MacIntyre pipped at the post in sudden-death Finnish

Oban's Robert MacIntyre is heading into the business end of the Challenge Tour season in the top 30 on the Road to Ras Al Khaimah Rankings after narrowly missing out on his breakthrough win on the circuit.

The Glencruitten left-hander, who recently turned 22, made home player Kim Kuovi pull out all the stops to come out on top in the Vierumäki Finnish Challenge at the Vierumäki Resort, in north-east of Finland. The pair shared the lead heading into the final round and fought out a thrilling head-to-head battle in the €180,000 event.

He started for home with a bogey – his only blip of the day – before bouncing back with birdies at the 12th and 13th before finishing with five solid pars.

The 2015 Scottish amateur champion led outright after Kuovi took his only bogey of the round at the 14th but the 27-year-old Finn birdied the 17th to force a play-off. That was decided at the first extra hole, where Kuovi holed from 15 feet for a birdie to claim his second win on the Challenge Tour this season after claiming the Belt & Road Colourful Yunnan Open in April.

MacIntyre shot rounds of 68, 66, 67, 66 for a 21-under-par aggregate – a total that would have seen him win all but two of the previous events on the circuit this season.

'This is some game we play,' wrote MacIntyre on Twitter. 'A great week, gutted to miss out on the win but what a game of golf that was.'

Kuovi agreed, saying: 'It was just a great battle with Rob, he played awesome. He put the pressure on me all the way around and I just kept fighting and I was the lucky one to come out on top.'

The effort earned MacIntyre ranking points that saw him jump 45 spots to 27th in the Road to Ras Al Khaimah.

## Open success for Martin

Martin Rae won the Glencruitten Open in Oban on Saturday with a score of 63 (BIH). Runner up was James Muir, who won the Handicap Trophy with a score of 63 - 3 = 60 (BIH). Runner up in the handicap was Dugald MacLean with a score of 68 - 8 = 60.

On Saturday the first round of the Cameron Trophy takes place with the second round of the Summer Eclectic and on



**Martin Rae**

Sunday the second round of the Cameron Trophy and Summer Eclectic Round 3.

# Lochaber RFC get a clean start to the season

Lochaber RFC heralded the start of the new season with a lick of paint and a clean clubhouse thanks to a Royal Bank RugbyForce grant of £250.

The club kicked off their clean-up session with painting, cleaning, clubhouse refurbishment, changing room and exterior improvements last weekend.

The nationwide rugby programme supports grassroots clubs by providing grants of up to £1,000 to attract new members, make improvements and become more sustainable for the future. Fort William's Lochaber RFC is one of this year's 140-plus clubs to receive support.

This year, Royal Bank of Scotland and Scottish Rugby celebrate 10 years of delivering the programme.

Malcolm Buchanan, chairman, Royal Bank of Scotland, Scotland Board, said: 'We're thrilled to be celebrating the tenth year of Royal Bank RugbyForce. It's a testament to the enthusiasm and com-



Lochaber RFC players and volunteers take a break at the RugbyForce clean-up.

mitment of the people in our local communities and the passion they have for rugby – a passion we share.'

'We have witnessed firsthand the huge difference the programme has made to clubs and the communities in

which they play, helping them grow and flourish.'

Members of Lochaber RFC said: 'We're thankful for the grant of £250.

'It's just what a community-focused club like Lochaber RFC needs to assist with the

## RUGBY

completion of vital improvements and preparing for the forthcoming rugby season.'

## Fort hit for six



Huntly	6
Fort William	0
Highland League	

Huntly ran out comfortable winners against Fort William on Wednesday night as the Lochaber side, which featured five trialists in the squad, showed some signs of improvement.

In an attempt to halt the recent flood of goals conceded by Fort William, manager Kris Anderson opted for a new 3-5-2 formation in this fixture as he continues to put his own stamp on the team.

The new system helped reduce the goal deficit and limited the opposition's chances but the Huntly forward line still had too much quality for the Fort's defence, making the scoreline look comfortable with a flurry of late goals.

## Pair wins Dochie MacIntyre Trophy



Marion Moffat presents her father Dochie MacIntyre's trophy to the winners of the Balloted Pairs Bowling Competition at the Railway Bowling Club Green Inverlochy. Brian Moffat and Eddie Downs, right, won for the second time beating runners up Gus Fraser and Bill Clark, left. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

# Mixed week of results for Mallaig

## FOOTBALL

Kyleakin	2
Mallaig	1
William Wilson League	

Following their loss in the Ross Cup final the previous week, Mallaig were looking to bounce back with a victory against William Wilson League topers Kyleakin on Saturday August 4.

