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'Rough-handed' raid claim

Three men arrested after operation by immigration enforcement officers

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Three men have been arrested following raids by immigration enforcement officers on Oban takeaways and restaurants.

Kebabish in George Street was one of three establishments targeted on August 16, when officers entered the takeaway and its prayer room.

Enforcement teams also raided the Taj Mahal in George Street and the China Restaurant in Stafford Street looking for illegal immigrants.

Shaukat Chaudhry, who owns Kebabish, claims the raid on his premises was 'rough-handed' and that officers were 'bullies'.

He captured what happened last Thursday on CCTV cameras and showed it to The Oban Times.

The footage shows officers entering a downstairs prayer room, which Mr Chaudhry says he opens to any Muslim in Oban wanting to pray. Officers are then seen coming back out with a man who is handcuffed but is not wearing Kebabish's black uniform and cap.

Mr Chaudhry insists none of his staff was taken away.

He said the man led out of the prayer room was not an employee, although he was known to some staff.

Mr Chaudhry told The Oban Times: 'Hand on my heart. I swear to Allah my god, he does not work here. All my staff are checked and have the right documents to work.'

'I am taking this further. I will take legal advice then make an official complaint to the Home Office. We are not criminals but we were treated like that. I do not employ illegal immigrants.'

The footage begins with one

of the enforcement officers coming in through the takeaway door and snatching a phone from an employee's hand as he takes a delivery order.

Another officer is seen hurdling a low partition wall in the customer waiting area, while another breaks the frame off a counter door by forcing it open the wrong way.

Angry Mr Chaudhry says a second door was damaged when an officer entering the restaurant tugged it shut, breaking the soft-closing mechanism. More footage

from upstairs shows an officer repeatedly jabbing his finger towards Mr Chaudhry's brother.

A camera also shows officers joking around on the landing, laughing with each other, and puffing on vapes.

Mr Chaudhry was not in the restaurant at the time of the raid but was watching the drama live on cameras linked to his home.

He said: 'I couldn't believe what I was watching. The raid was more rough-handed than it needed to be and some of the officers were acting like bullies.'

Mr Chaudhry, who owns Kebabish restaurant and takeaway, claims the raid on his premises was 'rough-handed, and he says he will be taking legal advice.

They damaged my property, they intimidated my brother and frightened my staff. They herded them all up into one room and treated them like criminals,' he said.

A Home Office spokesperson said immigration enforcement officers were acting on intelligence when they simultaneously visited Kebabish and the two other businesses in Oban.

'At the Kebabish Restaurant and takeaway, officers encountered a 25-year-old Pakistani man who had entered the UK illegally. At the Taj Mahal Restaurant, George Street, officers identified a Bangladeshi man, 41, who had overstayed his work visa, and at the China Restaurant in Stafford Street, officers identified a Chinese man, aged 51, who was found to have entered the UK illegally,' said the spokesperson.

All three men were arrested, two of them remain detained waiting to be removed from the UK. The Chinese national was later released and must now report regularly to the Home Office while his case is progressed.

The Home Office spokesperson originally said all three businesses were served with

referral notices warning that a financial penalty of up to £20,000 per illegal worker found would be imposed unless the employers could demonstrate that appropriate right-to-work checks were carried out with the Home Office.

But Mr Chaudhry said officers only left a Notice to Owner which said the search was made with a warrant granted at Dumbarton Sheriff Court. He also said the officer in charge had wrongly ticked a box recording no damage was done during the raid.

'There was no referral notice. The man they took from here was not an employee,' he said.

After The Oban Times put Mr Chaudhry's claims to the Home Office, a second statement said: 'The Home Office takes reports of inappropriate behaviour very seriously and has robust procedures to follow up concerns that are raised.'

The spokesperson also said there was an error in its previously issued statement referring to Kebabish: 'A Civil Penalty Referral notice was not issued at the time of the visit, but will be served on the business.'

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OT

Success at Worlds for Oban School Pipe Band

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban High School Pipe Band had success at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow.

The band is now back home celebrating coming second in the Novice Juvenile Grade A section, pipped to the post by Dollar Academy but beating seven other bands, including Brisbane Boys' College Pipe Band from Australia.

They will be at today's Oban Games, being hosted by the Argyllshire Gathering, entertaining the crowds at 1.15pm.

Proud head teacher Peter Bain said: 'Our pipe band has had an amazing degree of success during this year's competition season: second in the World Championships, the UK Championships and the European Championships; third in the British



Oban High School Pipe Band celebrates success at the World Pipe Band Championships.

Championship and first equal in the Scottish Championship.

'I am extremely proud of all those involved and would like to thank Angus McColl, Nan Johnstone and all the parents, family, friends and community members who give us both moral support and financial support throughout the year.'

The 2018 championships last

weekend saw 214 pipe bands take part from 13 nations, including New Zealand, Australia, Denmark, France, Canada, Oman, Switzerland, Zimbabwe, Eire, USA, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

More than 30,000 people turned out to watch over 8,000 pipers and drummers

compete for the title of World Champions in their respective grades where up to 40 per cent of the competitors this year were under the age of 25.

Inveraray and District Pipe Band lost its Grade 1 World Pipe Band Championship crown to Belfast-based Field Marshal Montgomery.

Mid Argyll Pipe Band

was crowned Champion of Champions in Grade 4B.

The first World Pipe Band Championships were held at Murrayfield in Edinburgh in 1947. The event was first held in Glasgow in 1948 and has been staged in the city continuously since 1986.

In the run-up to this year's World Pipe Band Championships, Benderloch's Angus MacColl won the annual Pipe Major Alasdair Gillies Recital Challenge, the event originally credited with inspiring the Piping Live! festival. He won against other invited contestants Stuart Liddell from Inveraray, Callum Beaumont from Linlithgow and Alex Gandy from Nova Scotia.

At today's Argyllshire Gathering in Oban, the Argyll Piping Trust, set up in 1979 to keep the piping tradition alive, will be staging an international competition for solo pipers.

Oban woman loses hundreds in scam

An elderly Oban woman has lost hundreds of pounds after falling victim of an iTunes gift card scam.

The woman believed that she was in an online relationship for several months with a man who was abroad.

Once he had her trust, the man said he needed her to buy him iTunes gift card vouchers and send him the codes from the cards.

An alert shop assistant was suspicious about the high value of the iTunes gift cards and contacted police. The woman was tricked out of several hundred pounds before she was made aware that it was a scam.

Another variation of the scam is when victims receive telephone calls or emails informing them that they have a HMRC tax bill that requires to be paid urgently.

The person who claims to be from HMRC then explains that in order to collect the money, the victim is required to buy some iTunes or other such gift cards or vouchers totalling several hundred pounds and then pass the voucher code number to the caller via email or telephone when they call back.

Sergeant Iain MacNicol said: 'I would urge people not to trust anyone who asks you to buy an iTunes gift card or voucher for them or to pass them the number from a card or voucher.'

HAVE YOUR SAY
email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk

Man sent messages to underage girl

A 19-year-old Oban man will have to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work after sending sexually explicit messages to an underage teenager.

Aaron MacLeod, of 4 Hyskier Gardens, was sentenced on Tuesday August 14, and was also given a 12-month social work supervision order.

MacLeod will be subject to the notification requirement of Sexual Offences Act for the same duration.

He pleaded guilty to the charge when he appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on June 19.

New principal for Argyll College UHI

Argyll College UHI's board of governors has appointed Martin Jones as its principal and chief executive officer. He will take up his new post on November 5.

Mr Jones, who is currently a senior lecturer in law at Glasgow Caledonian University, will replace Fraser Durie in the next academic year. Mr Durie, who has served at the college since 2012, will retire in October.

Mr Jones is no stranger to Argyll, having lived near Dunoon for many years.

Mr Jones said: 'I'm pleased to be appointed as principal of Argyll College UHI. I look forward to working with staff and students in Argyll and in the wider university network at what is an exciting time in the sector.'

Andrew Campbell, chairman of the board of governors of Argyll College UHI, said: 'We are delighted to welcome Martin to our team. We were impressed with the calibre of candidates from across the further and higher education sector, but we believe Martin has many unique qualities and characteristics which will enable him to very quickly make a positive contribution to the



Martin Jones.

future of the college. Martin brings with him a wealth of experience in the higher education sector. Since 2003, he has held a number of senior roles at Glasgow Caledonian University, including head of learning, teaching and quality. He sits on the university's academic policy committee and was the founding director of the learning development centre.'

Mr Campbell continued: 'Fraser Durie has led the college over the past few years where we have seen our HE student numbers increase rapidly and our performance improve. His commitment to the college, our staff and our students, is greatly appreciated.'



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Left to right: John Montgomery's cousins Margaret Forbes and Margaret MacEachan, sister Marjory McCardel, wife Angela Montgomery, and grandson Adrian Montgomery, Eileen Gibbs, Keith Gibbs, Lorna Jarman, John's daughter Fiona Emmett, Roy Rutherford, Elchris McFarlane, John's granddaughter Maddie Emmett, Sara Rutherford, John's great nieces Lily McLoughlin and Lorna McLoughlin, and cousin Mike Forbes.

Family's 11,000-mile trek to scatter ashes in Oban Bay

A family journeyed 11,000 miles from New Zealand to Oban on Friday to scatter a relative's ashes into the bay.

Veterinary surgeon John Montgomery, who died two years ago, spent most of his life overseas but, for him, Oban was always his home.

In the sanctuary of the Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB) base, John's far-travelled family met local relatives for the first time in many years, and

some for the first time. 'John would be delighted,' his widow Angela said, gazing at the gathering.

Over the course of their marriage Angela and John, whom she described as a 'wandering vet', had lived in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the UK, but 'he always wanted to come back to Oban'.

'He felt Oban was his home,' she said. 'He lived here when his father was in

the war. He went to school in Oban. We brought his ashes back. He wanted it this way.'

John's family and friends made their way down to the Northern Lighthouse Board pier, where his ashes were scattered into the Atlantic Ocean, and then retired to the NLB's warm, dry shelter for champagne to celebrate his life, before beginning their own short and long journeys home.

POLICE FILES

- At about 9.45pm on Tuesday August 14, in Albany Street, Oban, a van was stopped and the 50-year-old man who was driving was arrested for allegedly driving while under the influence of alcohol, disqualified and without insurance. He was charged with the offences, held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.
- At about 9.55pm, on Friday August 17, in Connel, a woman aged 43 was detained and, when subsequently searched, was found to be in possession of a small quantity of heroin. She was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.
- At about 12.25am on Sunday August 19, in Campbell

- Crescent, Oban, a man aged 36 behaved in an abusive manner. He was arrested, charged and issued with a recorded police warning.
- At about 2.10am on Sunday August 19, in Mossfield Avenue, Oban, a man aged 18 behaved in an abusive manner. He was arrested, charged and issued with a recorded police warning.
- Between 10pm on Saturday August 18 and 9.30am on Sunday August 19, in Sinclair Drive, Oban, a blue Ford Focus was damaged by having the driver's wing mirror kicked off.
- If anyone has information in relation to the above, or to any incident, they can contact their local police office on 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Oban is Scotland's first Healthy Living Town

Increasingly viewed as a pioneer in the field of Creating Health In Our Community, Oban is about to be launched as Scotland's first Healthy Living Town at the Oban Health Fair, which takes place at Atlantis Community Leisure on September 1. The launch will take place at noon.

Healthy Oban is a long-term project, a collaboration between third sector organisations and statutory agencies which everyone needs to get behind as individuals, families and the wider civil society. The initiative also includes a role for the private sector.

Islanders are shocked by sudden death

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



Tributes have been paid to a father of three who died in an accident at a Tiree croft on Sunday night.

Police were called to the island croft around 7.35pm on August 18, after a 46-year-old man was reported to be seriously injured. The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

A Police Scotland spokesperson said on Monday: 'Inquiries are ongoing to establish the circumstances surrounding the incident and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal. The Health and Safety Executive has been informed.'

The man has been named locally as Allan MacCallum. Shortly afterwards a Crowdfunding page was created to raise funds for his family, reaching almost £13,000 on Tuesday.

The page explains: 'We have all been shocked and deeply saddened on the island by the sudden passing of Allan ('Brute') who was killed in a tragic accident at home.'

'Allan leaves behind three young boys, and together we can all help them through this difficult time.'

Well over 100 supporters had donated and offered their tributes to 'a Tiree gentleman taken too soon', whose 'beyond tragic' death had placed a 'big cloud over our Isle'.

'Allan was always there to help if you ever needed help,' one donor wrote. 'A true friend who will be sadly and greatly missed.'

'Tragic loss of a true character, never a dull moment with Allan around,' wrote another. 'He was a great help to many people, and nothing was ever any bother to him. Will be greatly missed by us all.'

'A good friend,' another

agreed. 'Always the first to jump and help, will be sorely missed. Thinking of the three boys, who he loved.'

'Your dad was a great man,' another told them. 'The first person to help if he could.'

'There are no words to describe what has happened, it is beyond tragic,' another said. 'Take comfort and support from the community around you.'

'A tragic accident that we all know could have happened to any of our families in the community,' wrote another.

NFU Scotland's regional chairman for Argyll and the Islands, John Dickson, who farms on Bute, added: 'Our thoughts are with the family and friends at this time.'

'Every loss of life through a tragic accident of this kind has a huge impact but in a tight-knit island community the feeling of loss goes deeper.'

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OT

New ferry delays 'let down' Hebrides

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



Two new ferries for Arran and the Uig triangle in CalMac's overstretched fleet have been delayed even further, the Scottish Government disclosed last week.

Scottish tourism chiefs argue the announcement has 'hugely let down' the Hebrides, and said there was a 'critical urgency for increased ferry capacity'.

The MV Glen Sannox, the first dual fuel vessel to be built in the UK using liquefied natural gas and marine gas oil, is being built at the Ferguson Marine yard in Port Glasgow, where a second similar vessel is also being built for the Uig triangle between Skye, North Uist and Harris.

Earlier delays had already seen the delivery date for the £48.5 million Glen Sannox, due to operate the Brodick to

Ardrossan route, pushed back from the second half of 2018 to the spring of 2019.

In June The Oban Times' sister paper The Arran Banner revealed the ferry was seriously behind schedule again.

When it contacted Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson, he said: 'This is the first I have heard of this.' He has since been pressing CMAL for answers.

Then last Thursday, via a parliamentary question, Mr Gibson asked the Scottish Government's transport secretary Michael Matheson MSP for an update.

Mr Matheson responded: 'Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd has advised us that the first vessel, the MV Glen Sannox, will now be delivered during summer 2019, and the second vessel in spring 2020.'

Following delivery, CalMac Ferries Ltd require around two months for trials and

crew familiarisation before each vessel is fully deployed on the Clyde and Hebrides ferry network.

'While this further delay is disappointing, it is important to focus on the fact that we will have two new ships joining the fleet serving the Clyde and Hebrides network, that have been built in Scotland, providing vital support to our ship building industry.'

However, Marc Crothall, chief executive of the Scottish Tourism Alliance (STA), said: 'The announcement of further delays in the delivery of the two newly commissioned CalMac vessels is beyond disappointing.'

'The STA has raised frequent concerns to cabinet ministers and Transport Scotland regarding the provision of the existing fleet in terms of capacity and the fact that these ships are ageing, with a slow pipeline of replacement.

New Glenshellach plots blasted as 'madness'

A plan to develop four more plots in Glenshellach Industrial Estate in Oban has been slammed as 'madness' by a town councillor.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) is creating four new industrial development plots 'to enable local firms to grow and attract new companies to the area'.

HIE is investing £450,000 in access roads and servicing for the two-acre site. The Oban Times understands work was due to begin on Monday.

However, Councillor Roddy McCuish, whose Oban South and the Isles ward covers Glenshellach, said: 'It is madness. I could not think of a better political suicide than putting my name on that.'

While Councillor McCuish welcomed HIE's investment in 'the fastest growing area in Argyll and Bute', he said it was 'extremely disappointing' HIE chose to cram more plots in Glenshellach, and increase industrial traffic on Soroba Road. 'Soroba Road is bursting at the seams,' he said.

'It would be good if HIE went

to elected members before putting out their press release. There are better investments and less controversial places than that. There are opportunities in Dunbeg at the science park, and at Oban Airport. We could have achieved the same investment in this area with partnership and consultation.'

HIE explained: 'There has been a recognised lack of land for commercial and industrial use in Oban. This has not been addressed by the private sector as construction costs significantly outweigh end market value. This value gap is forecast to continue to act as a restraint on private sector-led development. As a result, demand for plots exceeds supply and this can inhibit business growth and inward investment.'

Morag Goodfellow, senior development manager with HIE, said: 'Given room to grow, sectors such as haulage and distribution, wholesale and technology all have the potential to expand and boost local employment. We have been developing Glenshellach over a number of years.'

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Ganavan Sands parkrunners celebrate the second anniversary. 16_T34_ganavandsparkrun01

Happy birthday Ganavan Sands parkrun

Ganavan Sands parkrun has celebrated its second birthday.

Runners, joggers and walkers turned up on Saturday to take part in the 101st 'run' since it started in 2016.

Party hats and silly socks were the dress code for the special occasion.

Over the past two years people have come from all over the world, including New

Zealand, Australia, America and across the UK to join the free weekly 5km parkrun.

One of its organisers, Doreen Henderson, said: 'We try to encourage walkers and joggers as well as runners to come and join us - everyone is welcome.'

'We get lots of people on holiday coming along. Some people like to tick off all the

parkruns they do in different places.'

The event is also looking for more volunteers to come and help at the start and finishing point, who would enjoy the social side of being involved. Contact ganavandsandshelpers@parkrun.com.

The parkrun sets off from Ganavan Sands car park at 9.30am every Saturday.

Argyll people urged to back Macmillan event

Macmillan Cancer Support's World Biggest Coffee Morning event is fast approaching and wants people in Argyll to get involved.

Macmillan's coffee morning takes place on Friday

September 28 and people will be making a difference however they get involved.

Throughout September, headline partner M&S will be selling a selection of limited edition coffee morning

products with 10 per cent of proceeds going to Macmillan.

People in Argyll can find events near them using the interactive map on the coffee morning website www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee.

Volunteers sought to make trust port

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



The Oban Bay Management Group will explore the opportunity for a trust port to be established as the single harbour authority to manage the Oban Bay area.

The decision was made following the results of an online consultation survey and feedback at a public meeting held in July. More than 550 people completed the online survey and the responses are now available to view online at www.obanharbour.scot

The Oban Bay Management Group (OBMG) said: 'One of the key opinions expressed through the survey is the need for a harbour management body that is representative of the full range of harbour users and considers the wider economic and community benefits of the harbour. Most respondents (63 per cent)

stated the most suitable body to manage the wider Oban Bay area is a trust harbour.

'The OBMG will now further explore this option while continuing to progress the early work necessary either for a trust port or extension of an existing harbour area.'

A public meeting will take place on Thursday September 6 at 7.30pm at the Corran Halls, Oban, to discuss the feedback from the survey and to update the community on OBMG activity on the harbour authority arrangements.

OBMG added it had 'identified that a single harbour authority to manage the wider Oban Bay area is necessary to reduce risk from increased traffic, to improve marine safety and enhance the commercial viability of the harbour.

'An initial proposal by OBMG, based on discussion and review, recommended

the timeliest solution is for Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) to extend its current harbour authority area to cover the whole Oban Bay area, with Argyll and Bute Council harbour area remaining nested within the larger area.'

Lorna Spencer, who chairs OBMG, said: 'Following the survey responses, we recognise that an opportunity for a group to come forward to set up a trust port is needed.

'We have previously stated our support for a trust port and we agree that it is the most appropriate long-term arrangement.

'However, it needs to be initiated by interested individuals and groups.

'The OBMG is unable to directly pursue this option due to conflicts of interest within the membership.

'We are willing to assist a viable stakeholder group and

we encourage those with an interest to come forward now.

'In the interim, while a trust port option is explored, we will continue to do the preparatory work needed for any harbour authority. The option of CMAL extending its harbour area remains on the table should a trust organisation not emerge or prove unviable.

'Thank you to those who took the time to complete the survey and those who attended the first public meeting in July. Their contribution has provided valuable input to planning the harbour authority arrangements.

'We are committed to ensuring that, whatever the harbour authority arrangements, the town of Oban benefits and that there is a clear focus on navigational safety, the local environment and economy, and access to the islands.'



The man was winched on to the helicopter and flown to hospital with a leg injury.

Man falls nine metres on to rocks on Mull

A young man was airlifted by helicopter after falling nine metres on to rocks at Calgary Bay on the Isle of Mull on Sunday.

Tobermory, Craignure and Ross of Mull Coastguard Rescue Teams were called to the incident around 1.30pm on Sunday. A spokesperson

for the Coastguard said he had sustained a leg injury.

Due to the inaccessibility of the site, the Coastguard's helicopter from Prestwick was called in to winch the casualty to safety, after which he was flown to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow.

Rockfield says 'huge thanks to Oban, its communities and friends' for buying shares

Oban Communities Trust (OCT) has been overwhelmed at the generosity of the people of Oban, its communities and beyond as the community share offer for investment in The Rockfield Centre draws to a close today (Thursday August 23).

'We can only say a huge thanks', said OCT chairman Gordon McNab as the total climbs to £200,000.

'We have had such an amazing response to the share offer and to raise this amount in such a short space of time reflects the faith in this important facility for the town centre.

'A large number of people have said they intend to buy shares but have not yet done



so. If you are one of these, then please call into the office today.

'And remember you can club together as an organisation to buy - a lot of folk are even buying shares as Christmas presents.'

The trust held a business breakfast last week at the community huts to outline the plans and the vision for the centre's future to the town's businesses.

Further tours of the main building were held last weekend to show everyone what the building will offer to the communities of Oban as well as its visitors.

Today (Thursday August 23), OCT is at the Argyllshire Gathering games in the Heritage Tent and will be on hand to give information, answer any questions about The Rockfield Centre project and sell shares. For those who still wish to invest, call in to the office by The Rockfield Centre Community Charity Shop today or visit the website www.therockfieldcentre.org/invest.

More information on the centre's activities on the website and Facebook page.

Cannabis supply leads to four months in jail

An Oban man has been sentenced to four months in prison for being concerned in the supply of cannabis resin.

Shane Kenny, of 95 McKelvie Road, Oban, was arrested on July 13 of this year after admitting being in possession of 250 grams of the substance.

The 28-year-old pleaded

guilty to the charge and was sentenced in Oban Sheriff Court on August 15.

Kenny's defence solicitor Edward Thornton said he only had the drugs to sell as a way to repay debts.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'Being concerned in the supply of any drug, and the amount you had was signifi-

cant, would have encouraged other people to become involved or stay involved in the drugs trade.'

Sheriff Hughes sentenced Kenny to four months in jail, reduced from six months due to his guilty plea, which will be back-dated to July 16, when the 28-year-old was remanded.

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OT

Captain is going for hat trick

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



The Cross Bullock who won the grandest title of all at Appin Show at the weekend, won Champion of Champions at the Mid Argyll Show the week before and is heading to Dalmally Agricultural Show on September 2 to do it all over again.

Named Captain, his proud owner Ewen MacGillivray from Barcaldine's Home Farm said the end of March born beast was making the most of his winning streak – and so was he.

'The judges said they couldn't fault him and that's good enough for me!' he added.

Show chairman James Henry Weir said he was delighted with the large crowd who turned out to enjoy the event now in its 61st year.

He said: 'The atmosphere's been tremendous, you can feel it. We are delighted.'

'Numbers are definitely up, the field has been packed and the weather's been better



Donnie MacCorquodale, 12, of Achnaba Farm, North Connel, with the overall sheep champion.

than last year. I can't praise the organisers enough for all the hard work they have put in to making this show yet another success – thank you all very much.'

The show saw its handi-crafts and produce tent filled to the brims, it also welcomed two new exhibitors in the commercial and pedigree

cattle categories, but sheep numbers are dwindling every year said Mr Weir who hopes to see more in 2019.

Vintage engines, wood carving, face painting, a nail bar, prosecco bar, home-baked treats, a trades tent, a ceilidh band and throwing the sheaf challenge were just some of the many attractions

– including a chance to milk a fake cow and make your own butter in the Royal Highland Education Tent.

Riona Megan, nine, from Oban, won the overall Highland Dancing for beginners after winning three firsts, two thirds and one fifth place. There were 17 hardy runners in the hill race



Champion Highland Cattle young handler Aaron McKay, 16, from Dalmally.

climbing 1,000ft as spectators watched them turn into tiny ants in the distance before turning back to chase for home, first past the finishing line to big cheers was Tom Smith.

Back in the show ring, the overall sheep champion was a Blackface from Achnaba Farm in North Connel, while R D Schuster from Duiletter Farm in Dalmally took the Champion Highlander and Reserve Overall Cattle Champion.

Maureen O'Hara, secretary

of the Highland Cattle Section said with 12 folds present there had been a big showing, with Highlanders coming from as far way as Aberdeen to Bute to compete.

Other winners on the day included Jennifer MacNeal from Bonawe who took home four winning rosettes. Her Pekin Bantam, called Jacob, received a first for the best poultry exhibit. Ailey Tinney and Molly Fraser from Benderloch also took home a rosette after their terrier Doche won the dog show.

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Piper Colin Brown from North Shian.



Highland cow takes a break at Appin Show.



The hill runners set off in their quest for glory.

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Marsaili Coulthart, 12, from Appin with four-year-old brother Seonaidh, won prizes for prime lamb and came second place in the Young Farmer section.



Ailey Tinney and Molly Fraser from Benderloch with Doche who won the dog show.



Lily Jane Robertson, Rhian Daley and Alicia Murray from Fort William's Jane Douglas School of Dancing.



Cayden Fyfe, eight, from Ballachulish is Young Sheep Handler of the Year.



Above, Riona Megan, nine, from Oban, won the overall Highland Dancing for Beginners at Appin Show after winning three firsts, two thirds and one fifth place.



Jennifer MacNeal, above, from Bonawe with her Pekin Bantam called Jacob who won the best poultry exhibit section.



Bubbles anyone? Jennifer Henderson, Jacqui MacCorquodale and Lindsay Sword at the prosecco bar.



Starting up the vintage engines.

Advertorial

A career for everyone

Tourism is one of Scotland's growth sectors and vital to the Argyll economy with over 12 % of the region's workforce employed in the Accommodation and Foodservice sector and accounting for 10% of all registered businesses.

Worryingly, recent research shows that over one in four hotels and restaurants in Scotland – around 2,305 establishments – reported at least one unfilled vacancy in the previous 12 months, much higher than the Scottish average. Over a fifth of those vacancies were attributed to skills shortages. Demand, quite clearly, is high.

An analysis of the sector by Skills Development Scotland, published last September, found that between 2012 and 2022, the tourism sector will need to recruit 32,700 elementary workers – the likes of catering assistants and domestics – some 15,700 in managerial and senior roles, and a further 9,600 skilled tradespeople.

They also estimate that between now and 2027 there will be a demand for 3,200 tourism jobs in Argyll alone.

Although Tourism has traditionally been side-lined as a sector in which to make a lifelong career, the range of jobs roles is staggering – from management, finance or personnel, event management, to running an award winning kitchen, or even adventure tour guiding; there's a career for everyone.

With average salary for a head chef in the UK being up to £50,000 per year, and no shortage of job opportunities, you may be right in thinking that there has never been a better time to indulge your 'Masterchef' dreams and sign up for a full time career in the kitchen.

If you feel the time is right for a career change, or you want to enhance the skills you already have consider the range of courses on offer at Argyll College Oban,



from HNCs in Hospitality and a BA degree in Event Management through to a range of practical SVQ courses in Professional Cookery where you'll get hands on experience from day 1.

Argyll College SVQ3 Professional Cookery Student, Ewan Collins says, "There's so much to learn, my presentation skills and desserts have certainly improved. My employers value me doing this course, as I can use the knowledge I'm getting in college which helps be do my job better."

Curriculum Lead Chis Wolfe says, "So many people don't think about a career in the hospitality industry. Sometimes it can be challenging to see that amazing career paths that are available if your only experience has been a summer job waiting tables or washing dishes."

"Signing up for a full time course is a great way to get started on the career ladder" he continues, "many of our SVQ cookery students will combine their college work with employment, giving them the added advantage of gaining valuable on the job experience while earning a wage."

View our full list of courses at www.argyllcollege.ac.uk. If you'd like to find out what your options are get in touch with Argyll College Oban on 01631 559500 or email ACoban@uhi.ac.uk, and of course you can pop into the Centre anytime during office hours.



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OT

£2,000 fine for fight over football row

A vodka-fuelled argument about football ended in 'shocking' injuries and a £2,000 fine, Oban Sheriff Court has heard.

Marcin Korzec, 49, of 24 Polo Park, Aberdeen, admitted assaulting a man at an Oban guest house on March 10 this year by repeatedly punching him on the head to his severe injury.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday August 14 that 'the complainer had consumed a considerable amount of vodka', and then Korzec had invited him and others to his room to consume more vodka.

Then, Mr McGinty said, the complainer and Mr Korzec became 'engaged in an argument about football. The complainer and accused began struggling in the hallway. The accused

punched [the complainer] in the head. They ended up falling into the bathroom.

'At that point they stopped and shook hands,' he added, but 'the accused punched [the complainer] in the head again. Eventually the accused stopped punching.

'Police saw blood spattered on the floor. [The complainer] was taken to Oban hospital where he was kept overnight.

'It was expected there would be a fracture given the extent of his injuries. There was a likelihood he would have damaged eyesight. There was not any long-term damage to his eye, although there was significant haematoma and swelling. The injuries were not as severe as anticipated.'

Defence agent Laura McManus argued the com-

plainer 'was determined he would get Mr Korzec into a fight', referring to his statement to police: 'I like fighting. I am a fighting boy.'

'There was considerable verbal provocation,' Ms McManus said. 'He was provoked, but he takes full responsibility for punching the complainer. He accepts provocation is not an excuse. He has no previous convictions. He is a very successful business owner. It should be dealt with as a total one-off, given Mr Korzec's good record to date.'

Sentencing, Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'These are shocking photographs. If there had been any fractures or loss of sight this would have been dealt with by a jury, and it is difficult to see how you would not be going to prison.'



Helping to launch the Appin Community Transport Scheme are, from the left, co-ordinator Mairi Keenan, Charles Young of West Highland Housing Association, Appin Community Development Trust chairman Bob Cornish, scheme member Ellen Gunn, volunteer driver Mairi Lawrie, David Dunlop of Aggregate Industries and Penny Cousins of the Appin Community Development Trust. Photograph: Euan Paterson

Appin in driving seat with new project

Isolated elderly residents in an Argyll village have been offered a lifeline transport service thanks to the efforts of the community.

The Appin Community Development Trust raised £60,000 to purchase a car, recruit a co-ordinator and cover insurance and running costs for its community transport scheme, which launched on Monday. The trust has also managed to recruit 10 volunteer drivers.

The scheme will initially be a three-month pilot project, running two days a week, and can take residents to hospital appointments in Oban and Glasgow, as well as surgery visits and social functions locally.

Speaking at the launch in Appin's Jubilee Bridge car

park, Appin Community Development Trust chairman Bob Cornish said: 'The Appin community is spread across a large geographical area and there is little public transport to speak of. We have invested a lot of time, effort and money to make sure the older population can have quality of life while continuing to live in a rural area.'

'We are delighted to now have this service available as it will greatly help many residents who would otherwise struggle to get to crucial appointments and social functions.'

The trust has purchased a Volkswagen Sharan, with wheelchair access, and has employed a part-time co-ordinator, Mairi Keenan.

Ellen Gunn, 85, said the

scheme would be of huge benefit to residents. She added: 'I can't go to the surgery or the village shop without getting a lift, so this car is very good to have. I would have to get a taxi to take me places before now.'

At the end of the pilot, the trust plans to recruit more volunteer drivers and extend the scope of journeys.

Funders of the scheme are: Appin Community Trust, Aggregate Industries, Scottish Sea Farms, Christina Mary Hendrie Trust, West Highland Housing Association, Argyll Community Housing Association, Argyll and Bute Council, the Royal Caledonian Charities Trust, NHS Highland and Essentia Foundation Scotland.

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Fine for overtaking on A85 blind bend

A driver has been fined £350 for overtaking before a blind bend on the A85.

Charlotte Wright, 55, of The Lime Tree, Achintore Road, Fort William, pleaded guilty to careless driving near Achnacloch Bridge on September 12 2017, when her car overtook approaching a blind, causing an oncoming vehicle to take evasive action.

'It was a driver error,' solicitor advocate Shahid Latif told Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday. 'She is mortified to be before the court. The court is dealing with someone with a clean licence. Her licence is essential for her employment.'

Sentencing, Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'I accept this is an example of a driver error, but it could have produced a tragic outcome.'

Fish farm pens plan is up for approval

Plans to increase the number of fish farm pens on Loch Etive from 10 to 12 were due to be recommended for approval this week.

The application by Dawnfresh for its site at Airds Point was to be discussed at yesterday's meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee.

Officers were recommending permission be granted subject to conditions. More than 330 objections were received.

Also on the agenda was Dunbeg's masterplan, a scheme by Link Group Ltd which includes 300 new homes on land west of Dunstaffnage Mains Farm.

New roads, infrastructure, community woodland and other facilities for residents are part of the scheme.

Driver was three times over the limit

A Dunbeg man who was caught driving while three times over the limit has been disqualified for 16 months and ordered to carry out 120 hours of unpaid work.

Lachlan McInnes, 42, of 15 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg, admitted driving while having 69 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath, when the legal limit is 22mg in 100ml on June 29 this year and he was sentenced on August 13.

Solicitor Edward Thornton said his client was moving the car because it had been in the same place for two weeks and he was worried the battery might be low.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes imposed 120 hours of unpaid work, a 12-month supervision requirement, disqualification for 16 months and fined him £100.

Offers in for Oban parking proposal

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Offers for how to help develop Oban as a town and to ease demand on parking spaces are now in.

The deadline has passed for potential private sector partners to send in any suggestions.

A number of offers have been received and Argyll and Bute Council is now faced with the task of considering them but a council spokesperson said it could take weeks.

'We received multiple offers, across all the sites advertised, for what is a great opportunity for Oban. We thank all those businesses and individuals who took time to submit proposals for developments that will support our ambitions for the town and are pleased with the level of interest at this initial stage.'

'The council's estates and property development team



There is now congestion on Lochavullin Road.

will be in contact with the interested parties, while assessments of feasibility and deliverability of proposals are considered, and will be updating members as matters progress,' added the spokesperson.

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish has called for a report on the offers to be made available to the area committee at the 'earliest opportunity'.

BID4Oban chief executive Andy Spence said news that a number of offers had been submitted was 'encouraging'.

He said: 'All I've heard so far is that there have been a number of offers made. But it's quite strict because of legalities involved. I think it's really encouraging as long as the caveat of parking is resolved.'

Argyll and Bute Council is looking to team up with a business partner to re-develop one or more of its current car parks.

The three locations identified to be redeveloped to 'maximise economic return' are the car park on Oban Esplanade, adjacent to the Corran House and Westbay Apartments; the car park adjacent to Albany Street; and the car park in Tweeddale Street.

A document previously seen by The Oban Times inviting expressions of interest from potential partners said: 'A

key outcome shall be the creation of a long-term property investment for the council and partner with the protection or enhancement of current parking availability.

'Long-term lease or profit share is favoured. It is not the council's preferred option to sell off its land assets. The council shall contribute land and may also invest capital to the project as part of a profit share agreement.'

'Prospective partners are invited to submit a proposal for delivery across one or multiple sites as they see fit to maximise the benefits.'

Cars owners avoiding new parking charges are still clogging up many of the town's roads.

One of those areas hit is Lochavullin Road on the industrial estate where vehicles are being left on both sides for days on end, forcing other road users to queue to get past.



Students investigated a circular stone wall once buried under Langamull.

Dig could uncover living link

A team of archaeologists excavating an abandoned Mull village could have discovered a living link in one of its volunteers.

In 2004, Kevin Luscombe, a member of the Northwest Mull Archaeology Interest Group, told Dr Bill Patterson and his wife Suzanne about a forgotten settlement in a clearing nearby at Kildavie, numbering 14 ruined structures.

Inspired by a project called Scotland's Rural Past, the retired couple began researching Kildavie's history.

Later an annual dig was established, and this year a team of 15 university students from Canada, America, the Ukraine

and the UK have come to learn on the job.

In Kildavie, students uncovered a hearth and tumbled boulders in its last known inhabited building, left some time after a census in 1740.

Volunteer Kim Thorn, née McCannel, from Valemount British Columbia, had read from Bill and Suzanne's research that John McCannel and Mary Fletcher were the last registered marriage in Kildavie, and their child the last to be baptised in the parish. Kim wondered if she was related. 'It is an unusual name,' she said. 'There are not many of us. I thought, "How can I not go?" I want to believe.'

Advertorial

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OT

Ulva Ferry project wins cash backing

Mull and Iona Community Trust, working with Ulva School Community Association, has secured a grant of £156,865.51 from the Scottish Land Fund for a second affordable housing project at Ulva Ferry on Mull.

MICT and USCA successfully delivered two affordable houses at Ulva Ferry in 2017, increasing the number of children in the area by 40 per cent and adults by 10 per cent, thus strengthening Ulva Primary School's roll, and the overall sustainability of the community. However, there is a continued need for affordable long-term rental housing in this area of Mull, which is essential for the continued sustainability of the community.

The Scottish Land Fund

award will cover the majority of the cost of the purchase of a plot at Ulva Ferry, along with half of the staffing costs to appoint a project officer.

This project will deliver four more houses on two sites at Ulva Ferry, which will be offered as secure, long-term let, via an allocation process, and at an affordable rent. Feasibility work carried out over the winter confirmed there was a shortage of housing for couples and families, and businesses were struggling to recruit as a result.

USCA and the Ulva Ferry community will be at the heart of the project as it develops, having the opportunity to be involved in the process from the design of the houses to the allocation policy.

Funding towards the building costs will be sought from sources including the Rural Housing Fund, set up in 2016.

MICT general manager Moray Finch said: 'We are delighted to receive this grant from the Scottish Land Fund, which will enable us to deliver a second housing project for Ulva Ferry. In such rural areas, provision of affordable housing is key to securing wider social and economic benefits for the community as a whole.'

USCA convener Josh Liddle added: 'Affordable housing remains the top priority at Ulva Ferry, and this project will ensure there will be more pupils in the school, more adults to boost businesses and a stronger community. We can't wait to start building again.'



Coastguard volunteers toast their arrival on Skye after last year's walk for Ali MacNab.

Coastguards walk to Skye in Ali's memory

Oban Coastguard volunteers will set off on a two-day walk to Skye next month in memory of colleague Ali MacNab, who died from cancer.

The team will leave Oban early on Thursday September 6 to walk to Edinbane on Skye via Mallaig and Portree.

So far crowdfunding on justgiving.com/fundraising/iain-mackinnon3 has brought in £280.

A key member of the town's Coastguard Rescue Team, Ali died in January 2016 aged 48. 'By supporting Cancer

Research UK, we hope that a cure will be found and further deaths prevented. It is often said that only the good die young. This was most certainly the case when it came to Ali's passing,' said Iain MacKinnon.

Last year a team of Ali's colleagues hiked from Pulpit Hill, where there is a bench in his memory, to Edinbane, raising £6,500. The distance is about 180 miles.

This year's walk will see the team of six, with Mr MacKinnon as support driv-

er, taking the Corran Ferry to avoid the busy road into Fort William. When they finally get to Edinbane, they will be welcomed by a ceilidh.

Ali was brought up in Edinbane but lived and worked in Oban where he attended many incidents at sea. He was well-known for his good humour, strength of character and willingness to help others.

Mr MacKinnon said: 'We'd like to do something for Ali every year as long as we are fit to do so.'

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Excitement builds for Oban Games

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Prepare to be invaded, in the nicest possible way – games day is upon us.

It really brings a buzz to the town and my favourite bit is watching the march up to the field, as you see all of life before you, and the excitement on their faces as they get to parade behind the pipers is fantastic.

It is all part of the Scottish experience that people love being part of and we tend to take a bit for granted and be a bit blasé about but we are so lucky to have such a rich heritage and culture.

One of the best parts of being a town ambassador and walking tour guide is seeing how enthusiastic visitors are about things that to us are every day.

It does give me a new appreciation every time I get to share something that is new and exciting to other people.

Everyone sees and experiences things slightly differently so every time I speak to someone new it changes how I view things and I'm in the very fortunate position of appreciating where I live through someone else's eyes

on a daily basis.

It is an experience I would recommend to anyone and it is not too hard to do, as most visitors to our town are really happy to have someone to talk to and it is as simple as smiling and saying hello or offering directions if someone looks lost.

We are well known for being a friendly place and getting caught up in someone else's enthusiasm makes it friendlier for everyone and does give you a fresh appreciation for what we have here.

Tomorrow (Friday August 24), we'll all have the chance to put that into practice when Azamara sails into Oban with her passengers and crew of more than 1,000 aboard.

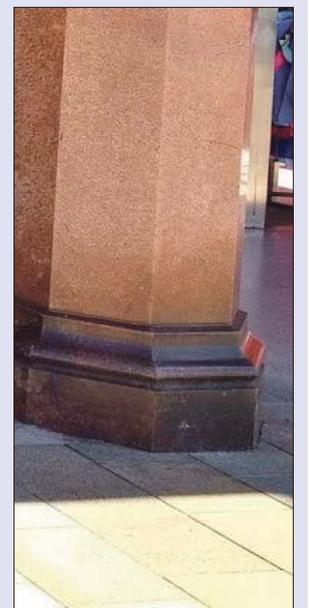
Wouldn't it be great if they left thinking Oban was the friendliest place they had ever visited?

Next Wednesday will also be a busy day with three ships visiting.