However, the Lochaber side were unable to make the most of the opportunity to enhance their title credentials after they narrowly lost out to a controversial winning goal.

Mallaig led through captain Jaimie Young who finished well from a half volley from a corner to give the visitors a lead going into half time. Unfortunately, like many times this season, Mallaig didn't start well in the second half and the performance dipped losing two goals.

Kyleakin's first was an excellent finish, worthy of winning any match. However, their second was marred with controversy as Mallaig players claimed a hand ball in the run up to the goal gave the opposing striker an advantage.

In a disappointing end to the game, Mallaig were reduced to 10 men for dissent. Kyleakin's know-how and ability to get the job done meant they still lead the title race.

Kyle	1
Mallaig	11
William Wilson League	

Mallaig bounced back well from their defeat to Kyleakin with an emphatic victory on Wednesday August 8 against a poor Kyle side.



Mallaig FC in their new kit.

A hat-trick from Andy Cunningham and braces from Andrew Sneddon, Neil Cameron and Ryan MacDonald eased the Lochaber club to victory. Sean Powrie and Gordy Jamieson also got their name on the scoresheet.

Mallaig	3
North West Skye	2
William Wilson League	

The Lochaber side left it late to secure victory over William Wilson league rivals North West Skye on Saturday

August 11. Goals from Andy Cunningham and Angus MacNaughton meant the scores were level heading into the final few minutes but Marc Maclean scored deep into injury time to ensure all three points went to Mallaig.

After a busy week for the club, a title challenge remains well within their grasp as they sit fourth in the league.

They have a game in hand over table toppers Portree Juniors, who are four points ahead.

## The future of shinty

The Camanachd Association is pushing ahead with a two-pronged initiative to increase the number of children playing shinty in all parts of Scotland.

2018 is the Scottish Year of Young People and the Camanachd Association, in its 125th year, is keen as part of its on-going drive to increase participation in shinty, to encourage more young people to play the game.

Initial talks have taken place at a specially arranged meeting with Highland Council Head of Education Jim Steven to discuss the importance of schools and clubs working together to grow participation in shinty and how this can best be achieved. Also present at the meeting were Kate Forbes MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, Camanachd Association Chief Executive Officer Derek Keir and John Finlayson, a former Skye Camanachd player and manager who is both a Camanachd Association Director and a councillor with Highland Council who organised the meeting.

We also want to ensure sustainability at club level and having more youngsters playing shinty will obviously support the development of pathways for player progression.

It would be great to see more schools working with our development officers and having shinty as part of the school curriculum. The support being offered by Camanachd staff will be available throughout Scotland.'

Derek Keir said: 'The first experience many young people have in sport comes

through school, therefore, to broaden the number of young people experiencing shinty we are offering continuing professional development for teachers across Scotland to provide the training required to ensure every first experience in shinty is positive and it connects with a pathway into a local club.'

Kate Forbes MSP added: 'Youngsters in the Highlands and beyond don't get enough opportunities at school to try out shinty and pursue the sport.'

'The future of the sport and the competitiveness of the leagues is dependent on children inheriting our love of the game. That is why I was delighted to meet, at John Finlayson's suggestion, with himself, Derek Keir of the Camanachd Association and Jim Steven at Highland Council.

It was a very productive meeting with us working together to identify ways of promoting the game to ensure there are enough opportunities for young people to play shinty at school level and as part of PE.'

One of the outcomes from the meeting is that Camanachd Association Director Lyndsay Bradley



Left to right: Jim Steven, Kate Forbes, Derek Keir and John Finlayson.

will speak at a head teachers' conference and highlight where the Camanachd Association can provide support through their development officers who are keen to open communications with the schools. There will be benefits all round as there is a feeling amongst head teachers that pupils' involvement in extra-curricular activities such as shinty not only have health benefits but also a positive effect on improving pupil attainment.

The second phase of the initiative is a forum at the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, on Sunday September 2.

The forum is billed as a major opportunity to shape the future of shinty and the topics for discussion include wheth-

er the Schools Camanachd Association should be re-established as a separately constituted body with office bearers and separate financial accounts.