Hebridean Sky is here to pick up new passengers for the next stage of her journey and is a familiar visitor to Oban but we also have Star Breeze and Astor who bring more than 1,000 people to the town between them.

It is all go at the moment and I love it all.

WHERE IS THIS?



No two days are the same and some days I don't know if I'm coming or going so if you see me looking a bit dazed or confused, just sit me down with a cuppa and I'll be fine.

Last week's photo was of the dedication on the McKelvie Monument in the middle of Argyll Square. It is a bit tricky to get to with the traffic but worth a look.

This week's is a bit easier to get to and a bit more obvious.

Islay needs defibrillators after tragedy

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A tourist's tragic death has spurred on a life-saving campaign by islanders.

When a man out cycling with his family died on Islay last month, it left those who tried to help him deeply affected. It happened close to the new Ardnahoe distillery on the island's north-east coast.

Christianne MacGregor, who is training to be the distillery's visitor centre manager, was one of those who helped at the scene until the ambulance arrived.

'It was just awful. He was cycling with his family. The ambulance was only 15 minutes away, closer than the nearest defibrillator, but he died. It was

so sad,' said Christianne, who is supporting a move to get all of Islay's defibrillators added to next season's tourist maps.

The island has already been running a huge fundraising challenge to get public access defibrillators at Port Askaig, Port Ellen, Port Mor at Port Charlotte and Bowmore, as well as equip its two police vehicles with the devices.

Island paramedic Joe Hughes has kayaked with others round Islay's coast in two challenges facing dangerous swells to bring in thousands of pounds.

So far the funds stand at around £5,700 but £12,000 is needed to buy six defibrillators and new training equipment including mannequins to go with it.

There is only one ambulance

shift available on the island at any given time and it also covers Jura, which could cause a delay in getting to a casualty, said Joe.

'If we manage to reach our target, that will allow us to put the defibrillators into the community which will be mapped by the ambulance service, which means regardless of who calls they can be directed to the nearest unit while the ambulance is being dispatched to the scene,' he added.

Joe is now looking for people or organisations willing to become custodians of the defibrillators once in place, to be responsible for their upkeep.

The next fundraiser is a whisky raffle at whiskyauctioneer.com between August 24 and September 3.

Runrig-signed shinty shirt up for auction

Musician and broadcaster Gary Innes is auctioning off the Runrig-signed shirt he wore on stage with the band at their 'Last Dance' gigs.

The strip was the one he also wore at Scotland's last win at Croke Park in 2010 at the shinty/hurling international meet.

Fans have until Sunday to put in their bids and all the money from the auction will go to Scotland youth shinty development.

Gary, who is also the founding member of Mánran, had the honour of joining Scottish icons Runrig as part of their Last Dance finale shows in Stirling last week to perform as part of their famous shinty song Clash of the Ash.

He was also the front-cover image and poster boy for Runrig's penultimate al-



bum, Everything You See, in 2007 and has joined the band many times since for Clash of the Ash.

When the fireworks closed Saturday night's gig, Gary asked each of the band to sign the strip.

'Performing with the lads as part of the Last

Dance on Friday and Saturday night was a complete honour and two of the most special gigs I have ever been part of in my life.

'It's thanks to my shinty career that I was chosen to be a small part of Runrig's journey, so I wanted to give something back to the sport and I thought auctioning off my number nine shirt from our win at Croke Park in 2010 and asking the band to sign it might be a good way of doing that.'

To get bid details, go to Facebook and search for Gary Innes.

Cat learns hard lesson at former high school



A curious cat seized the opportunity to explore Oban's dangerous old high school on Saturday, and then got lost on the second floor, threatening to bring its demolition to halt. The black tom, called Mac, was seen 'constantly miaowing' from a high up window inside the dangerous five-storey block. One worried onlooker called

the emergency services, but was told firefighters couldn't help unless the cat was physically stuck, and the owners would have to wait until the cat came down of its own accord. According to a post on the Information Oban Facebook page, in the end a person braved the ruined building to save the cat, and both are now safe.



Nusrat Ghani with technician Tom Cole at Lismore.

Shipping minister visits NLB

The Northern Lighthouse Board welcomed shipping minister Nusrat Ghani MP to its Oban base last week.

During the visit, the minister was given a tour of the buoy yard, including the helicopter landing site, went on board Northern Lighthouse Board's (NLB) buoy tender Pole Star and visited Lismore lighthouse where she met NLB technicians.

Ms Ghani said: 'The Northern Lighthouse Board has provided an essential service to keep mariners safe at sea for more than 200 years.

'It was great to visit the

Oban base to see how it delivers these vital navigation aids around the coastline of Scotland and the Isle of Man, as well as meeting its highly dedicated and professional staff.'

Mike Bullock, NLB's chief executive, said: 'We were delighted to welcome the minister to Oban to show her the vital work we do to keep mariners and the environment safe around Scotland and Isle of Man shores.

'Our service makes a significant contribution to the prevention of accidents and incidents around the coast.'

Gaelic awards ask for nominations

Nominations for the 2018 Scottish Gaelic Awards are open.

Now in their sixth year, the awards highlight the work groups and individuals do to promote Gaelic with categories including Event of the Year, Innovation in Education, Sport Award and the International Award.

Winners in 2017 included Pàdruig Morrison from Grimsay, North Uist, who won the Young Gaelic Ambassador of the Year.

For information and to nominate go to www.scottishgaelicawards.co.uk/nominate.

Round Kerrera kayak race lines up

The ninth Oban Sea Kayak Race Around Kerrera starts from the North Pier on Saturday at 1pm.

Race organiser Gus Brydon said 50 entries were expected from around the UK. Last year's winner was local kayaker Patrick Winterton.

Since 2010 the charity event has raised £16,000 for the Oban RNLI lifeboat.

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Friday 7 September | Dihaoine 7 Sultain
Shielbridge Hall, Acharacle - Àth Tharracail - @ 8pm

Trail West

with Runrig's Play Gaelic
A concert featuring the songs and music from Runrig's Play Gaelic marking 40 years since its release - followed by a Cèilidh Dance

Saturday 8 September | Disathairne 8 Sultain
An Gearasdan - Caol Community Centre - Fort William @ 8pm

Stòras

A concert of Argyll Songs performed by Oban Gaelic Choir and Guests including Finlay Wells, Archie McAllister & Lorne MacDougall

Tuesday 11 September | Dimàirt 11 Sultain
Glengarry Community Hall - Invergarry @ 7.30pm

Cruinn and Assynt

Rachel Walker, James Graham
Brian Ó hEadhra & Fiona Mackenzie in concert
Graham MacKenzie, Innes White & David Shedden

Friday 14 September | Dihaoine 14 Sultain
Roybridge Memorial Hall - Drochaid Ruaidh @ 8pm

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OT

Oban flower show has chance to bloom again

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A last-minute surge of entries at Oban's annual flower show has saved the day.

Wilting interest in the Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society event had meant organisers were 99.9 per cent certain this weekend's event would be the last - but thanks to a boost of entries at the 11th hour there is now a chance the show might survive.

Before the event one of the show organisers, Sharon Black, told The Oban Times: 'It's 99.9 per cent certain that it will be off unless there's a miraculous turnaround.'

However, on the day Mrs Black said entry numbers at Glencruitten's Church of Scotland Centre were up 45 on last year.

'I think the publicity about the show possibly being the last if we couldn't get the support definitely did the trick and rallied people into action just in time, but we have to make sure that those people who stepped up, keep stepping up for next year to go ahead.'

'We'll have our AGM in November and that's when we'll make the decision, to either keep it going or to stop,' added Mrs Black.

Mrs Black, whose 77-year-old father Duncan Black has long been involved in the show, said in the end it was a good day, with a busy turnout of public in the afternoon enjoying viewing the exhibits.



Ronnie MacKillop from Oban got top prize with this vase of colourful shrubs.

She said a few willing people had also come forward who were interested in joining the committee.

With 25 members in the society and 11 of them on the committee, new faces are also needed to keep the organisation going. Seven years ago the society had to drop its annual rhododendron show after interest and entries just 'fell away', said Mrs Black.

Ronnie MacKillop of Oban, who has been with the society for 49 years, won the Challenge Trophy for the best vase and first prize for his vase of mixed shrubs and his marigolds, while Hugh MacLeod from Benderloch went home a winner thanks to his three-foot long carrots and parsnips and set of three giant onions that weighed in at around 4lbs each.

Other winners included Carol Collis, who was the honey queen, while Glencruitten community garden project Greenshoots won first prize for its vase of



Hugh MacLeod from Benderloch won first prizes for his giant vegetables.



Oban Sea cadets receive a £200 cheque raised from last year's flower show.



Catriona Petit from Glencruitten's Greenshoots garden project was one of the event's winners too.

cut flowers and three tomatoes. Oban Sea Cadets were also presented with a £200 cheque raised from last year's annual flower show. Since 1991, £5,725 has been donated to charities in the area.

Right: Sharon Black holds a tray of vegetables grown by her dad Duncan Black.



Innes MacKay, nine, from Oban was happy with his cherry tomato entries.



Jane Hewitt, George Cameron and Jill Cameron helped to boost the number of show entries on the day.



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Ballet West take off on tour to Malaysia

Ballet West's international touring company is in Malaysia.

Dancers were at Oban High School's dance studio on Thursday last week putting the finishing touches to rehearsals before flying out to the Far East on Friday.

The professional ballet cast will be bringing Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake to life in six full-length shows, starting this Saturday, August 24. The performances will be staged until August 26 and then from August 31 to September 2 at the Genting International Showroom.

Jonathan Barton, Natasha Wilson and Uyu Hiromoto will be leading the 32-strong cast, which features dancers from across the UK and Europe.

Ballet West will also present masterclasses during the tour for aspiring young Malaysian dancers. The international touring company plans to return to Genting in autumn 2019 with a new production of The Nutcracker.

Ballet West principal Gillian Barton said performing in Malaysia was 'a wonderful, world class opportunity'.



The dancers rehearse in Oban High School prior to flying out to the Far East.

Staff sick days cost millions

Staff sick days are costing Argyll and Bute Council more than £3 million a year.

Figures obtained under the Freedom of Information Act also reveal sick days taken in the area rose by more than 25 per cent in the 12 months to July 1 2017.

A total of 50,749 sick days were taken in that period, compared to 39,996 the previous year.

That took the total cost of sick days to the council through the £3 million barrier, with the final figure for 2016/17 £3,188,712.

Previously the authority had been hit by costs of £2,982,056 (2015/16), £2,933,585 (2014/15) and £2,791,401 (2013/14) for sick days taken by staff.

The number of days taken in those years were 39,996, 47,879 and 45,867 respectively.

The figures supplied by the council in response to the FOI request equate to the value of time lost to absence, and are not additional cost to the authority.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'Local authorities across Scotland are all experiencing a rise in sickness absence - something we are taking very seriously. The health and well-being of our workforce is a priority.'

'We have put different kinds of support in place to help employees deliver the services local people use every day.'

'These include an employee counselling service, referrals to occupational health specialists and a stress reduction policy. We have also established a healthy working lives steering group to drive forward our well-being agenda.'

Success for lifeboat day

Dreich weather failed to dampen spirits at Tobermory RNLi's annual Lifeboat Day on Sunday August 12 with locals and visitors raising £5,000 to help save lives at sea.

Lifeboat Day kicked off at the slightly earlier time of 11am with Tobermory RNLi's Severn-class lifeboat Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey arriving at the pontoons in style with volunteer crew member Alexander 'Wee Jock' Anderson piping on the bow.

The lifeboat was then opened for visitors to explore and to meet the crew.

Ashore, there was a free RNLi lifejacket clinic and sea safety stand, stalls and games.

Tobermory Coastguard Rescue Team and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service were also on hand with equipment displays.

Music was provided by



Tobermory RNLi volunteers celebrate the successful Lifeboat Day.

Who Shrunk The Pianist and Tobermory High School Pipe Band.

Alasdair MacCrone acted as master of ceremonies for the afternoon.

With everyone getting up an appetite, the barbecue was extremely busy and this year visitors had the chance to 'surf and turf' as there were

prawn cocktails available in Respect The Water reusable plastic pint glasses.

Organised by Lindsay Macdonald at the Pier Café, more than 800 prawns were generously donated by local fishermen and shelled by some of the crew. Unsurprisingly, they sold out within an hour.

During the day, Alasdair led



a tribute to the late Ronnie Campbell MBE, former chairman of the Ross of Mull and Iona RNLi Fundraising Branch, with a minute's enthusiastic applause from the crowd in recognition of his contribution not only to the RNLi but to the island community.

Later in the afternoon, there

were rescue displays. The lifeboat's daughter craft, the Y boat, recovered 'casualties' from the water and the crew also 'rescued' experienced kayaker and deputy launching authority Nick Ray from his kayak.

Volunteer crew Rose Skelton demonstrated how to 'float to live', part of the RNLi's Respect The Water campaign which urges people to fight their instinct to swim if they fall into water and try to float until the cold water shock passes. The day closed with the raft race and the raffle.

Tobermory RNLi Fundraising Group chairperson Nettie Wood said: 'We'd like to thank everyone who supported us by donating raffle prizes or helping out, as well as those who donated so generously on the day.'

'We have raised a fantastic £5,005.33 which will help save lives at sea.'

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Comrie Pipe Band led the parade to the show ground.



Andy Anderson performs another stunt on his bike.

Fun and thrills at Killin show



Winning the cattle were McDiarmid Bros, Ben Lawers.

The Killin Agricultural Show was held on Saturday.

The sheep judging began at 9am with the main events starting at 11am.

A parade marched from the Falls of Dochart at midday through the village to Breadalbane Park led by Comrie Pipe Band, with the vintage tractors bringing up the rear.

In the main arena, Andy Anderson and Robert Lafferty gave a display of crazy bike stunts, with Andy showing off his extreme skills by riding his trials bike with the front forks removed. He is one of three people who can perform this

trick. The display was finished off by Robert doing somersaults on his BMX.

As well as the animal judging, there were many events taking place in the arena, including a dog show, sack racing, children's races, terrier racing, bonny babies, a sheep shearing display and more.

Fabulous young band Headland played three sessions throughout the afternoon to entertain the crowds.

The vintage tractors paraded around the ring before all the prizes were presented for the various categories.

For the full results, go to www.obantimes.co.uk



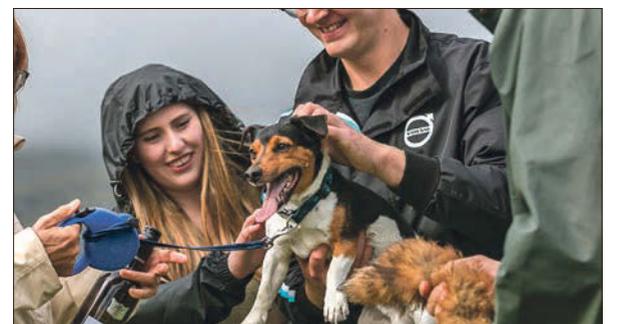
The champion of champions was this Blackface ewe.



The vintage tractors were part of the parade.



Ian McLarty of Glentarken and the winner of the dog show



Lots of pats for the winner of the terrier race.

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Tyndrum hub plot gets mired

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



A community bid to buy VisitScotland's closed visitor centre in Tyndrum and turn it into a new village hall has failed.

After Tyndrum's village hall was sold, and then VisitScotland's information centre was also put up for sale, a group of volunteers under the banner of Tyndrum Community and Visitor Hub was given the green light by a public vote last December to try to buy the 'uniquely placed' building on Main Street, as a 'gold mine interpretation centre, visitor attraction and exhibition and community space'.

'This project would replace the dilapidated existing village hall, now sold, and place community activities into the centre of the village,' explained its chairperson,



It had been hoped to replace the village hall with a hub.

Kelda Platt. 'The former tourist information centre was identified as being an ideal replacement for the Tyndrum Village Hall, located in the centre of the village alongside the main trunk roads A82 and A85.

'VisitScotland was intending to sell the information centre and explained that the land for its construction had been

donated to it and its sale was governed by some legal burdens imposed [when] the land was gifted.

'The hub group has undertaken a huge amount of work to unravel the complications, form a suitably constituted body and to develop business plans, but unfortunately time has run out and VisitScotland has been unable to hold off the

sale any longer. The centre will be sold to another party in the near future.

'The group and the community are very disappointed with this situation but feel powerless. It is saddening that a public facility has not been able to be transferred to the community, but it is the hope of the hub group that there is future potential within Tyndrum to realise the aspirations of the group, to develop an exciting facility within the village, to tell Tyndrum's unique mining story and to provide a space for the community to meet once again.'

Expressing the group's sadness at a 'missed opportunity', and thanking everyone for their support, Ms Platt said: 'We hope to be able to bring more positive news in the coming months and to see the resurgence of Tyndrum's community life, alongside the emergence of Tyndrum gold.'

Oban event will help graduates to be teachers

An event will be held in Oban next week to enable graduates in Argyll and Bute to find out more about becoming qualified secondary school teachers without the need to move away from the area.

Argyll and Bute Council has been working in partnership with the universities of Dundee and the Highlands and Islands to agree a programme, recently approved by the General Teaching Council of Scotland, which will see student teachers based in schools over an 18-month period.

An information evening earlier this summer proved popular, and as a result a second has been arranged to take place at the Corran Halls today (Thursday August 23) from 5pm to 7pm, and can be attended on a drop-in basis for those unable to make it for 5pm. Successful applicants will receive funding provided by the Scottish Government and students will be able to study locally while spending a substantial time in class under the guidance of a mentor.

Subjects being offered are chemistry, computing, home economics, maths and physics – all of which are experiencing a shortage of teachers.

On completion of the course, students will be awarded a post-graduate diploma in education and will be registered secondary teachers, able to immediately apply for jobs.

Councillor Yvonne McNeilly said: 'This scheme is a wonderful opportunity for young people in Argyll and Bute to become fully qualified secondary teachers, while having the chance to stay in the area. It also complements our existing teacher training scheme which saw 13 students gain their diploma in primary education last year.'

Applications are open with a closing date of September 3. Interviews will take place on Thursday September 27, with the first intake of students in December. People from other areas of Argyll and Bute who are interested can link in via video conference. Call 01631 569192 for further details.

Drink driver given 27-month ban

An Oban man has been disqualified from driving for 27 months for drink driving.

Duncan Gibson, of Room 1 Solas, Albany Street, was sentenced at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday August 14, when he was also placed on a social work supervision requirement for 18 months and was ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work.

Gibson, 42, was caught driving on April 28 of this year while having 73 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath, while the legal limit is 22mg in 100ml.

New fund aims to promote Gaelic

A group of broadcasters from the Celtic nations have joined forces to set up a media production fund to develop new drama, animation and factual programmes in the Celtic languages.

The Celtic International Fund will run an annual joint-commissioning round between the Celtic language broadcasters and funders of Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Northern Ireland.

It has been set up by BBC Alba, S4C, TG4 and Northern Ireland Screen's Irish Language Broadcast Fund.

£52,000 boost for Oban RNLI

A team of 120 Scottish Sea Farms employees took part in a triathlon this year and raised a whopping £52,000 for the RNLI.

Last week Georgie MacKenzie and Celine Kimpflin of Scottish Sea Farms visited Oban lifeboat station for a tour and to find out more about how their donation will be put to good use within the RNLI. It is estimated that £52,000 is the cost of a D-class lifeboat.

Lynsey Anderson, RNLI

community fundraising manager for west Scotland, said: 'The triathlon Scottish Sea Farms organised was incredible, we would like to thank everyone who took part in and supported the triathlon.

'RNLI crews save lives at sea 24/7, often leaving important engagements and family occasions to help people in trouble at sea and to receive this level of support to help fund the work of the RNLI is greatly appreciated.'





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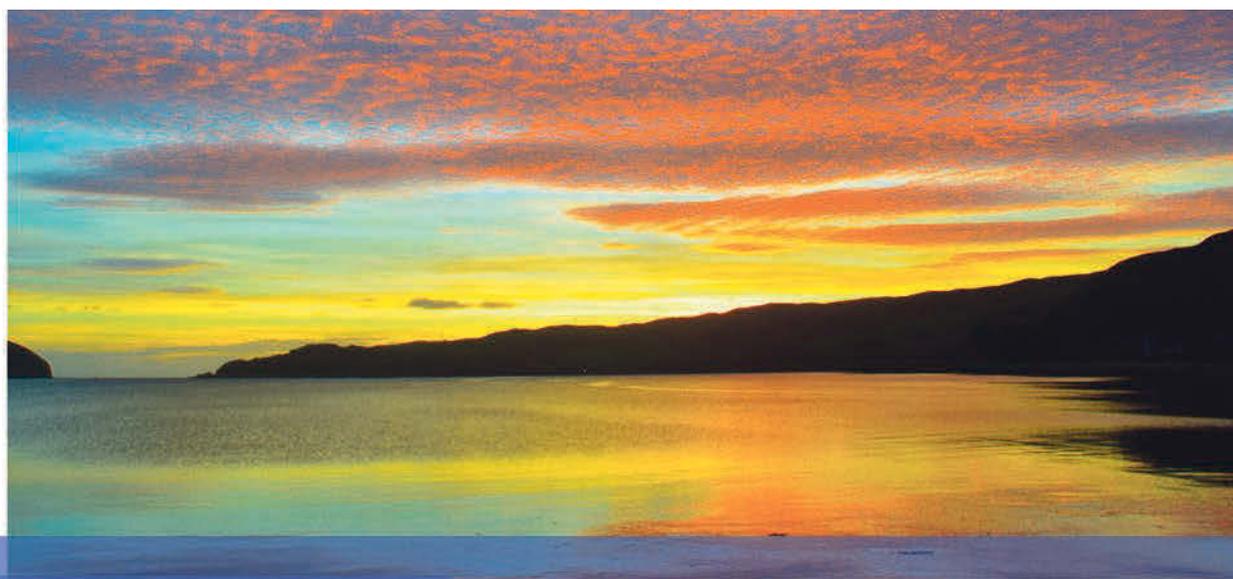
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Argyll unemployed number falls again

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Argyll school-leavers can look forward to a growing jobs market, according to the UK employment minister.

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Esther McVey said: 'With the unemployment rate falling further to just four per cent, and youth unemployment down more than 45 per cent since 2010, school-leavers can look forward to a growing jobs mar-

ket, improving the prospects for their future careers. In fact the UK's vibrant jobs market is benefiting people across the board.'

According to the latest job figures, the unemployment rate in Argyll and Bute has slightly fallen since July last year.

There are now 845 people unemployed, which is down by two per cent on 12 months ago, with 160 of those out of work 18-to-24-year-olds.

Ms McVey added: 'We have

some of the most creative, innovative and hard-working young people in the world and this summer I've been urging them to take on a summer job, gaining "soft" skills – or, as I call them, essential skills – for their future careers.'

The proportion of young people who are unemployed and not in full-time education is at a record low of 4.7 per cent. There is also a record number of older people in work – over 10.2 million.

George takes up Great Glen Challenge

Agricultural consultant George Gauley knows all about teamwork.

Mr Gauley, who works at SAC Consulting in Oban, is hoping he and colleagues will be able to raise £2,000 to fight landworkers' hardship by taking part in this year's RSABI Great Glen Challenge. Last year he got on his bike to take part in the annual challenge but for the 2018 event he is going to be the support driver.

The event on Friday August 31 involves two SAC teams of four from the length and breadth of the country taking part in kayaking, running, mountain biking and walking from Fort Augustus to Banavie, Fort William. RSABI is a unique Scottish charity with roots going back to 1897, providing financial assistance, support and advice to people who have worked in land-based occupations and who are suffering hardship.

So far the SAC teams have raised £1,235 in sponsorship. To donate, go to uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/SACConsultingSolutionsTeam1



George Gauley will be swapping his bike for the support car.

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The various ladders of life that we all ascend, descend and sometimes fall off are a constant part of existence.

The rises and falls and the highs and the lows are equally valuable in the building of experience and character that lead to the wisdom, fulfilment, peace and happiness that everyone on the face of the Earth in their own way is striving and searching for.

A particular aspect of human behaviour that has long fascinated me is how different people behave depending on their own perception of where they are on any particular ladder in relation to others at a given time. The music industry gives a constant stream of case studies for me to muse on in this respect.

Last week I had one of the most positive experiences in this regard for many years, given the context of the encounter where I was definitely well down the ladder from the other party involved. In the interests of confidentiality, the identity of the other person will remain untold.

Getting gigs as a band is a constant balancing act and in some ways a constant struggle. No matter what stage a band is at or what level of popularity, very roughly – except for the occasional anomaly of a golden phone call out the blue – gigs can be divided into three sections.

There is always a certain number and type of gig that is the mainstay of work at any



Will Skipinnish get a holy grail gig?

given time, which are dependable and enjoyable. There are a certain number that in some ways aren't that suitable but for various reasons you take them on.

Lastly, there are the holy grail type of gigs that you really want to do but they are difficult to get and usually involve contacting someone high up the 'gig ladder' and then waiting on their whim as to whether or not anything comes of it.

Since leaving school at 17 until now, 21 years on, I have experienced a vast range of different receptions from those up that ladder towards me at my various stages floundering around on the lower rungs. Pub landlords, hotel owners, venue managers, festival organisers, music agents, project managers, promoters of various types, TV/radio producers and musical directors all have given rich material of good and not so good behaviour to fuel a few chapters of my future memoirs.

Last week I had to make one of these phone calls on behalf

of Skipinnish to someone very high up on a particular gig ladder in relation to where we are as a band and what the result would be was very unpredictable.

I admit to having had to steel myself in order to make the call as I half expected not to get through, or not to have the call returned or be told he had never heard of us and not to be so ridiculous, presumptuous or rude to bother him etc.

I was actually taken aback by how positive the response was and how much of a total gentleman the fellow on the other end was. We may not get the gig – time will tell – but I was hugely impressed by the manner in which the call was taken in relation to what my slightly scarred expectations were.

If I am ever in a position to employ someone to book bands for an important gig, I will seek this guy out and give him the job. The impact of that short phone call – regardless of the end result – brightened the entire day.



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OT



All these youngsters were delighted with their wins. All are pictured receiving their trophies from Peggy MacEachern.



Louise Muir won the Duart Cup Perpetual Challenge Cup for best pony in show and the reserve champion, while Corran Muir won the Don MacFarlane Memorial Trophy for reserve champion horse, and Shian Muir won the Hardie Memorial Trophy for best young rider 12 years or under.

Sun blesses

This year's Islay, Jura and Colonsay Show dawned bright and sunny with a fresh breeze, much to the relief of the committee, exhibitors and members of the public.

Everyone agreed that this year's show was excellent. From the weather, to the ever-increasing number of stalls there was something for everyone - to the very high quality of the stock on show, to the beautiful flowers and vegetables in the horticultural section, to the large numbers of well-groomed dogs in the dog section, to the delightful baking and crafts in craft section, and last but not least, to the vintage vehicles.

There is now so much to see and do that some have been heard to say that the show needs to be held over two days, which always has the committee members holding their heads in their hands.

The quality of stock on show was, as usual, of a high standard and a credit

to the owners and their helpers, who work so hard throughout the year in order to achieve this quality.

The champion of champions this year was a Blackface gimmer owned and shown by John Campbell, Port Ellen, (John Tam to his friends). John is no stranger to winning championships as he also won it two years previously with the mother of this year's champion.

The reserve champion was a Charolais heifer - a February-born calf, owned by the firm of T Epps and shown by Tom Epps. It is worth noting that both John and Tom each won quite an armful of silverware on the day, so there will be a lot of silver polish required in both households.

The prizes were presented by Peggy MacEachern, Keills, a committee member for many years and a lifelong show attendee who attended her first show at the age of three and has missed very few since.

The main entertainment

was terrier racing, with members of the public encouraged to allow their dogs to participate along with those doing the display. A fun time was had by all, as dogs of every shape and size chased a rabbit skin on a string, pulled along with the aid of a pulley.

Another very popular attraction which seems to be growing in numbers is the gymkhana, and is now attracting a bigger audience having been relocated to the main ring.

What had been a very successful day was rounded off with a dance in Bowmore Hall, where a large crowd partied to the excellent music of Ceol An Aire.

And so it can be safely said that the Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show 2018 was a major success and thoughts are already turning to the show in 2019.

With grateful thanks to the show committee who work hard all year and especially on the day itself, to make the show the success it is.

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This young handler is proudly showing off her skills in the ring.



Arthur and Peggy MacEachern who won the Finlay MacMillan Memorial Cup for Double Begonia as and the Minnie MacTaggart Perpetual Cup for Best Fuchsia.



Islay show



Who can resist watching the Highland cattle when mother and calf enter the ring?

A miniature poodle owned by the McArthur family of Bowmore won cups for best puppy and best dog in show.



All photographs: Graham Paterson and Arthur MacEachern.



There were plenty of smiles as the silverware was handed out in what was a hugely successful Islay, Jura and Colonsay Show.

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BUSINESS NEWS

Scottish Sea Farms earns platinum status

Investment in jobs and skills within Scotland's remote and rural communities has helped earn Scottish Sea Farms an Investors in People (IIP) Platinum accreditation.

The company has also retained its Investors in Young People Good Practice Award at gold level and been accredited with the IIP Health and Well-being Good Practice Award, making Scottish Sea Farms only the seventh company in Scotland and the first salmon farmer in the UK to achieve all three accolades.

The investment has resulted in 3,755 training days in the past 12 months, staff retention reaching a high at more than 92 per cent, absenteeism falling to a low of 1.5 per cent and awards including Aquaculture Learner of the Year, Finfish Farm Manager of the Year and Rising Star in the first half of 2018 alone.

A key driver behind the company's investment has been to help remote communities to retain their younger generations and encourage those who have left to study or work to return home.



Chamber highlights the benefits of social media

Social media is becoming one of the most important aspects of digital marketing.

It provides phenomenal benefits that could help firms reach millions of customers.

Social media offers a low-cost and easy marketing opportunity to spread the word about your business but, if you're not used to it, it can seem daunting.

Here are some of the most compelling reasons to embrace social media.

Improving brand awareness: By spending only a few hours a week, social marketing efforts greatly increase brand visibility and heighten user experience. Having a social media page will benefit your business and can create a wider audience in a very short time.

Cost-effective promotion: When it comes to advertising, social media marketing is possibly the most cost-effective approach. Creating an account and signing up is free for almost all social network platforms. If you decide to use paid advertising on social media, always start small to monitor what works for you.

Engaging with customers: Social media is perfect for interacting with customers. The more you communicate with your chosen audience, the more chance you have of converting that into sales. Engaging directly with customers is a great way to grab their attention and communicate your brand message.

Improving brand loyalty: Having an active social media presence makes it easier for customers to find and connect with you. Customer satisfaction and brand loyalty go hand in hand. It is essential to engage often and consistently with customers.

Increasing customer satisfaction: Creating a



Jodie Fraser, marketing executive with Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, can advise businesses on how to maximise their social media potential.

'voice' for your company is important in improving brand image. Customers will appreciate the fact that when they post comments on your social media pages, they receive a personalised reply. A brand that values customers takes the time to compose a personal message.

Enhancing brand authority: When customers see your company posting regularly on social media, especially replying to their queries, it helps them see you and your business care. The best advertising is word of mouth – that is the same on social media as anywhere else. Once you have customers who are vocal about their great experience, their positive comments will help to promote your business.

Increasing visits to your website: Social media also helps increase your website traffic. By sharing your content, you are giving users a reason to click through to your website. The more quality content you share, the more

people will look at your website and find out more about your business offers.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce now provides a simple-to-use social media management service. This is ideal for businesses that want to keep on top of their social engagement but lack the time or resources to do so.

Jodie Fraser, marketing executive at the chamber, is a skilled social media marketer who can work with you short or long-term.

Or if the person dealing with your social media is off sick, goes on holiday or is particularly busy, Jodie can keep your social media reputation intact by answering queries and keeping engagement flowing with high-quality, relevant content.

If you would like more information on how you can use this service, contact Jodie on 01397 705765 or email jodie.fraser@lochaber-chamber.co.uk

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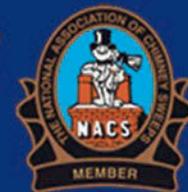
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Highlands and Islands could benefit from Heathrow expansion

Aviation Minister Liz Sugg visited Highlands and Islands airports and met business leaders to discuss how Scotland might benefit from Heathrow expansion and how the UK government can support the aviation industry to develop Scottish enterprise.

The minister visited Stornoway to tour the airport and met Coastguard and airport fire, search and rescue crews to learn about their critical role in the Western Isles.

Island business representatives from Hotel Hebrides, Essence of Harris and Harris Tweed Hebrides met the minister to discuss how Heathrow expansion could provide an economic boost to the Western Isles.

Ms Sugg said: 'The Western Isles community relies on good transport links and Stornoway airport plays a hugely important role in providing essential UK and global connections.'

'We expect expansion at Heathrow to bring benefits to Scotland with increased tourism and more op-



Aviation Minister Liz Sugg with Stornoway Airport staff, including manager Duncan Smith; and, right, Ms Sugg met Ranald Fraser from Stornoway Smokehouse.



portunities for Scottish businesses. 'And through our aviation strategy, the UK government will identify ways to encourage the development of regional airports.'

Ms Sugg also visited Lews Castle and Stornoway Smokehouse to see first-hand how the island benefits through visitors and exports and needs air and ferry links to thrive.

Stornoway airport handled 132,000 passengers last year, and Visit Outer Hebrides reports

tourism generates £65 million in economic value for the islands, sustains around 1,000 jobs and is one of the key growth sectors in the economy of the islands.

Scotland can expect to benefit from an extra 100 flights a week to and from Heathrow with expansion and the additional capacity is expected to encourage competition between airlines, bringing down prices for passengers.

More flights from Scottish air-

ports will allow Stornoway to benefit from better connections to an expanded Heathrow via links with Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness airports.

And with freight capacity almost doubled, Scottish businesses have more opportunities to export.

Duncan Smith, Stornoway Airport manager, said: 'It was excellent the minister made the effort to come to Stornoway. We always strive to provide the best

possible customer service for our community within our lifeline service provision and as part of HIAL.'

The minister sought views on the UK government's aviation strategy to understand ways to support businesses and passengers across Scotland.

The strategy will look at the aviation sector up to 2050 to ensure it delivers for consumers and enables the UK to continue competing on a global stage.

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Volunteers join Islay dig

Dozens of volunteers joined archaeologists to cut the first turf at Islay Heritage's flagship excavation at Dunnyvaig Castle.

The community dig, which will 'peel back the layers of time to reveal the true history of this iconic monument of Islay', runs until August 30, when there will be a closing talk at 6pm in Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen, to reveal what was found.

The dig started during Islay Archaeology Week, which also featured an excavation at the Neolithic Giant's Grave and a guided walk to Dun Fhinn.

Archaeology professor Steven Mithen, a trustee of Islay Heritage, said: 'Dunnyvaig Castle, Dun Naomhaig, located on Islay's southern coast, is an unrealised asset, not just for Islay but for the whole of Scotland.'

Dunnyvaig was once the naval fortress of the Lords of the Isles, the chiefs of Clan MacDonald, and it is hoped the excavation can answer a wealth of research questions and transform 'this neglected site into a vibrant heritage centre' like Urqhart Castle on Loch Ness.

The project aims to provide information panels on its remarkable history, as well as make safe an 'uneven and slippery' path to the keep and tower and protect the walls, which are being eroded as they are exposed to Atlantic gales and rough seas.

If you wish to join the dig, a special free bus service, the Dunnyvaig Express, will pick up volunteers from Port Ellen at 8.30am, Bowmore at 8.45am and Port Ellen at 9.10am and drop them back in the early evening. It runs every day except Thursdays, to give the team a day-off. Sunday also saw a Dunnyvaig Bake Off Day, when volunteers were invited to bring their own cakes, pastries, pies and puddings inspired by Dunnyvaig Castle.



Old Oban and Mo

Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



The McKichans go a long way back in the history of Lorn. They helped the MacDougall chiefs in the 1600s at the time of the Covenanters, for which they were rewarded with land and a promise that, as long as there was a MacDougall in Dunollie castle, there would be a McKichan on the estate.

The name comes from the Gaelic, Mac-Fitheachain, the son of the raven, which is the clan bird of the MacDougalls.

McKichan headstones are to be found scattered throughout Lorn's many graveyards, including that of the Old Parish Church on Glencruitten Road and at Kinlochlaich in Appin, where there is one to John Carmichael, late of Cuil, aged 24, recording he was shot by a Donald McKichan from Oban at Achosrigan on February 7, 1828. Accidentally or deliberately? The details are no longer known in the area.

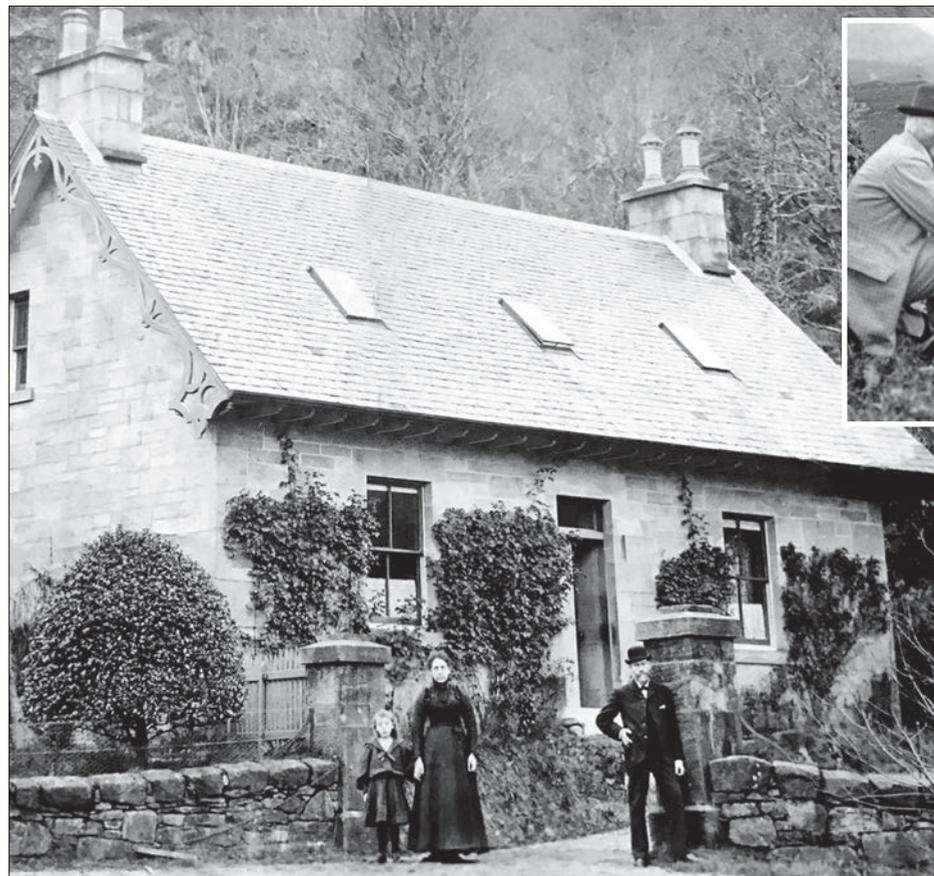
Charles Combie Campbell McKichan, son of James, a wheelwright in the parish of Kilbride, and his wife Isabella McNichol of Appin, left Lorn for Morvern in 1853 with his wife Jane McIntyre, where they and their son Donald remained for the rest of their lives.

Charles' motive remains unexplained, but here was an intelligent and intellectual tradesman probably in search of new horizons to advance and promote his skills. He found a willing patron in Octavius Smith (1796-1871), a successful London distiller who first bought land in Morvern in 1845 and began building at a rate not seen in the parish before or since.

On Octavius Smith's death, Ardtornish was inherited by his son Thomas Valentine (1825-1906), a cousin of Florence Nightingale, who continued to enhance the 30,000-acre family property on an even grander scale and at a quicker pace.

Employment rose to upwards of 100, bringing the number of houses on the estate, including the massive Ardtornish Towers at the head of Loch Aline, to almost 50. All this development, especially in a remote area, required a trustworthy and enthusiastic overseer.

Charles McKichan was that man. He began



as a joiner, ending up clerk of works when he died suddenly at Achranich on February 5 1900, aged 79. A member of the Free Church, he is buried in Oban.

Rose Cottage by the River Aline is still one of the most attractive houses on Ardtornish estate. It was built in 1871-2 for the McKichans when the dwelling they occupied 300 yards to the north was flooded.

Charles' son Donald (1858-1954), spent his entire life within half a mile of this cottage where he was born. He was never a night away from his home except when on holiday or business in the south. There cannot be many living on Ardtornish estate or in Morvern today who can say the same.

Donald (1858-1954) worked with his father as a joiner and succeeded him when he died. His courtly manner, attention to detail and standards were equally high and, although he was affectionately known as 'Donald Mac',

such familiarity was not allowed to enter into his relationship with his fellow employees as they went about their daily chores.

Operating from the Achranich joiner's shop and store above the garage, the contents of which would put Homebase and B&Q to shame, Donald kept a tight ship, giving out tools and all the paraphernalia required to run a vast organisation from a serving-hatch in a way that would have impressed Tubal-cain himself. Questions were often asked if such and such was really needed and threats made if surpluses weren't returned to this veritable 'Holy of Holies' before the day ended.

After Donald died at Achranich in November 1954, one of his obituarists wrote that Morvern's seannachie had gone home across that ferry from which no traveller returns and would not be replaced. The author, the parish minister, reminded his readers that Donald, who lies in Kiel cemetery above Lochaline,

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Morvern family



Far left: Donald McKichan with Charlotte and Catherine Cameron outside Rose Cottage built for the family in 1871-2 Photograph: McKichan family papers **Thomas Valentine Smith on the steps of Ardtornish Towers ca 1860s and Thomas Valentine Smith of Ardtornish with his prize-winning Highland heifer at Claggan, Morvern.**

Photographs: Iain Thornber.

anecdotes to tell of the old days. The writer concluded by expressing a hope that what he left on record about Morvern's past, which he loved and respected, would be preserved as a memorial to his name.