Alternative models will be considered such as a Camanachd Association schools working group or committee or indeed whether the current Camanachd Association Youth Working Group should be extended to administer youth and schools.

Other topics for discussion include the long-term player development of primary and secondary school aged players and their participation in festivals, tournaments and single fixtures and whether these should take place at

## SCHOOL SHINTY

area, regional, district or national level.

Competition entry criterion is also sure to be at the fore given recent controversy regarding the primary school age MacKay Cup competition.

The forum starts at 1pm and all interested parties are welcome.

Views from the forum will be collated and considered by the Camanachd Association Youth Committee.

This initiative comes at the same time as the Camanachd Association has advertised for a marketing and communications organisation to develop and raise the profile of shinty.

## GOLF



Fort William Golf Club.

## Results from Fort William

On Tuesday July 31, a 12-hole stableford was played with the following result: 1 Keith Sangster, 24 points (BIH); 2 Robert McCover, 24 points; 3 Stewart Duncan, 21 points.

On Saturday August 4, the August Medal was played with the following result:

Section 1 - 1 Nick Hough, net 69 (78 - 9); 2 Graeme Worsdall, net 70 (82 - 12); 3 Ronald MacDonald, net 72 (84 - 12).

Section 2 - 1 Pat Cassidy, net 72 (89 - 17); 2 Willie MacDonald, net 75 (91 - 16); 3 Brian Stewart, net 77 (92 - 15).

On Sunday August 5, the August Senior Medal was played with the following result: 1 Pat Cassidy, net 62 (79 - 17); 2 Robert McCover, net 63 (78 - 15); 3 Brian Stewart, net 64 (79 - 15).

On Tuesday August 7, a 12 hole stableford was played with the following result: 1 Brian O'Neill, 30 points; 2 David Laing, 29 points; 3 Eric Wallace, 26 points.

Ladies: On Tuesday July 31, the August Medal was played with the following result: 1 Kathleen Leitch, net 72 (89 - 17); 2 Ann Lovatt, net 76 (102 - 26); 3 Hazel Cameron, net 82 (99 - 17).

## Isle of Skye results

Gents section: Saturday August 4 and Sunday 5 - Monthly Medal: 1 Martin Bird 75(12) nett 63 bih; 2 John Allan Macleod 75(12) 63 bih; 3 Robert Macaskill 78(15) 63; 4 Donald MacPhee 85(21) 64.

Monday August 6 - Seniors Monthly Stableford: 1 Martin Bird 34pts; 2 George Neill 28pts.

Wednesday August 8 - Stableford: 1 Lou Gordon 37pts; 2 Archie Macaskill 34pts.

Ladies section: Tuesday August 7 - Glamaig Stableford: 1 Donald Johnston 27pts; 2 Sandra Neill 26pts bih; 3 Ann Jagger 26pts.

## LOTTERY RESULTS

## Lochaber club lotteries

This week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 5, 14 and 20. There was no winner so the jackpot for the draw today (Thursday August 16) will be £700.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 3, 4 and 18. There were no winners this week so next week's jackpot will be £200.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 1, 3 and 20. There were no winners this week. Next week's draw will have a prize of £400.

Caol Community Centre's bingo lotto numbers for this week were 3, 5 and 18. There were no winners this week so next week's jackpot will be £700.

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All this year's Plockton Regatta Small Boat Sailing Regatta trophy winners.

# Hay family sweeps the boards at Plockton Regatta

Clinching 14 trophies in a fortnight, the Hay family were the standout performers at this year's Plockton Regatta Small Boat Sailing Regatta as the second week of action drew to a close on Saturday August 4.

With the weather cloudy and cool after the lovely first week, the second week of Plockton Fortnight began on Monday July 30 with the Ladies Centreboard Race for the Auchwurin Rose Bowl.

Three ladies entered and the winner, to complete a unique double, was Lucy Downie in Die Forelle, who also won the ladies local boat race last week. In second place was Alanna Rowe (Aquila) and in third was Julia MacKenzie (Fionair).

In the evening 10 local boats sailed in the third Plockton Trophy Race. Two boats were disqualified for crossing the line at the start and not turning back, claiming they never heard the commodore hailing them.