Following his retirement in 1944, Donald whiled away the time dictating his memoirs, with the help of notes and a prodigious memory, to his niece, Mrs Charlotte Cameron and her daughter Miss Catherine Cameron, which are a worthy monument to a fine Highland gentleman.

The following are edited extracts in two instalments.

'Many years ago, in conversation with a man, the name of MacIntyre, a native of Morvern who had a very retentive memory, gave me the number of sheep on each hirsle on the estate [Ardtornish] when he went to Old Ardtornish in 1860. These were: Ardtornish 1,000; Inniemore 550; Eignaig 500; Ternait 900; Achranich 1,300; Claish, or Dhugary 500; Claggan 500; Ullin 600; Claoinald, 900; Corrospine and Acharn 1,500; Beinn-na-h' Uamh, 700; Inniebeg and Inniemore 600 and Achnagaun 600.

'This large number of sheep (if correct) goes to prove how very much the land has deteriorated in the short space of a lifetime.'

'I remember when at school in Lochaline, a large paddle steamer named the Montague, with two main decks, fitted up and penned off, suitable for carrying sheep, used to come from Liverpool to the old pier at Lochaline in the autumn to take away the sheep that are usually sold off at that time of the year. I remember it being said at the time that she was capable of carrying between two and three thousand sheep. The cargo was made up of sheep from Ardtornish, Achranich and one or two of the neighbouring estates.

'To us boys who were at school at the time, the coming of the Montague and the cattle market, which was held twice a year in May and November, were the three chief events which were greatly enjoyed by us. The cattle market was held about 200 yards above the high road and in line with the Dr's house at Knock.

'At one time a large number of cattle were sent to the market but as years went on the number became gradually less, until in the year 1876 or 77, the holding of the cattle market was discontinued.'

To be continued next week.

had been baptised by the Rev John MacQueen, minister of the Floating Free Church of Strontian, Loch Sunart, and was vaccinated by Dr John MacLachlan (1804-74) the famous Gaelic bard of Rahoy.

He had seen many changes in Morvern, especially the dispersal of its people, for many glens and hamlets, now desolate and almost forgotten, were, in his youth, inhabited by tacksmen and crofters, which probably explains why he was an office-bearer in the Morvern branch of the Highland Land Law Reform Association - later the Highland Land League.

Another eulogist wrote he had participated in the rise of Achranich when Valentine Smith had Ardtornish estate and witnessed its decline.

Donald, who at the time of his death, was the oldest member of Oban Masonic Lodge, Lodge Commercial, had many interesting

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



Another photograph from our archives that presents a challenge owing to a lack of information. We think it is a touring circus in Oban from about 20 years ago. Any details readers could supply would be most welcome.



Some of the long-serving staff of Lochaber and District Co-operative Society Limited.

Photograph courtesy of Roamer.

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LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBNever underestimate
enduring yearning
to return to home

We have published this week, on page three, a heart-warming story about one family's marathon trek to scatter a relative's ashes in Oban Bay.

Peripatetic veterinary surgeon John Montgomery, who died two years ago in New Zealand, was adamant that he wanted to have his remains brought back to the town where he grew up and which to him was home.

Mr Montgomery's widow, Angela, spoke poignantly when she told The Oban Times: 'He felt Oban was his home. He lived here when his father was in the war. He went to school in Oban. We brought his ashes back. He wanted it this way.'

Mr Montgomery's extended family, some of whom travelled 11,000 miles from New Zealand, gathered at the Northern Lighthouse Board pier for the scattering of the ashes.

While tinged with obvious sadness, however, the ceremony was far from a dismal affair, with the relatives enjoying champagne during a celebration of Mr Montgomery's life.

It was evidence, were any needed, of the enduring desire many people feel to return to their roots at the end of their days. Certainly, that is a common theme in the Highlands and Islands, where there remains a gratifyingly strong sense of community.

We trust that Mr Montgomery's family will take comfort from the event, and thanks the Northern Lighthouse Board for its understanding and cooperation.

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 or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001.

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Appointing new GP will help
patients and save money

The recent resignations of both Health Secretary Shona Robison and Christina West, chief officer of Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), may perhaps give those like myself living on the Ross of Mull and Iona cause for hope that the single GP practice serving our area will be reinstated.

But it may also result in a vacuum in which nothing happens and the close connection between the GP and his patients is lost and large sums of NHS money continue to be wasted on locums.

It seems that the HSCP has been unable to take the obvious decision to advertise the post recently filled by Dr Frank which was applauded by the residents (who also signed a petition in great numbers) and saved around £3,400 a week on the Ross of Mull and Iona alone.

It appears the NHS as an organisation has felt itself so battered that there is now a culture of fearfulness in which no one takes decisions except possibly to add further to costs and the confusion by the appointment of expensive consultants to pass on their responsibility.

We, on the Ross of Mull and Iona, are hopeful that Morven Gemmill, the newly appointed area manager, will have the courage and common sense to seize her opportunity and advertise the GP post for our area without further delay and so earn the gratitude of residents and save the NHS a great deal of money.

In the meantime, the current lull does at least provide the opportunity to explore the provision of GP services from a more philosophical point of view.

The advantage of our existing single GP practice serving only the Ross of Mull and Iona is that there is continuity of care between the GP and his patients. This system recognises that each patient is a unique human being with a soul as well as a body and that both these need nourishing by another human being, namely the GP.

As any good GP knows, the doctor is not just involved with fixing the physical problems of the patient but also deals with the patients' perception and personal reaction to their health problems.

Evidence of the importance of this approach was demonstrated at Dr Frank's leaving party when many old and frail patients, who rarely venture outside, were moved to make a special effort to attend.

In contrast, it has been argued by the HSCP that the advantage of the proposed single group practice serving the whole of Mull is that there will be more choice of GP and more variety of skills on offer. The focus of attention has been shifted from seeing patients as individuals comprising body and soul to one of body only.

In addition, the GP is now increasingly valued only for his specialist skills in fixing patients' bodies as if they were just standardised mechanisms, which can then be measured and organised as statistics.

GET IN TOUCH

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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, 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, Fort

The underlying pattern is one of dehumanisation through the temptations of a purely materialistic view of life.

Who or what is responsible for this fall into pure materialism? Many people, with a more materialist view, would argue that there is nothing fundamentally wrong – that the human being is solely or mainly a physical entity and that it is only necessary to study the statistics and invent new systems which work more efficiently.

Others with a more humanist view might argue that the human being does have an inner life as well as an outer life of physical needs and that this needs to be taken into account when planning the provision of GP services.

There are others, however, including myself, with a more spiritual view who believe there also exist forces which are not visible to the human eye but which are constantly at play in our thoughts and in society as a whole, including those working for the good of mankind but also those with less benign intentions.

Such spiritual forces are the agents behind our changing world and have existed since before our physical world came into existence. Among these spiritual forces are those which are intent on dragging us down into pure

materialism and so denying us those special qualities which make us human beings.

Jonathan Knight,
Ross of Mull.

Miserly hillwalkers should
shut up and pay for parking

Hillwalkers are angry that there are proposals from Argyll and Bute Council to raise the cost of parking from £1 to £9 for the day at the two council car parks at Arrochar.

Do they expect those who pay council tax to subsidise their hobby? Locals paid for these car parks.

These outdoors enthusiasts who have travelled by car, often long distances, to experience the rugged countryside think nothing of filling their tank with £50 of fuel for the journey. If there are three in a car that is only £3 each for parking. Their equipment and boots are expensive yet they are complaining of a proper charge being imposed. On their home territory, they will pay well over £9 for a day's parking. They will spend very little if anything at all in local shops bringing their food with them.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



William. This week's photograph is sent to us by Harry Payne from Inverness, who said: 'This shows the Paps of Jura from Colonsay, taken from the southern point of the island.'

many other places to go in a campervan, try camping free on a harbourside in Devon or Cornwall. In addition, there are ridiculously subsidised ferry journeys to Mull, and I gather no reductions for islanders making essential trips.

As perhaps with many things, there is a balance to be struck. Regular visitors would, I believe, be more put off by random development than paying a bit more to visit a fantastic place. I write as another regular visitor but am not a resident of Mull.

**Ian Johnson,
Stirling.**

Ian Blackford MP never displayed any aggression

On reading your paper of August 16, I see it is still rumbling on with accusations that Ian Blackford MP allegedly stormed into the Liberal Democrat campaign office during the 2015 election campaign.

I would like to put the record straight. I was working as a volunteer, as I do around Fort William, and was working that day on repairing the SNP shop. As Mr Blackford came in, I was just finishing up and during our conversation we walked up the street. We were passing the Liberal Democrat campaign office and Mr Blackford said he'd like to pop in and see Charles Kennedy but unfortunately he was not there.

Mr Blackford was very civil but unfortunately the campaign manager at the time was very aggressive towards Mr Blackford. After a few unpleasantries, Mr Blackford decided to leave the Liberal Democrat campaign office and we continued along the street whereupon we parted company as I still had other things to do.

A few days or weeks later, it was stated in the media that Mr Blackford was the one being aggressive but this is a fabrication from the then campaign manager for what I can only assume are political reasons. I feel very sad that he has lowered himself to this level.

Charles Kennedy was one of the famous sons of Lochaber and liked by everyone. We all know that sadly he had an illness and probably was totally unaware of what his campaign manager was saying and doing on his behalf. I think it is awful that this is still rumbling on and it is time for the matter to be closed and the family allowed to grieve in peace.

**James Kennedy,
Achintore Road, Fort William.**

Plenty of cafes in Oban are open on Sundays

Regarding the letter from Robert Gardiner (The Oban Times, August 16), I'm curious as to which cafes Mr Gardiner tried to have a coffee at but were closed. I was in town on Sunday and can say that Little Bay, Kronks and Dolce Vita were all open, unless it was early in the morning or late evening.

**Marion Davidson,
by email.**

Argyll and Bute Council should just get on with it and ensure that roadside or verge parking in the area is penalised.

**Clark Cross,
138 Springfield Road, Linlithgow.**

Random development on Mull will deter visitors

There was an interesting letter from R M Dalrymple (The Oban Times, August 9), who says he is a regular visitor to Mull, on the subject of free parking on Tobermory waterfront.

However, several points concern me.

Yes, it would be a sad day if parking charges with ugly meters were installed on the waterfront. I would, however, make the point that funds for up-to-date toilet facilities and other services have to be found from somewhere, so there is no easy answer.

Without being complacent, visitors who wish for some sort of 'wild' experience will always visit Mull, so just be every watchful for overboard development. Must the end of every road or track have campervan parking and cafes?

On the correspondent's point that 'there are

An coimeas ri an suidheachadh mun deach an cuid fearainn a chuingealachadh cha robh air fhàgail aig na daoine a-nise ach an cànan agus am bochdainn! Sin briathran aon fhianais aig Coimisean a' Mhorair Napier ann an 1883, agus a dh'aindeoin na bhuingnig strì chroitearan na mo sgìre fhìn an Gleann Dail an Eilein Sgìtheanaich agus an iomadh àite eile, cha do dh'fhàs cothroman eaconamach gu ìre sam bith. Dh'fhàg sin, agus buaidh dà chogadh mhòr, sluaigh agus dualchas na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean air an lagachadh gu h-uabhasach. An dèidh àm an dàrna cogaidh bha a' mhòr-chuid de phàrantan ag amas air an teaghlachan fhoghlam à bochdainn chroitearachd gu ruige "dreuchdan matha proifeiseanta". Bhiodh sin sa bhithiantas air falbh, air tìr-mòr. Dhan a' mhòr-chuid de dh'òigridh bha Gàidhlig agus a dualchas seann-fhasanta, agus cha robh cus luach innte ann an saoghal cosnadh. Sin an saoghal air an do bhrìst "Balaich Runrig" a-staigh ann an 1973, "mar neòil a' fosgladh" ann am briathran an fhir-naidheachd Màrtainn Dòmhnallach! Dhùisg ceòl agus bàrdachd a'

chomhlain ùidh shean agus òg anns a' Ghàidhlig, a' togail drochaid ùr dualchais eadar ghinealaichean nan Gàidheal.

Tha làraich fheannagan taomaidh rim faicinn fhathast feadh na Gàidhealtachd mar fhianais air spàirn sluaigh a thuinich na sgìrean sin, agus a chaill an còir orra air sgàth fuadaichean agus adhbharan eile. Cuimhneachain air droch amannan ann an eachdraidh nan Gàidheal, agus nan adhbhar bròin is ionndrainn! Anns an leabhar Going Home aig Tom Morton, a nochd ann an 1991, air sgeulachd a' chomhlain Runrig thuir Ruairidh Dòmhnallach nach b' e seasamh phoiliteagach a thaobh cor na Gàidhlig idir a b' adhbhar dha fhèin 's dha bhràthair Calum tòiseachadh air sgrìobhadh anns a' chànan, ged a bha mòran gam moladh airson na rinn iad dhan Ghàidhlig. "Chan eil annainn ach luchd-ciùil" arsa Ruairidh. Ach bha faireachadh làidir aig Calum a thaobh staid na Gàidhlig agus thuir esan gun robh iad air ceanglaichean le buidhnean Gàidhlig a sheachnadh gus am biodh e na b' fhasa dhaibh taic a chur ri an dileab dualchais nan dòigh fhèin. Na bheachd-san bha cunnart ann gum faodadh

dlùthachadh ri iomairtean eile an cuid spàirn a lagachadh agus call a dhèanamh dhan chomhlain agus dhan chànan.

Nuair a ghabh Runrig beannachd le luchd-taice air an deireadh sheachdain seo chaidh bha fios gum biodh ionndrainn air na cruinneachaidhean sònraichte a dh'fhàs thar ceathrad is còig bliadhna. Thug bàrdachd Chalum is Ruairidh, agus ceòl Runrig, aire luchd-eisteachd gu ana-ceartas agus tàmailt sluaigh dhan deachaidh cothroman sìobhalta àicheadh, agus gu cinnteach tha an còmhlan seo a' fàgail làrach làidir a leanas mar mhisneachadh dha ginealaichean ùra de Ghàidheil, agus eile. Slàn leibh fhearaibh, agus mòran taing!

Runrigs of generations past are a sad memorial to the trials of former generations across the Highlands. Gaelic rock-band Runrig's music will be a lasting reminder of a revival of self-esteem and confidence within the Gaelic community. That confidence has undoubtedly been influential. Many thanks guys!

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

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OT

DISTRICT NEWS

LOCH LOMOND

Nominations are open for the 2018 National Parks Volunteer Awards.

The awards recognise and thank some of the incredible volunteers who dedicate thousands of hours of service and effort every year helping to protect and improve Britain's 15 national parks.

There are four categories – Individual, Young Person (25 years and under), Group and Project. The group and project winners will receive a £1,000 bursary towards their future volunteering efforts. The individual and young person winners will receive outdoor kit from UK National Parks partner Columbia Sportswear.

The awards recognise the hard work of volunteers deemed to have gone above and beyond the usual expectations of volunteer service. Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park has more 200 enthusiastic volunteers. Last year they gave 15,000 hours of their time towards helping people to have great experiences in the park, enhancing and protecting habitats for wildlife and supporting community projects.

Nominations are open until noon on Friday September 21. To nominate a deserving individual, young person, group or project and to find out how to volunteer visit www.nationalparks.gov.uk/volunteerawards2018



Alasdair Allan MSP with David Paterson and Trust Housing Association chief executive Rhona McLeod.

STORNOWAY

A new wifi system designed to get older people online has been installed in a sheltered housing complex in Stornoway.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan



Roger Pendlebury and line dancing friends on Mull.

Grab your partners for a Mull hoe-down

Yee-haa! Hoedowns on Mull hope to raise £1,500 for a cancer charity.

Line dancer Roger Pendlebury, who moved to Dervaig three years ago, has stepped up and out onto the dance floor to meet the challenge.

With years of line-dance teaching tucked under his cowboy belt, he has decided to get Mull moving and boot scootin'.

Word quickly spread about his taster classes and he now runs sessions in Bunessan, Craignure and Dervaig, charging £3 a week, with all proceeds going to Marie Curie. The idea is to teach enough dances for people to join in two fundraising line-dance and ceilidh events he is organising later this year – with a little help from old and new friends.

Roger used to dance and teach with the Manchester Prairie Dogs, the only all-inclusive lesbian and gay line dancing group in the UK, and they will be visiting the island to help at the dances in Bunessan

on Thursday October 25 and in Dervaig on Saturday October 27.

Money from all tickets sold will also be going to Marie Curie and staying on the island to help with the charity's work there.

'I'd like to think we can raise more than £1,500. Our island has an agreement with the charity that all the money raised here on Mull stays on Mull,' said Mr Pendlebury, who has line-danced at Pride events in New York and Manchester.

He is looking forward to welcoming some of his friends from the Manchester Prairie Dogs to Mull later this year for the fundraising dances.

'Some of them have already been up to visit and have fallen in love with Mull so can't wait to come back,' he said.

Information on tickets will be announced nearer the time.

Anyone interested in joining the island's line-dancing classes should email erogerpendlebury@btinternet.com

praised the project and said: 'I was delighted to meet staff from Trust Housing at Lewis Street sheltered housing in Stornoway. I heard about the work they do there and the on-going efforts to expand and improve the excellent services provided.

'Of particular interest is the initiative to introduce wifi across the complex and encourage internet use by residents. We live in an age where technology allows us to be more

easily connected than ever and it is clear this has tremendous potential for reducing the isolation that can so often be felt by the elderly and vulnerable.'

COWAL

With just days to go until the 2018 Cowal Highland Gathering (CHG) organisers are looking forward to welcoming visitors from

around the globe back to Dunoon to take part in world-class competitions.

This year CHG will welcome record numbers of Highland dancers as 768 competitors from as far afield as Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand flock to Dunoon Stadium to take part in the biggest event of the Highland dancing circuit, the World Highland Dancing Championships.

Pipe band fans will be delighted to hear this year more than 40 bands have signed up to take part in this year's competitions to win some coveted Cowal silverware with three Grade 1 pipe bands battling it out to win the Argyll Shield, the world's oldest pipe band trophy, first awarded in 1906. Current holders Inveraray and District Pipe Band are returning to defend their title.

Local supporters will be keen to cheer on local talent as Dunoon Argyll Pipe band and Dunoon Grammar School Pipe Band both take on the Grade 4B competition.

The Ceilidh Tent welcomes Beinn Lee, Heron Valley, The American Rogues and headliners Tide Lines to the stage, but pop into the Silent Ceilidh and there will be people dancing to their own tune – literally! Put on some headphones and away you go, of course not everyone is listening to the same tune, but you will come together every half hour for a ceilidh dance including Strip the Willow or the Dashing White Sergeant.

There will also be a children's entertainment tent, craft tent where you can make your own CHG medal with Sea Drift Pottery, giant games, Artie's Tartan Tales, mountain biking and crazy golf.

CHG chair Ronnie Cairns said he was looking forward to this year's event saying: 'We are currently putting the final touches together ready to welcome visitors from the four corners of the globe to an event which is already shaping up to be a classic.

'We're confident that this year's gathering



This year's Cowal Highland Games take place this weekend.




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will be another unforgettable weekend and we're looking forward to showcasing the very best of what Scotland has to offer.'

Craig Anderson, chief executive of The Scottish Salmon Company, headline sponsor of the gathering, said: 'We are proud to support the Cowal Highland Gathering. This is the fifth year that we have sponsored the gathering, and our passion and enthusiasm for the event grows each year.'

Cowal Highland Gathering runs from August 23-25 and is supported by EventScotland's International Funding Programme.

STORNOWAY

The Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery (WILL) is celebrating its first year after raising £45,000 for community projects and more than £17,000 handed out in prize money.

The project is celebrating this weekend with a jam-packed weekend of Disney-themed events in Stornoway on August 24 and 25. A number of organisations and businesses have partnered with the lottery team to host events.

A spokesperson for WILL said: 'We are so pleased with the success of the local lottery in its first year and we hope everyone will come out and join us in the celebrations next weekend.'

Friday night will see a Disney-themed quiz in the Cabarfeidh Hotel hosted by and raising funds for Alzheimer Scotland-Western Isles.

A Teddy Bear's Picnic will take place in the Bridge Centre at 10.30am run by Laxdale Playgroup and An Lanntair are showing Alice in Wonderland also at 10.30am. Sammy's Princess and Super Hero Parlour on Church Street will run from 9am with photographs by Sandie from 9am-noon.

The main parade of mascots leaves Bayhead Park at 12.30pm heading for the town centre.

Artizan will have Disney-themed surprises and happy food boxes, available in the Lido.

Princess/Pirate workshops will be held in Stornoway Town Hall from 12.30pm. Gordy's Seafari will run Pirate Trips from 1.30pm.

There will also be stalls and facepainting in the town hall from 1-5pm and the Mascots will be dropping in for some photos.

Pointers will host a Mad Hatter's Tea Party at 1.30pm and there will also be activities in Perceval Square including Boogie Bounce.

If you've any energy left, An Lanntair will finish off the day with Disney classic Mary Poppins at 4.30pm. For the grown ups there will be a Disney-themed cheese night in Era Nightclub from 10pm.



Chairman Iain MacIntyre along with other members of Friends of The Dove Centre helping on the day, left to right, Anne May, Catherine Carswell, Joyce Millar, Shirlene Cave and David Evans.

Friends of Oban Hospice onto a winner at shinty's Macaulay Cup final

The Friends of Oban Hospice, the fundraising arm of the Oban Hospice Movement, operated a 'Wheel of Fortune' at last Saturday's Macaulay Cup final shinty match, raising well in excess of £300 for The Dove Centre in Oban's Stevenson Street.

The chairman of the centre's friends, Iain MacIntyre, paid tribute to the generosity of his committee and supporters of The Dove Centre for contributing not only a vast array of bottles for the stall but quantities of homemade tablet. Such was the generosity that sufficient bottles are available for the forthcoming Camanachd Cup Final where the friends will also be manning a wheel of fortune stall, although a further call will be made for tablet.

Mr MacIntyre also paid tribute to the enormous generosity shown by the supporters of Kyles Athletic and Kinlochshiel, the competing teams in the final.



Pictured is Doe MacRae from Kinlochshiel, who won the special prize of £50 but handed back part of his winnings by way of a contribution to The Dove Centre.

At random

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Stop the littering

Why is it so many smokers and those who chew gum do not regard the detritus of their habits as litter?

I daily see smokers casually discarding their fag ends all over the place with complete disregard for the mess they make. Likewise with gum chewers, who spit out their used wads hither and yon.

Not only do these people appear to be incapable of disposing of their waste properly, they also do not seem to be aware the products they throw all over our streets are virtually non-biodegradable. The cigarette ends and used gum will take years to degrade and will remain a disgusting mess that blights our streets.

There is no need for this littering. We have public bins all over the place where smokers and chewers could easily put their waste.

Argyll and Bute Council's cleansing staff do their best to clear up behind these litterers but it looks like a losing struggle.

Our new pavements, part of impressive town centre improvements, are becoming blighted by the amount of chewing gum being spat out. And, yes, it sticks to our shoes and is carried into our homes. I am unsure what can be done about it, other than appealing to the people involved to be more considerate. Or perhaps the police could adopt a zero tolerance approach and issue on-the-spot fines for anyone seen discarding cigarette ends, chewing gum or any other kind of litter.

That's the spirit!

And finally ... I was very much taken with a positive philosophy regarding the return to our more usual weather last week.

I was at Dougie Dan's snack van in Lochavullin industrial estate - great grub it is too - when I heard one guy gripe to his chum about the inclement conditions. 'Ach, stop complaining,' said the chum. 'Today's rain is tomorrow's whisky!'

What do you think?

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OUTDOORS

RSPB appeals for volunteers

RSPB Scotland is looking for volunteers in and around Oban and Fort William who could make a big difference for nature just by looking after a box of pin badges.

RSPB pin badges were launched in the 1990s and there are now more than 200 designs available, from garden birds to basking sharks, ladybirds and even Highland cows.

Boxes of badges are sited at more than 7,000 outlets throughout the UK, with avid collectors keen to get hold of any new designs.

The pin badges are sold for a donation of just £1, but raise around £1 million every year. In 2017, donations from pin badge sales totalled £225,000 in Scotland alone.

Volunteers are needed to help manage existing pin badge sites, as well as looking for new locations where a box might be welcomed. The role is suitable for a wide range of ages and abilities, and can take as little as one hour a week.

Gemma Millar, from RSPB Scotland, said: 'I think people sometimes assume that volunteering for the RSPB involves wearing wellies or knowing how to identify lots of different birds. But actually there are all sorts of roles available.'

'Looking after a box of pin badges is something that almost anyone can do. We know of businesses that are already interested in hosting a pin badge box, but you might also know a shop or café near you that would be happy to take one. Your role would then be to look after that box, top it up with badges as often as needed, and collect and bank the money.'

For more about becoming a pin badge volunteer, email communityfundraisingscotland@rspb.org.uk. For other volunteering roles available with the RSPB, go to www.rspb.org.uk/volunteering.

Study films basking sharks off Tobermory

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



Scientists seeking to discover whether Scotland's seas are a mating ground for basking sharks have gathered new footage off Mull showing the sharks being sociable.

These data have been gathered by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the University of Exeter as part of a new camera tagging project in the Hebrides which launched earlier this month.

The minister for rural affairs and the natural environment, Mairi Gougeon MSP, said: 'The study is an exciting opportunity to build our knowledge of how basking sharks use our seas. In addition to being a world first for the use of these towed camera tags on this species, this work will enhance the evidence base for a basking shark Marine Protected Area proposal which will be consulted on later this year.'

Basking sharks are the second largest fish in the world, reaching lengths up to 10m. Despite their size and prevalence in Scotland's seas, little is understood about their social behaviours.

'A large number of sharks appear each year just off the western coast of Scotland in the Sea of the Hebrides. However, there's been limited research to show exactly what they're doing here: do they come solely to feed on plankton, or are they courting each other and using our coast as a mating ground?' said Dr Suzanne Henderson, policy and advice officer at SNH.

Researchers from SNH and the University of Exeter spent a week off the coast of Tobermory tagging three basking sharks using towed camera tags – the camera tags trail slightly behind the attachment point at the base of the main dorsal fin. It is believed this type of tag has never before been used on basking sharks. The video footage collected by the tags will give scientists a new understanding of basking shark group behaviour.

Dr Henderson continued: 'There's very little information about social and mating behaviours in basking sharks, or indeed sharks in



A basking shark (*Ceterhinus maximus*) feeding in open water.

general. We've been unsure whether the surface behaviours we see in the Sea of the Hebrides – such as parallel swimming, following nose to tail, or swimming in tight circles – are courtship activities.'

Dr Matthew Witt, senior lecturer in natural environment at the University of Exeter, added: 'The footage we've collected gives a fantastic shark's eye view of the environment and new insight into behaviours.'

'We can see sharks very closely aggregating near the seabed, potentially forming social groups. Three sharks are seen very close together, fins touching but hardly swimming. We haven't seen basking sharks exhibit this behaviour at depth, and early in the morning, before.'

'The basking shark is a protected species in Scotland, across the UK and in the coastal and offshore waters of many north-east Atlantic

countries,' said Dr Lucy Hawkes, senior lecturer in physiological ecology also of the University of Exeter.

'But as yet we don't know how human activity might inadvertently affect their behaviour, including mating, and as such this project offers an exciting opportunity to look more deeply into the lives of these large planktivorous sharks.'

'It's also possible that future footage we collect will record basking sharks mating, and to our knowledge this would be the first recording of these fish mating.'

Data collected by the camera tags will also help inform future consultation processes around designating a Marine Protected Area by identifying why the area is important to the sharks.

The researchers hope to return to Tobermory next year to obtain more footage.

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Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom was partly filmed in Argyll.

Council to charge film crews working in Argyll to raise cash

Nearly 50 movies brought more than £1.3 million to Argyll last year, and councillors have approved a plan to capitalise on it by charging crews to film on council-owned locations.

The spotlight is on Argyll and Bute as a desirable location for film crews from around the world, such as the recent Hollywood blockbuster Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom and upcoming Love Me To Death.

A council report presented to the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on Thursday said: 'In 2017, the value of filming in Argyll to date is estimated to be £1,354,434 as a consequence of the 48 productions known to have been filmed in the area. Argyll and Bute Council is not currently in a position to maximise the potential benefits from facilitating the use of our council assets for film.'

Councillors agreed on Thursday to

introduce a Film Location Charging Schedule for filming on council-owned locations, from airfields and monuments to landfill sites and toilets.

Officers estimate it could have raised £2,000 last year. 'We are aware this is not a substantial sum of money,' the report said, 'however, the income will be dictated by the industry and most of the filming on council assets have been small-scale.'

'It is important that the council remains film friendly and flexible when charging so as not to deter filming within the area.'

'It is estimated that a major US feature film such as James Bond with a budget of over £100m would spend an average of £42,000 a day if they were to film in the Argyll and Bute area. It is recommended the council pilot a charge of three per cent plus VAT of the estimated daily local spend as a starting cost.'

Councillor Aileen Morton, policy lead for economic development, said: 'Clearly, Argyll and Bute is very popular with film crews from very small productions all the way up to films that will be seen on the big screen around the world.'

'To make us competitive with other leading industry bodies in the public and private sector, we have agreed to introduce a sensible charging schedule that ensures we are making the most of our assets for the good of our residents, as well as making sure we remain an attractive location for filming.'

'Argyll and Bute's stunning natural landscape is one of our biggest assets.'

'I'm delighted that studios are making the most of all it has to offer as the ideal set for all sorts of film productions, and this new process will provide clarity and a more streamlined approach.'

This week's walks

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet-up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk. Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk

Sunday August 26

Ben Vorlich, Loch Lomond

A crescent shaped hill curving from N to S. A spur, the 'Little Hills', runs E, then NE from the summit down to the shore of Loch Lomond, a prominent feature and an interesting ascent route.

Start on the A82 opposite Stuckendroin Fm, NN322145, where limited parking is available. More parking space is available about 250m away, both N and S.

Cross the road and take the track that leads to a way under the railway at NN321145.

Head W up the slope to gain the crest of the ridge and climb it S at first, curving SW, then W over two tops, 793m and 808m respectively.

Continue W up to the summit of Ben Vorlich, 943m. Note that the trig point is not the highest point. This is 200m further N. Descend SE from the trig point down the rough broken ridge to meet the track above Inveruglas. There is a faint path down this route. Follow the track down to the A82 and follow it NE to the CP at the power station. Transport required.

Grade: S; distance: 10kms; height to climb: 1,000m.

Meet at Longsdale car park, Oban, at 8.10am or Glencoe village car park at 8.25am for start of walk at 9.30am. Leader: Toril Frantzen 07788 264007.

Thursday August 30

Ben Cruachan reservoir and power station, Loch Awe

A chance to see the reservoir, which feeds the power station inside the mountain below, and appreciate the high peaks all around.

There is an option to visit the power station on a guided tour after the walk. Cost £7.50 pp, concessions. Advance booking advised. Last tour 4pm.

Start from the lay-by on the N side of the A85 opposite the entrance to the Cruachan Power Station Visitor Centre NN078268. Take the path up to the tunnel under the railway and continue N up steeply on the muddy path through the woods with the Falls of Cruachan on the left.

Exit the woods over a stile on to open ground and continue N to join a road.

Follow the road to the base of the dam, climb the steps and walk W along the top of the dam.

Take the track round the W side of the reservoir past the tunnel delivering

water from the SW flank of the mountain. Continue on the track to the head of the reservoir, where a tunnel delivers water from the N side of the mountain.

Contour around the head of the reservoir on rough ground, crossing many small streams and back along the E side to reach the tunnel bringing water from the SE flank. Follow the track, past the E end of the dam, and continue down for 300m to a junction. Turn right to reach the outward path and follow it back down the E side of the burn.

Grade: M; distance: 7kms; height to climb: 400m. Meet at North Ballachulish school at 8.50am or Longsdale car park, Oban, at 9.25am. Start of walk 10am. Leader: Alison Guest 01852316266 or 07562 874991.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Full walk details at www.nevishillwalking.club. If anyone would like to go out on the walk please contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email enquiries@nevishillwalking.club.

Saturday August 25

Bidean nam Bian, Stob Coire Sgreabhach, Glen Coe.

Park at the Glen Coe Viewpoint car park at NN170568. Head off SE and follow the path down to cross the River Coe on a bridge just below the Meeting of Three Waters.

The path rises to a junction where it enters the gorge cut by the Allt Coire Gabhail. The path bifurcates here. Take the right fork, which is indistinct at first due to erosion, and scramble up easily.

Follow the path SW for about 150m to NN169559. Leave the path and head W up a grassy slope towards the foot of the nose of Gèarr Aonach, to reach the start of a path at NN168560. This zig-zags up the cliffs. At each turn of the path, there is a short but easy scramble, none of which is exposed. From the summit, 692m, head SW to reach the foot of the NE ridge of Stob Coire nan Lochan and climb it steeply to the summit, 1115m.

Descend SW gently to a col then climb the steep ridge ahead to the summit of Bidean nam Biam. Descend SE to the col, 944m, at the head of Coire Gabhail and continue up to the summit of Stob Coire Sgreabhach. Descend the narrow NE ridge until further progress is barred by a steep rocky step. Avoid this by turning SE and scramble down to reach the narrow col below (902m). Head NE, over the two tops of Beinn Fhada, 952m and 931m, and continue down over undulating ground until the gradient steepens at the nose at about NN175556. Turn E and after about 200m, locate a rocky ramp leading down steeply NNE into the Lairig Eilde. Turn E to reach the ford at NN182557 and follow the footpath to the car park.

Distance: 14kms; height to climb: 1550ms.

Suggested by Charlotte Almekinders; coordinated by Suzanne Theobald.

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Would you like a side order of art and sculpture with your meal?



It's the Artmap Argyll Open Studios weekend and Tayvallich is brimming with wonderful artists – fill up on culture at the Tayvallich Inn!

Visitors to Tayvallich will have the chance to see some of Argyll's top artworks for free when the village's acclaimed artists open their studios to the public later this month. The Tayvallich Inn showcases local artist's work that adorn the walls of the restaurant and bar all year round, but this weekend, there is even more to discover.

The settlement sits amongst some of Scotland's most beautiful scenery, so it is no wonder creativity flows through the area - and now, as part of the Artmap Argyll project, visitors can tour the local studios and meet the artists who work there.

The project's Open Studios Event will run all over Argyll from the 24th to the 27th, before reopening on the 1st and 2nd of September. Artists across the region are opening their studio doors to promote local talents and ensure art is accessible to everyone with an interest.

A small fishing village with a population of fewer than 200 people, Tayvallich is nestled cosily in a small bay on the shores of Loch Sween. The village marks an ideal place to experience truly stunning Scottish artwork, with seven of Argyll's top artists living in the area.

Painters Caroline Hunter, Libby Anderson, Caroline Plummer, Susan Berry, Jane Smith, Lottie Goodlet and sculptor Melanie Chmielewska will all be available to meet at their studios around Tayvallich during the Open Studios event, giving a fascinating insight into the lives and practices of rural Scottish artists.

With displays ranging from watercolours of swirling sea shores to intricately detailed stone carvings, the local talent is as diverse as it is impressive.

The Tayvallich Inn marks the obvious starting point of any tour of the studios. Situated right by the entrance to the village, it will also showcase art from all seven local artists, as well as work from a number of guest artists.

Not far from the Tayvallich Inn is painter Caroline Hunter's studio. After growing up in Orkney, Caroline began painting in 1994. She won the James Torrance Prize from the Royal Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts in 1999, just before moving to Argyll, and she has become well known for her seascapes and still life paintings.

A few hundred metres further inland sits the home and studio of Libby Anderson. A graduate of the Glasgow School of Art, portraiture has always been Libby's first love. She pursued her passion by painting passengers' portraits on cruise ships all around South America and the Caribbean. She has settled in Tayvallich, where she considers the surrounding landscape and islands a 'constant source of inspiration'.



Libby Anderson

Another artist now based in Tayvallich, Caroline Plummer was born in Poland and still paints under her maiden name Wytrazek. She particularly enjoys painting flowers and has had some of her work turned into greetings cards, many of which are available from local shops. On painting in Argyll, she remembers: 'From my first visit to its rugged coastline, islands, and empty golden beaches with seapinks clinging to the rocks, it's wild-life and dramatic skies have drawn me in.'



Caroline Plummer

Watercolour artist Susan Berry is also drawn to the shore for inspiration. Her landscapes of brooding waters are lush with colour, as are her detailed paintings of the natural wildlife found around the coasts of Scotland.

Wildlife artist Jane Smith also has a passion for capturing Scotland's native species in her art. She uses a painting technique called screen printing to do so, and will be demonstrating the style to visitors during the Open

Studio event.

Studio event.

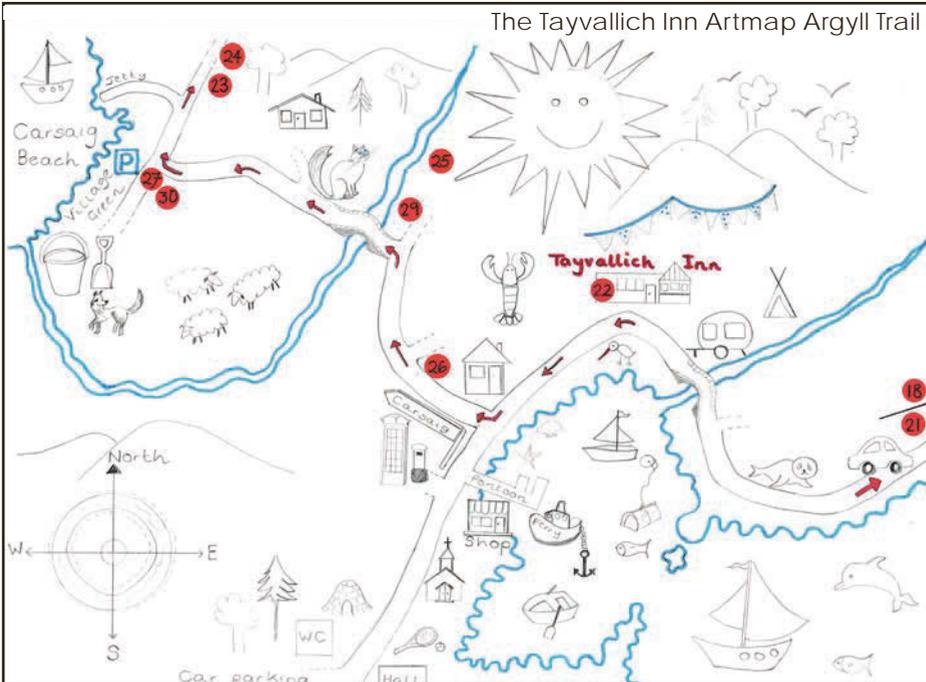
Argyll's natural beauty has been depicted not just on canvas, but also in stone carvings courtesy of sculptor Melanie Chmielewska. After studying in England, Melanie lived in Poland before moving to Scotland in 2005. Melanie has sculpted many people and animals from her base in Argyll, and explained, 'My approach to stone carving is very meditative. Carving has a quality which can transform a transient moment into an eternal one, where a sleeping child or a bird in flight can take on a symbolic meaning. I take great inspiration from the beauty and wildness of Argyll.'



Lottie Goodlet

The Tayvallich Inn is also home to a wonderful exhibition of art from Catherine Blay, Kate Macdonald and Jill Stewart. Catherine of Highland Heads also has some of her wonderful sculptured stag and highland cow heads made from fabric and other materials on display at the Inn.

The Tayvallich Inn really is the place to fill up on art and culture this weekend and next weekend!



Get the kids to colour it in at the Inn this weekend!

Tayvallich isn't just about great food and views!



Artmap Argyll's Open Studios

24th - 27th and some studios on 1st & 2nd of September.

Tayvallich is home to 7 Artmap Argyll artists!

The Tayvallich Inn serves fresh local food with a beautiful view all day, seven days a week! Our resident artists will be exhibiting, along with some guest artists over both weekends. The perfect spot to plan your Artmap tour of Tayvallich. Enjoy fresh seafood, sample Sound of Jura scallops or try some local real ale or gins, while getting a taster of the Open Studios you can go on to visit in the village.



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The 121st Lochaber Show



THE 121st annual Lochaber Agricultural Show takes place on Saturday 25th August and it promises to be another un-missable day out in Lochaber for all the family.

Held by permission of Ewen Campbell at Inverloch Castle Farm, in a spectacular setting against the backdrop of Ben Nevis, the show is a celebration of the area's rich farming heritage and allows visitors to savour the very best of country life & lifestyle.

The livestock judging begins at 9.30am, with main ring attractions getting under way at 12.30pm. These include highland dancing, terrier racing, horse fancy dress, sheep dog demonstration, a children's pet parade, equine gymkhana and much more.

The Lochaber food and craft tent provides a perfect showcase for high-quality local produce, while other attractions on the family-friendly programme are the children's tent where youngsters can help to create a giant 'Magna Cow' the character from local author Barry Hutchinson's well known book. All art materials are mess free and all ages and abilities are most welcome. We will also have story time with Paula Ross and 'gardening for youngsters' with Donald Young, children's rides, a climbing wall and a chance to have a go on the Argocats. Target sports including archery and air rifle "have a go stands" always add a competitive edge to the day.

Nevis Cycles will be on the field to offer free kids bike events and competitions, free bike maintenance checks. Also free electric bike demo rides. Plus raffle prizes for all those who ride their bikes to the event rather than drive.