In the very calm conditions and a shortened course, only three boats completed the course inside the two and a half hour limit. 1 David Hay (Coruisk); 2 Ian Hay (Seolta); 3 Jonathon MacKinnon (Eala Bhan).

With one race to go for the trophy, David Hay has three points, Ian Hay has four points and Michael Hay has four points.

Also held was the fourth Ulluva Cup and the first Sgeir Bhuidhe Cup for centreboards. 1 James Smith; 2 Robin Smith; 3 Donald Gillies (Too Do Loo 2).

On Tuesday morning, only two Toppers entered the Commodore's Cup. 1 Robbie Baird; 2 Hamish Hutchinson.

Gales in the evening cancelled the Exp-Commodores race which was rescheduled for Wednesday, but again strong winds cancelled the race with the Rona breaking her mast before the race. So it was doubled up with the final trophy race in the evening, over a shortened course in light winds and pouring rain.

David Hay won, giving him the Ex-Commodores Tray and the Plockton Trophy. Michael Hay (Nan) finished second and Neil Macrae (Rona) came third.

Results of the overall Plockton Trophy Race were: 1 David Hay (Coruisk), 4 points; 2 Michael Hay (Nan), 6 points; 3 Ian Hay (Seolta), 9 points; 4 Neil MacRae (Rona), 12 points; 5 Joy MacKenna (SeaRanger), 15 points; 6 Jonathon MacKinnon (Seolta), 16pts.

Also held were the final races for the Ulluva Cup (fifth) and the Sgeir Bhuidhe Cup (second): 1 James Smith; 2 Robin Smith; 3 Peter Smith (Tokoloshie).

Sixth race Ulluva Cup and third race Sgeir Bhuidhe Cup



Calum Hay with his brother Alasdair.

resulted: 1 Robin; 2 James; 3 Peter.

Result of the six Ulluva cup races: 1 James Smith, 4 points; 2 Robin Smith, 7 points; 3 Donald Gillies 23 points. Only six boats had taken part - the lowest for many years.

Three races for the Sgeir Bhuidhe Cup resulted: 1 James Smith, 4 points; 2 Robin Smith, 5 points; 3 Donald Gillies, 11 points. James retained the two he won last year giving him four trophies over the two weeks. He travels from Hexham every year with his boat (Inominate).

On Thursday morning the Commodore's cup for Toppers was held: 1 Robbie Baird; 2 Hamish Hutchinson.

On Thursday afternoon the races for Boys and Girls were held. Boys race: 1 Daniel Taylor (Taeping); 2 Robbie Baird (Scorrybreac); 3 Calum Hay (Nan); 4 Finn Storstein (Eala Bhan); 5 Euan Hill (Seaforth); 6 Alasdair Stewart (Ajax); 7 Ross Gillies (Seolta).

Girls race: 1 Marian MacInnes (Nan); 2 Ellie Pearson (Taeping); 3

## SAILING

Christina MacInnes (Seolta).

Also held was the Fossil Trophy race: 1 Robbie Baird; 2 David Hutchison; 3 Ellie Pearson.

On Thursday evening nine local boats and four centreboards sailed for the RNLI Trophy: 1 Robin Smith (Seolta); 2 Jonathon MacKinnon (Eala Bhan); 3 Lucy Downie (Coruisk).

On Friday, seven boats entered the fishing competition, but it resulted in the poorest fishing in the history of the competition.

Gavin McGhie won both cups for the heaviest catch 15lbs (two skate) and the heaviest single fish 8lbs (skate).

Ewen Cameron and Duncan McAndrew shared the prize for most fish (six).

In the evening, Plockton Hall was full with 150 attendees for the grand concert, prizegiving and dance.

Kevin Baird, next year's commodore, was chairman and the audience enjoyed the local artists.

Eddie Scott, husband of commodore Ruth, presented the prizes. Ruth announced that Neil MacRae (Rona) had won the Starminx Starters cup, David Hay won the Cruising Cup and Ellie Pearson won the Junior Endeavour Trophy.

Ruth thanked everyone who had made the fortnight such a success. Dancing followed to the Suzie Simpson Band. On Saturday, four boats sailed for the Ragamuffin Cup. Winner was Calum Hay (Nan) giving the Hay household their fourteenth trophy in the fortnight.



Dozens of youngsters enjoyed training with the Inverness coaches. Photographs: Alba.photos.