The livestock judging which include black face sheep, cross sheep, cattle including highland cattle and judges will again have a tough job on their hands. As well as rewarding the most outstanding entries in each breed, the event underlines the high standards of the industry as a whole.

The best jumpers, though, will be determined at the horse and pony show and gymkhana as local riders compete for the prized rosettes & silverware.

Horse power of a very different kind can be admired at the small vintage machinery display, while the vintage trac-

tor parade is another popular spectacle.

Lochaber Schools Pipe Band will open and close the show and will play a number of stirring tunes, while Highland dancers will bring another element of traditional culture to the occasion. There will also be live music throughout the day with various groups, including the Lochaber Wind Band.

The varied range of trade, catering and charity stands will add further interest and help create a bustling and colourful show-day atmosphere. There will also be an excellent birds of prey exhibition, local community Nevis Radio will be there broadcasting 7 hours of live reports and music from the show starting at 10am.

The quality of livestock on display last year was commended by judges, especially as the climate had been remarkably wet on the build up to the show.

The handicraft tent this year

boasts 130 classes – including home baking, vegetables, photography and flower arranging – and these categories are sure to be just as keenly contested this time around. There are classes for schoolchildren from playgroup/nursery to high school (up to fourth-year pupils).

John Weller of Lochaber Agricultural Society, said: "All we can do now is pray for fine weather and hope all who attend have a fun and enjoyable day out. We must express our



appreciation to the organisations and individuals that donate much-needed financial support and services to help the show be the standard that it is.

The show is organised and put on by a very small but dedicated team of volunteers that work together to stage the showcase to local rural life and living."

Gates open at 9am with free parking for cars. Entry is £8 per adult, Concessions £6, Children 16yrs and under free.

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Picture Perfect – Oban Times’ #myargyll entries in the frame



Michael Hoggood took this atmospheric photograph as part of the #myargyll competition.



Avid photographer Jen Kerr sent in this instantly recognisable picture of Tobermory for our #myargyll competition. We were inundated with your photographs. Over the coming weeks look out for more from our readers.

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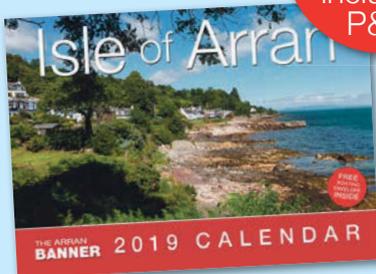
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Polestar software upgrade delivers more rear-wheel torque in all-wheel-drive Volvos

Volvo Cars, the premium car maker, has introduced a new Polestar-developed software upgrade that increases torque distribution to the rear wheels of Volvo cars equipped with all-wheel drive (AWD), for more dynamic driving.

The optimisation software, developed by Volvo Car Group's new electric performance brand, Polestar, increases the amount and frequency of torque distributed to the rear wheels, improving steering with enhanced turn-in, better control and engagement when cornering, and improved traction when pulling away, delivering a more engaging drive.

'We are always fine-tuning the driving experience of Volvo cars, and this upgrade makes the all-wheel drive both smoother and more dynamic,' said Henrik Green, senior vice president of research and development at Volvo Cars.

The AWD optimisation is engaged simply by selecting the dynamic drive mode, or when the electronic stability control is disengaged.

The new rear-wheel torque distribution feature adds another optimisation area to the latest Polestar software upgrade. The five existing areas include sharper throttle response, faster off-throttle re-



sponse, quicker gearchanges, optimised gearshift points and in-corner gear holding, as well as increased engine output.

The Polestar AWD optimi-

sation is available for petrol and diesel models of the Volvo 90 series, 60 series and XC40 cars, from this month 2018 onwards.

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- New Captur EasyLife range available from just £199/month with £199 deposit with zero per cent PCP finance²
- During July both models available with an extra £1,000 off when a car is part-exchanged
- New Mégane EasyLife range starts at £199/month with £3,150 deposit with zero per cent PCP finance³
- Kadjar Dynamique SE Nav £209/month with £6,698 deposit with zero per cent PCP finance⁴



Renault is pleased to announce its retail finance offers for the period running from July 3 to October 1.

The highlight is that all the models in the range* are available with zero per cent finance. Both the Clio and Captur new EasyLife variants also have an additional £1,000 off when a car is part-exchanged.

The additional £1,000 requires a voucher, which is only available during

July, to be downloaded and printed from the Renault.co.uk website. Whilst on the site, prospective customers can also access the used car valuing tool, allowing all customers to have a good idea of their value of part exchange, depending on the condition of the vehicle, ahead of visiting the dealership.

Both the Clio and Captur have recently had new line-ups announced. With

their ranges now simpler to understand, with more specification, enhanced visual appeal and in most cases a lower like-for-like price.

The Clio Play is available from £13,500 OTR or £179 a month with £179 deposit over 48 months on a zero per cent Renault Selections PCP.

On Renault Selections PCP finance the Captur Play is £199 a month with £199 deposit with zero per cent APR over 48 months.

The Mégane Play is £199/month with £3,150 deposit with zero per cent PCP finance. Kadjar Dynamique SE Nav is £209/month with £6,698 deposit with zero per cent PCP finance

All offers are subject to change and are available on vehicles ordered by September 30 and delivered before December 30 2018. Contact W D Semple today to start your new Renault experience. Tel: 01499 302150.

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SUBARU SHOWS GROWTH BUCKING NEGATIVE INDUSTRY TRENDS

- **Subaru new car sales show growth across first quarter of 2018 by 5.5 per cent**
- **Industry new car sales down by 12.4 per cent in first quarter of 2018**
- **Launch of all-new XV model in January 2018 proved successful for network**
- **Class leading safety credentials, accolades and fresh brand campaign aid in building brand trust and awareness**

Subaru UK has shown growth in new cars sales across the first quarter of 2018, countering the negative industry new car sales trends as reported by the SMMT in March.

With growth for the safety-focused SUV brand, Subaru UK shows positive progress in a competitive new car market which has

seen the manufacturer grow by 5.5 per cent compared to the first quarter of 2017. This shows a stark contrast to the industry as a whole, as sales fell by 12.4 per cent in the first quarter.

Surpassing first quarter targets by 19 per cent, Subaru sales have been bolstered by the launch of the all-new XV model which accounted for

more than a third of Subaru sales overall in the quarter.

The all-new XV, underpinned by the iconic boxer engine and symmetrical all wheel drive partnering, garnered success early on in the quarter, being awarded Best In Class Safest Small Family Car 2017 by Euro NCAP. The successes continued as the all-new XV received a high commendation from WhatCar? in the 'Safest Car Of 2018' segment of the annual awards, truly showing that Subaru is 'Better Where It Matters'.

Chris Graham, managing director for Subaru UK, said: 'Subarus are about safety, reliability and capability at their core, which is what customers know and expect. We've invested a lot of time,

effort and resource into showcasing those core elements this year and it's great to see that our hard work is paying off.

'The new product is going down positively with customers, our loyal network is growing and thriving, and it's only the end of the first quarter. 2018 has already proved a successful year for Subaru UK and with exciting prospects still to come, we're delighted that we're out-performing the UK market in terms of growth in 2018 so far.'

Subaru UK continues to push for growth throughout the remainder of 2018, a stance taken to revive the manufacturer's presence in the UK and build on brand awareness amongst customers.



Subaru UK is also benefiting from forward orders taken for the second quarter, a position the network have not experienced in 10 years or more. The brand also announced, earlier in April, the addition of four new appointments to the Subaru network, with sites based across the UK.

'Better Where It Matters'

is the guiding ethos for all Subaru models in the UK, with safety, capability and reliability at their core. Armed with a sturdy SUV line-up and the safest small family cars in Europe, Subaru is pushing against the UK new car sales trend. For more details on the Subaru range contact Argyll dealer S&S Services on 01292 880080

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Vehicles shown are a Forester 2.0i XE Premium Lineartronic OTR price of £32,050, Outback 2.5i SE Premium OTR price of £33,560 and a XV 2.0i SE Premium Lineartronic OTR price of £29,060, all prices include optional special paint finish. OTR price incl. VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months road fund licence and first registration fee. Prices correct at time of going to print. Please consult your local Subaru dealer for exact quotation. *Every vehicle marketed by Subaru (UK) Ltd, excluding WRX STI, is covered by a 5 Year/100,000 mile (whichever comes sooner) Limited Warranty which comprises of a standard 3 Year/60,000 mile (whichever is sooner) Manufacturer's Warranty (bumper to bumper, excluding clutch driven plate) and an Extended Warranty (applies to powertrain only) provided by the importer.

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- Most Reliable Pick-up 2018

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The Isuzu D-Max Utah is now available for just £239 a month (excl. VAT), over only 23 months, with an initial rental of £2,150.19 plus VAT on business contract hire. Keyless entry, push button start, leather upholstery, heated front seats, reversing

camera and sensors, seven-inch multifunction colour touchscreen (with Apple Carplay™ and Android Auto™) are all standard on the Utah (plus a host of other features), demonstrating the amazing value of this finance offer. As well as the Utah, there are

several attractive offers in Q3 across the product range, including the range-topping Isuzu D-Max Blade, available from just £279 (excl. VAT) per month, with free pearl white special paint finish included! This allows you to experience a sleek and dynamic pick up



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PEUGEOT 3008 SUV WINS GOLD IN CAR OF THE YEAR CATEGORY IN THE AUTO EXPRESS DRIVER POWER SURVEY

- **Peugeot 3008 SUV wins gold in overall Car of the Year category at the Auto Express 16th Driver Power 2018 awards with an overall satisfaction score of 93.88 per cent**
- **The Peugeot 3008 SUV was also awarded gold in the Mid-Size SUV category**
- **Peugeot 3008 SUV rated the highest across all vehicle classes in the 'exterior' category and 'safety feature' category**
- **These accolades mark the 45th award the Peugeot 3008 SUV has won globally since it was launched in late 2016**

The Peugeot 3008 SUV has added to its collection of accolades and scooped gold in the Car of the Year and Mid-Size SUV categories in the Auto Express 16th Driver Power survey. Driver Power is the UK's largest and most in-depth

automotive customer satisfaction survey, with participation from more than 80,000 UK car owners. The owners ranked the Peugeot 3008 SUV as the best performing Mid-Size SUV in five of the nine Driver Power judging categories: exterior;

practicality and boot space; ride and handling; safety features and reliability and build quality.

The victory did not stop there as the 3008 SUV was rated as the best vehicle in the 'exterior' category and the 'safety feature' category, across all of the vehicle classes.

Since it launched in late 2016, the 3008 SUV has been a huge success for Peugeot, with 350,000 sold worldwide and 23,000 in the UK. It demonstrates the latest technology with the state-of-the-art Peugeot i-Cockpit®, a more intuitive and engaging driving experience with a compact multi-function steering wheel, 12.3ins head-up digital instrument display and 8.0ins capacitive touchscreen with Mirror

Screen® functionality, comprising: Android Auto, Apple CarPlay™ and Mirror Link®.

The Peugeot 3008 SUV has a five-star NCAP safety rating and offers a host of safety features as standard on all trim levels, including: AEBS – automatic emergency braking system, CDS - dynamic stability control and ASR - electronic anti-skid system and a driver attention alert system.

Steve Fowler, editor-in-chief of Auto Express and Carbuyer said: 'This is a fantastic result for Peugeot and the 3008 SUV.

'It's a car that has already won multiple awards from both Auto Express and Carbuyer, and now owners have confirmed what we've been saying all along - it's

a great car that's really satisfying to own.'

Wesley Lang, senior research manager at Driver Power, added: 'The Peugeot 3008 SUV is the best performing mid-size SUV in five of the nine Driver Power judging categories: exterior; practicality and boot space; ride and handling; safety features; and reliability and build quality.

'The 3008's performance proves that SUVs can excel in many categories long thought to be the domain of smaller vehicles.

'What is especially notable is that overall the 3008 SUV ranks third in ride and handling and fifth in reliability and build quality across all ranked vehicles.'

David Peel, managing director at Peugeot UK,

said: 'It is an outstanding achievement for the Peugeot 3008 SUV to have won gold in the Car of the Year and mid-size SUV categories in the UK's largest car satisfaction survey.

'With the addition of these two accolades, the Peugeot 3008 SUV has now won an incredible 45 awards globally since launch.

'In a segment with fierce competition, these accolades are especially meaningful as they are decided by our valued customers and are a real testament to the hard work and innovation of our talented teams of designers and engineers. I'd like to thank Auto Express and the entire Driver Power team for their support and hard work in bringing such a valuable survey to the industry.'

To find out more about the Peugeot 3008 SUV, please visit: <http://campbeltownmotorcompany.co.uk/>





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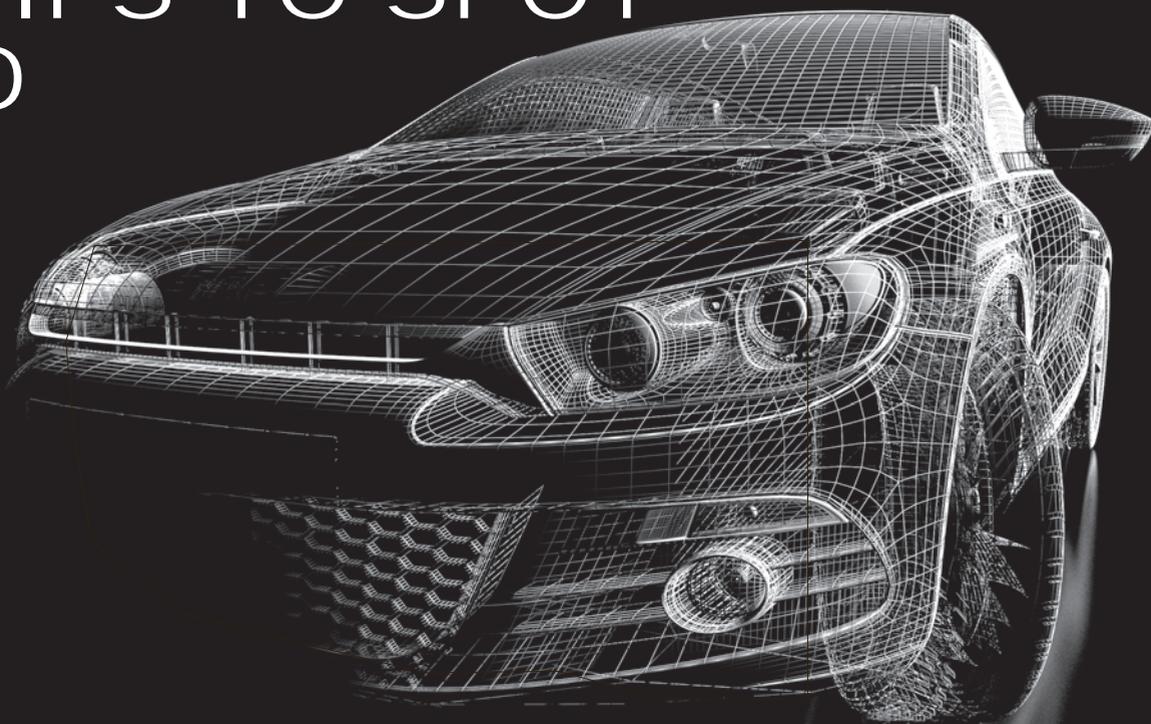
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THREE TOP TIPS TO SPOT ONLINE USED CAR SCAMS



'The sheer volume of online scams is off the chart this summer'

Mycarcheck.com has warned of a marked increase in online used vehicle scams and highlighted three telltale signs of a con:

1. Is the vehicle being offered for substantially less than other similar models?

2. Does the number ring out or go to voicemail, prompting you to 'email the seller'?

3. Are you then offered a vehicle that is abroad but can be 'shipped to you'?

Mark Bailey, head of CDL Vehicle Information Systems, which owns mycarcheck.com, said: 'The sheer volume of online scams is off the chart this summer, with seasonal favourites like convertibles, camper vans and motor homes being

targeted. The staff at our Glasgow call centre speak to used car buyers every day, often when they're about to transfer money, so we have our finger very much on the pulse when it comes to the latest scams. From early this year we saw a significant rise in fraudulent online adverts, but from May onwards it really ramped up, not only for the usual cars, vans and bikes, but for plant and agricultural vehicles, every sector you can think of.

'Sophisticated con artists, often operating in organised criminal gangs, can create scam adverts very quickly and on an industrial scale, even setting up whole fake dealer websites. At first glance, they look realistic; they cut and paste wording from genuine adverts and

add features like make and model searches to appear more convincing.

'If you encounter any of the above, and certainly all three in order, it should serve as a red flag that you are being

lined up. The best advice remains: if in doubt, walk away.' With information from the police, DVLA, insurers and finance houses, mycarcheck.com holds comprehensive data on every vehicle on UK

roads – things that buyers should be aware of before making an offer.

CDL performs more than a million look-ups a day for companies including AutoExpress,

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Ford Focus Zetec (Auto)

63 - 5 door estate (Black) - 24,995 miles £8,195

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64 - 5 door h/back (Red) - 9,430 miles £10,950

Nissan Note N-Tec 1.4

62 - 5 door h/back (Sliver) - 9,682 miles £6,595

VX Astra Elite 1.6

13 - 5 door h/back (Red) - 21,000 miles £7,495

VW Move Up

64 - 5 door h/back (Blue) - 25,606 miles £5,995

VW Golf Match Tsi 1.4

64 - 5 door h/back (Dark Blue) - 23,241 miles £12,350

Peugeot 208 Allure

65 - 5 door h/back (Orange) - 7,187 miles £9,500

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INTRODUCING THE ALL-NEW SSANGYONG MUSSO - THE ONLY TRUCK TOUGH ENOUGH FOR A 7-YEAR WARRANTY



THE NEW MUSSO

TOUGH ENOUGH TO HAVE A 7-YEAR WARRANTY

The all-new SsangYong Musso pick-up has now arrived in the UK and set to disrupt the fast-growing pick-up market with a tough, strong and value-for-money 4x4.

Built on the same architecture as the new Rexton – which has already been awarded '4x4 of the year 2018' by 4x4 Magazine – Musso shares its body-on-frame construction to give an extremely strong vehicle that delivers excellent off-road driving performance and safety from its quad-frame and four-wheel-drive system.

This new Musso – which is Korean for rhino – takes its strong, tough and powerful image from the brand's heritage established more than 60 years ago and from the original Musso of the 1990s. The new Musso is an extremely competent

multi-purpose truck with SsangYong values to the core – comprehensively equipped, a sector leading seven-year/150,000-mile warranty with a value-for-money package, plus a surprising level of interior refinement and great infotainment.

Designed to carry passengers in comfort and transport loads securely, the SUV-based Musso combines a five-seat crew-cab body

style with a workman-like load deck that will take a full-sized Euro pallet. It also carries a payload of more than one tonne and tows trailers of up to 3.5 tonnes concurrently to give the highest total load capacity in the segment. This combination of utility pick-up and SUV means Musso offers the perfect blend of functionality, practicality, performance and comfort to the driver and family or workmates.

New 7-year/ 150,000-mile warranty

One of the toughest pick-ups on the market, SsangYong is backing its faith in the new Musso by introducing a sector-leading seven-year/150,000-mile warranty. 'We believe in the strength of our new truck,' says Nick Laird, managing director of SsangYong Motor UK, 'so we're announcing this new warranty which will also apply to Rexton on which Musso is based.'

'No other pick-up or SUV comes with such comprehensive reassurance, and without the small-print of so many other manufacturer warranties.'

Fuel consumption figures in mpg. Musso: Urban 25.9-29.1, Extra Urban 39.2-40.9, Combined 32.8-35.8. CO2 emissions in g/km 226-211. *Musso EX including delivery charge, road licence & first registration charge. Model shown is Musso Saracen priced at £25,425 ex VAT inc. optional metallic paint at £430. 3.5 tonne towing capacity only with automatic transmission. Warranty covers 7 years or 150,000 miles. Prices are correct at the time of going to print but may be modified or changed at any time.



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DRIVER ADVICE: VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

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Good maintenance can save you money as well as avoiding breakdowns or potentially devastating crashes. Badly-inflated tyres can mean you use more petrol, while putting off minor repairs can make them far more costly in the long-run.

You should carry out regular 'walk-round' checks of your vehicle, once a week and before any long journeys, which need only take a few minutes. The main things you should look out for are:

- tyre tread wear. Look out for tread wear indicator bars on tyres – small bumps in the main grooves which indicate the minimum tread. Change your tyres well before your tread gets to the legal minimum (1.6mm in the UK). Brake recommends replacing at 3mm, as tyres can be dangerous in wet conditions with less than this. If you drive with tyres worn down to below the legal limit, you could face three penalty points and a £2,500 fine, or it could cause a deadly crash.

- tyre pressure. Buy a hand-held tyre pressure gauge and check the pressure weekly, when the tyres are cold. The correct pressure will be written in your vehicle's handbook.

- general tyre condition. Check for cracks, bulges or bubbles on the sides of your tyres. These are signs that the tyre is damaged and at risk of blowing out. If you see any of these, get the tyre checked by a professional, and replaced if necessary.