# Hotshots train with Caley Jags

Coaches from Inverness Caledonian Thistle FC travelled to Fort William last week to host a week of training days with youngsters to inspire the next generation of Highland stars.

The Hotshots coaching sessions, which ran for a week at Lochaber High School, provided young players with a chance to learn from the club's coaches.

With a primary focus on developing techniques, the programme is delivered by SFA accredited coaches through stimulating, varied and comprehensive routines allowing boys and girls aged

## FOOTBALL COACHING

between five and 14 the chance to participate in a safe, fun football environment.

With the use of small-sided games, the Hotshots courses ensured that, whether it's the first time they've have kicked a ball, or whether they star in a football team, the young footballers were challenged and picked up new skills.

Each participant left the course with a certificate of attendance.



Youngsters had a chance to work on their skills.



Youngsters aged between five and 14 took part.

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## WEATHER

### Thursday

Sunshine and showers  
Moderate breeze from the west south west  
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.

### Friday

Heavy rain  
Moderate breeze from the south west  
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.

### Weekend Outlook

Light rain on Saturday  
Cloudy on Sunday  
Gentle breeze from the west south west  
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.



## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday August 9, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	Thur	03.14	0.9	08.57	3.5
	Fri	15.18	0.7	21.07	3.6
	Sat	03.59	1.2	09.39	3.3
	Sun	04.47	1.4	10.29	3.0
	Mon	16.03	1.0	21.48	3.3
	Tues	05.44	1.7	11.48	2.9
	Wed	17.49	1.6	23.51	2.8
	Thurs	06.56	1.8	13.27	2.9
	Fri	18.58	1.8	**.**	*.*
	Sat	02.11	2.7	08.31	1.8
	Sun	14.42	3.0	20.30	1.8
	Mon	03.53	2.9	09.38	1.6
	Tues	15.33	3.2	21.52	1.7

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

## Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist

Moderate

Oban to Coll/Tiree

Moderate

Kennacraig to Islay

Moderate

**Stop Press:** New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

# LOCHABER TIMES SPORT



**INSIDE THIS WEEK:**  
Hotshots train with Caley Jags  
Lochaber RFC get a clean start to the season

# Ten out of ten for Turrif as Fort William collapse

One positive for Fort William was the return of Michael Ellis to the squad

Fort William	0
Turriff United	10
Highland League	

Seven second half Turrif goals made for another difficult afternoon for Fort William at Claggan Park on Saturday despite a spirited first half performance.

Goals either side of half-time for Turrif broke the resilience of a willful Fort William and

ultimately spurred the visitors on to secure a ten-goal victory - the first time the club has scored ten goals in the Highland League.

The home side's team sheet included a handful of trialists again this week as manager Kris Anderson continues to bolster his squad.

Angus Grant's brace after 26 minutes was an early warning call Fort William were in for another heavy defeat in the



Fort William midfielder Stephen Lopez plays a long ball under pressure from Turrif's Michael Ewen.



Keeper Callum Ligertwood was one of the standout performers for Fort William, despite conceding ten goals. Photographs: Alba.photos

league. However, the defence rallied and stemmed Turrif's attacks for the majority of the first half, mainly thanks to the efforts of goalkeeper Callum Ligertwood.

However, Grant's hat-trick goal on the stroke of half-time sent the home side into the dressing room facing a huge task in the second half.

Grant got his fourth of the match 13 minutes after the re-start courtesy of a penalty. Five minutes later, Ross Anderson added another as Fort William's defence, resolute in the first half, was

being unpicked in the waves of Turrif attacks.

Owen Cairns made it six nil on the hour mark, before substitute Mauro Jesus got on the scoresheet minutes later. Forward Michael Ewen notched two goals in ten minutes for the visitors before substitute Michael Ironside rounded off Turrif's scoring for the afternoon, getting his side's tenth goal with a minute to go of the 90.

One positive for Fort William was the return of Michael Ellis to the squad. Marked as a trialist for this

match, he came on as a substitute in the second half and made a difference in the midfield.

Fort William FC committee thanked players and fans for a well-observed minute's silence for club legend and fan Kenny Campbell before the start of the match.

After four games, Turrif now sit fifth in the Highland League table, while Fort William remain rooted to the bottom with a goal difference of -36.

Fort William are away to sixth-placed Inverurie Locos

this Saturday, August 18, in what will be another tough encounter for the Lochaber side.

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