- lights are working. Check lights are clean and bulbs aren't blown (reflect against a wall, or ask a friend to help).

- oil, water and fluids. Check oil and water levels, and other fluids such as power steering, windscreen washer and brake fluid, are well above minimum levels.

- wiper blades. Check they are in full working order and replace if worn.

- wheel fixings. Check wheels and wheel fixings for defects, including loose nuts.

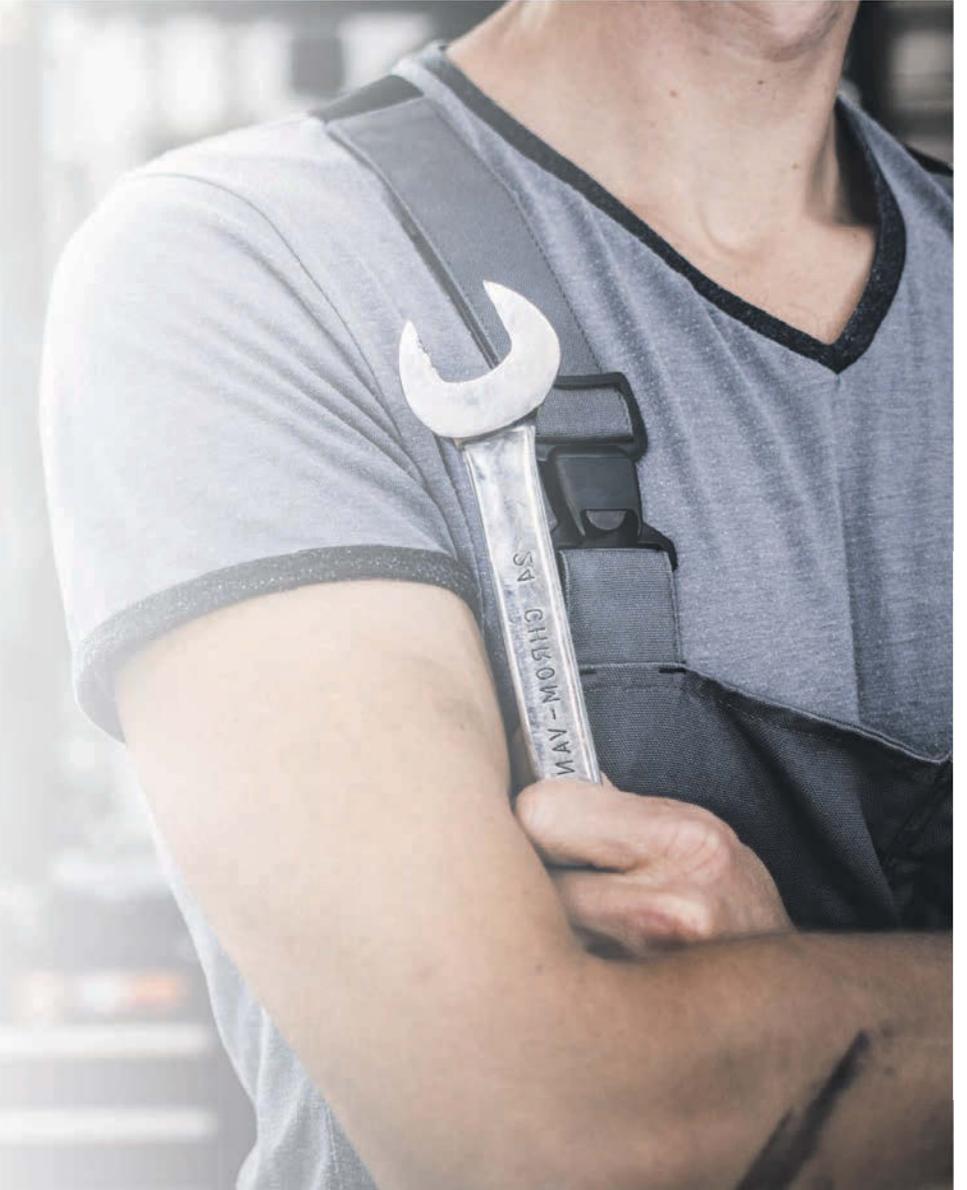
If you drive a commercial or specialist vehicle, there may be additional checks you should make. Check with your employer or consult your handbook.

Setting off and while on your journey, look out for:

- problems with, or noises from, your brakes. Brakes usually make a noise when worn, but if you notice any problem with them, get them checked immediately by a professional mechanic. It's a good idea to test brakes weekly and at the start of long journeys, following your walk-round checks, by applying them gently while driving very slowly on a flat, empty stretch;

- warning lights on your dashboard;
- excess noise or smoke from the exhaust;
- smoke from under the bonnet;
- fluid leaking from under the vehicle;
- smell of hot electrics, fuel or a burning smell;
- unusual sounds from the engine;
- a pulling sensation from the steering.

If you have any suspicion at all there's a problem with your vehicle, take it to a garage immediately – putting it off could cost you cash, result in a breakdown or, worse, lead to a serious crash.



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AWARD WINNING D-MAX TRIUMPHS AT 2018 TRADE VAN DRIVER AWARDS

The award-winning Isuzu D-Max continues its year of success with 'Best Workhorse Pickup' award at the 2018 Trade Van Driver Awards. Praised for its trademark workhorse credentials, the

Isuzu D-Max claimed the title for its hardworking nature, gutsy performance and low cost of ownership. Judges of the award also credited the D-Max for its robust build and high-class appearance.

Presented at the CV Show, the award continues the success the Isuzu D-Max has already enjoyed in 2018. Known for reliability, capability and workhorse credentials, the Isuzu D-Max proves quite clearly 'It just works'.

William Brown, managing director at Isuzu UK, said on receiving the award: 'The Isuzu D-Max has a solid reputation as the professional pickup, working hard for drivers and offering class leading durability. This award is another testament to that reputation, especially as the judging panel consisted of industry experts and professional pickup drivers alike.'

Trade Van Driver is the only magazine which caters for the owner-driver and small fleet operator and as such its awards are different from others as they are judged



not only by the expert panel of journalists at the magazine but also by a panel of readers who use light commercial vehicles as part of their businesses. The award-winning D-Max has already had a successful

2018 being named both WhatVan? Pickup Of the Year 2018 and Professional Pickup and 4X4 Magazines Most Reliable Pickup of 2018, impressing judges across the board with its workhorse nature, unbeatable reliabil-

ity, one tonne payload and maximum 3.5 tonne towing capability.

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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.volkswagen-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.

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Commercial Vehicles

Lomond Motors Ltd is a broker and not a lender and can introduce you to a limited number of lenders, who may pay us for introducing you to them. *No ownership option. Based on Amarok A33 3.0 TDI V6 Highline, at 48 month, 10,000 mile per annum Contract Hire agreement with £1,394 Initial Rental. 15p per mile excess mileage charges apply and fair wear and tear charges may apply. Business users only. All prices exclude VAT. VAT payable at the prevailing rate. 18s+. Subject to availability and status. T&Cs apply. Offer available for vehicles ordered by 30.09.2018 from participating Van Centres. Indemnities may be required. Offers are not available in conjunction with any other offer and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Accurate at time of publication [08.2018]. Volkswagen Commercial Vehicle Financial Services.

LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Alex sheds light on Artmap

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Light on the landscape fascinates and inspires Oban artist Alex Summers.

Visitors following this year's Artmap Argyll starting this weekend will get the chance to reflect on his work by calling at his home studio in Glenshellach Road.

They can expect a whistle stop tour of Scottish landscapes, the bulk of which were captured on the road while out in his campervan, armed with oil paints - and pastry brushes, he likes the

quality of the hairs on them.

From turbulent skies on Skye to blissful beaches on Barra, brooding Glen Coe and golden evenings on Uist - his work is a celebration of light in its purest form.

Alex is just one of 39 artists and venues featured on this year's artmap, now in its 11th year, running from tomorrow, Friday August 24, to Monday August 27, with a second weekend from Saturday September 1 to Sunday September 2.

This is Alex's first time on the artmap. He said: 'I've done it to widen my own

horizons. I hope people will seek me out. It's a great opportunity to have visitors come and connect with me and my work. I sell well enough so there's no pressure to buy. Just come and look.'

A time lapse video of Alex painting Oban's North Pier on a freezing Sunday morning has attracted 3,000 views so far. Search Artist Alex Summers on Facebook to see it.

Artmap Argyll's route of interest is marked by red dots from Glencoe in the north to Campbeltown at the foot of Kintyre Peninsular in the

south.

Karen Beauchamp from the Argyll Artmap project says 'a surprise waits around every corner' on the tour signposting each studio on the map and taking visitors off the main road to visit artists' own homes to bothies, galleries, four-star hotels, cafes, restaurants and a museum shop.

Oban's Rockfield Centre is another creative space appearing on the artmap for the first time showing Exposure, an exhibition by Under The Skin Camera Club on the first



Alex Summers captures Scotland's changing light.

Turn to page 51

ADVERTORIAL

Oban, Scotland's first 'Healthy Living Town'

OK what do you want to hear first? The good news or the bad news?

The bad news

Forty-five per cent of women and 33 per cent of men are not active enough for good health. We are damaging our health through a lack of physical exercise. This is unsustainable and costing the UK an estimated £7.4bn a year. If the current trend continues the increasing costs of health and social care will destabilise public services and take a toll on quality of life for individuals and communities.

- People in the UK today are 25 per cent less active than in 1961
- Physical inactivity is the fourth largest cause of disease and disability in the UK
- 45 per cent of women are not active enough for good health
- 33 per cent of men are not active enough for good health
- Walking trips decreased by 30 per cent between 1995 and 2013
- Physical inactivity directly contributes to one in six deaths

The good news

- Physical activity could prevent or help manage more than 20 common conditions
- Reducing inactivity could prevent up to 40 per cent of many long-term conditions, e.g. diabetes

OBAN is increasingly viewed as a pioneer in the field of CREATING HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY and about to launch itself as Scotland's first 'HEALTHY LIVING TOWN' at the Oban Health Fair on September 1.

It is recognised world-wide that 10 per cent of our health is down to access to medical care, 20 per cent is genetic, and 20 per cent is our environment, leaving 50 per cent of our health dependent on our behaviours.

If we wish to create health then it is down to US to take individual and collective responsibility for our own and for our communities' health. The vision of Oban being 'a healthy place to live, work, raise a family and have a fulfilled and dignified retirement' is an ideal which will remain a pipe-dream unless we proactively work together to make it happen.

How do we do this?

We need to acknowledge that we come from a place of abundance. We have everything we need to create health - we live in a fantastic location surrounded by hills, lochs, glens and the sea, an outdoor adventure park. We have an estimated 150-plus organisations which do or have the potential to positively impact on our health from a leisure centre the community already owns to drama clubs, walking groups, lunch clubs, sports clubs, book clubs, community cinema, Rockfield Centre and many, many support groups. . . We also have a modern hospital and GP surgery with attendant GPs and health professionals engaged with and actively pressing for more community involvement in creating health.

Increasingly many third sector organisations and statutory bodies are working in partnership to deliver specific outcomes for different sectors and health conditions in Oban and Lorn. Very often this support uses the vehicle of social prescriptions, non-medical prescriptions. This collab-

orative approach has been life-changing for many hundreds of people across all ages and most conditions including physical and mental health.

The building blocks are in place, we now need to do two things:

1. coordinate, support and build on the existing services and resources to reach more people - HOWEVER these existing services are predominantly re-active, this in itself will not deliver a Healthy Oban: we need to be more radical;
2. develop a culture change in individuals and community groups where physical activity becomes a main component of our daily lives and develop a culture change in statutory bodies where physical activity becomes a main component of policies and planning.

This is ambitious and radical, but can we make it happen? YES, because the existing health services will never meet the current health trends or the projected demographics for Argyll - our approach to health has to change. But more importantly WE WANT TO DO THIS and people

in communities will be the agents for change.

Oban, Scotland's first Healthy Living Town - the journey starts at noon at the Oban Health Fair on

Saturday September 1. Come and join us on the day and for the journey.

Statistics are taken from Everybody active, every day: An evidence-based approach to physical activity. Public Health England October 2014

FUN INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL

Health for ALL ages
Learn how to keep healthy
Learn how to improve your health

Saturday 1st September
10.30am - 3.30pm
Atlantis Leisure

Health/Fitness MOT's
First Aid
Healthy Eating
Activity & Exercise Demos
Mens Health
Arts & Culture
Dementia Awareness
Strength & Balance

creating health in our community

OBAN HEALTH FAIR

CPR & Defibrillator Training
Falls Prevention
Tai Chi
and so much more with 30+ different activities and displays from community and statutory organisations

ALSO FREE FAMILY FUN DAY

LAUNCH OF OBAN AS SCOTLAND'S FIRST HEALTHY LIVING TOWN
12.00 noon at Health Fair

During Health Fair ALL FACILITIES FREE
Come & Try Sessions
*Pool Inflatable • PT Advice
*Exercise Classes • Soft Play...

Oban Health Fair and Oban Healthy Living Town is a collaboration between third sector and statutory organisations
Oban Health Fair is funded by Oban, Lorn & The Isles Health & Wellbeing Network



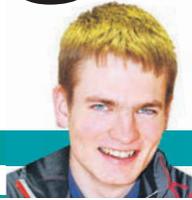
Crowds flock to Stirling on Friday and Saturday for the final Runrig concerts.

Runrig – The last

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



There has never been, and never will be, a gig quite like this. Stirling Castle (which overlooked the park where 50,000 gathered over two nights) has seen many of Scotland's most significant historical events: the battles of Bannockburn and Stirling Bridge, the crowning of Mary Queen of Scots and the Christening of her son King James VI – after which royal courtiers reportedly partied within its Great Hall for a full week; similar, perhaps, to much of the crowd who assembled in its shadow last weekend for Runrig's final show.

This Runrig gig (that brought an end to a 45-year musical phenomenon which has shaped how Gaels view ourselves today) surely takes its place among the greatest

historical and cultural events our nation has seen in recent years.

From the band's first song of the night, The Years We Shared, to their final a cappella chorus of Hearts of Olden Glory, at which point fireworks erupted from the castle ramparts, there was a palpable sense of history being made, as the curtain fell on a wonderful musical era.

I am probably biased given that Runrig have been my favourite band for most of my life. Everything You See (2007) was the Runrig album of my 'generation', if you like, and it opened my eyes to what was possible with Highland music when I was still in early high school.

Consequently, when Gary Innes joined them on stage on Saturday night for Bruce

Guthro's rendition of Clash of the Ash; I was immediately transported back to high school.

As the night went on, many people were transported a lot further back than that – all the way to the band's first album, Play Gaelic, released in 1978, and full of songs that have defined Gaelic music for generations.

Donnie Munro's appearance with the band, backed by the stunning Glasgow Islay Choir, was hugely moving for those of us with a strong affinity to the band's Gaelic repertoire.

Other highlights were Julie Fowles' appearance for Somewhere; and Malcolm Jones' guitar solo during which he was, amazingly, projected onto the wall of the castle while still standing on the stage!

For three and a half hours, Runrig regaled us with songs of our own history: songs of emigration and clearance; of love and exile; in the shadow of a castle so accustomed to witnessing history; by a band

who have written themselves into the very history they sing of.

I can't imagine any comprehensive histories of Scotland written from now on could claim legitimacy if they fail to mention Runrig; so great has been the band's cultural effect on Scots and Scotland.

That, I think, is the essence of why all 25,000 of us were collectively overcome by the occasion. I wish all the band members a long, healthy, and happy retirement – and thank them for everything they have given us over 45 years.

World Pipe Band Champs

While Runrig revellers partied in Stirling, the World Pipe Band Championships were in full flow in Glasgow.

Congratulations to Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band who were crowned Grade 1 champions.

Inveraray and District



OBAN TOWN MARKET

Large variety of fresh produce on sale plus much more.

25th August 2018 11am to 3pm
Station Square, Oban



Live Music at Brew and Co, The Perle Hotel

X Factor
contestant
Gregor Coleman

Friday 31st August, 8pm

Free entry. All welcome



Win a meal for two!

One lucky reader will enjoy this fabulous night of entertainment along with a delicious meal and bottle of wine.

Brew and Co are offering a meal for 2 up to the value of £50.00

All you have to do is answer this simple question:

Gregor appeared on the X Factor in which year?

You can send your answers in on a postcard to The Oban Times, Lochavullin Estate, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Or, email your answer to adverts@obantimes.co.uk, or visit our Facebook page and find the competition on there, posted at 6pm on Wednesday 22nd August. All you have to do is like and share the post to be in with a chance of winning. Competition entry deadline: Tuesday 28th August. Editors decision is final. No cash alternative. Winners will be notified by telephone and email. The voucher should be collected from the Oban Times office and the winner must bring some form of photo ID.

Good luck!

PERLE
HOTELS

dance

claimed an excellent second place, with St Laurence O' Toole coming third.

Some 214 bands from 13 different nations brought 8,000 pipers and drummers to Glasgow Green for the event which was attended by 20,000 people over the course of the weekend.

The Worlds have been held in Glasgow Green since 1986 and it is wonderful to consider that such a tremendously busy and international event goes from strength to strength each year as it celebrates Scotland's national instrument.

Special congratulations to Oban High School Pipe Band for claiming second place in the novice juvenile A competition.

Shawfest approaches

This year's Shawfest – an annual event to raise money for the Fraser Shaw Trust in memory of a much-loved musician from the island of Islay – takes place in Partick on September 8 and 9 and features a variety of events, with a range of artists performing in three different venues. A

raffle will also be taking place over the weekend with some fantastic prizes to be won.

The trust raises funds for MS charities through a range of projects celebrating Fraser and his music including festivals, concerts, recordings, whisky tastings, the release of his tunebook, and more.

Kicking off the weekend will be a workshop in St Peter's Hall with MG Alba Tutor of the Year Emma Tomlinson. All ages and instruments welcome – intermediate level only.

The big Saturday night concert, also taking place in St Peter's Hall and will see two bright young bands perform – Eabhal and Kim Carnie.

On Sunday September 9 in The Sparkle Horse, there will be a traditional music session from 3pm, where festival goers will get a chance to recover from Saturday night's activities, before the fun is moved over to the Lismore Bar, with Nae Plans kicking off a concert at 5pm.

It sounds like there will be lots of lovely music – and all, of course, for an extremely good cause.

Campbell Cameron reviews Runrig's farewell concerts, turn to page 56.



Wildlife artist Colin Woolf will open his studio on the Lunga Estate, near Croabh Haven

Artist Alex sheds light on Artmap trail

Continued from page 49

open weekend and then work by a group of other young artists during the September weekend.

Wildlife artist and water-colourist Colin Woolf is also taking part in this year's event, opening up his studio at Kennels Cottage, Lunga.

Watching wildlife in its natural environment is both a pleasure and a privilege, and Colin has a talent for capturing the essence of these encounters, the beauty and majesty of the animals and the transient light of the landscape in his paintings.

He has been a professional wildlife artist for more than 20 years, and his work is sought by collectors in the UK and worldwide. He is

known for beautifully lifelike paintings and drawings of birds and other wildlife, and he has always had a passion for the mountains and coastline of Scotland.

For more information, visit his website at wildlifewatercolourpaintings.co.uk

Artists exhibiting at Tayvallich Inn, Lochgilhead are Caroline Plummer, Susan Berry, Lottie Goodlet, Kirsty Brady, Kate MacDonald, Catherine Bloy, Jill Stewart.

To find out more about opening times and plan your route go to artmapargyll.com

Anyone who collects eight red dots while touring the map will get entered into a £200 prize draw to buy work of any Artmap Argyll artist of their choice.

WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary bid4oban.co.uk



Thursday 23rd August

Oban Health Walk
Oban Congregational Church Hall
10am - 11.30am

Noah's Ark Parent, Carer & Toddler Group (Weekly)
Garden House, Behind Baptist Church, Albany Street
10.00 - 11.30am

Oban Walking Tours
Oban, i-centre
2.00pm - 3.30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dams
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

Friday 24th August

Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading
Glencruitten Church Hall
All Day

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dams
Crooked Reel
Free entry
Open till 2am

Photography Exhibition
The Rockfield Centre
10am - 5pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban
From 9pm
Free Entry

Saturday 25th August

Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading
Glencruitten Church Hall
All Day

Oban Walking Tours
Oban, i-centre
10am - 11.30am
2.00pm - 3.30pm

Photography Exhibition
The Rockfield Centre
10am - 5pm

Master Builders Lego Club
The Rockfield Centre
10.00am - 12.00pm

Hill Walk
Glen Coe. All Day

parkrun
Ganavan Sands, Oban. 9.30am

North Connel & District - Horticultural Show
Victory Hall, Benderloch
Show Opens 2.00pm

Annual Sale - Royal British Legion Scotland Easdale Branch
Seil Island Hall, Ellenabeich
12.00 - 3.00pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dams
Jono
Free entry. Open till 2am

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban
From 9pm
Free Entry

Sunday 26th August

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dams
QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm
£1 per person, max of 6 per team
Win £20 bar voucher

Photography Exhibition
The Rockfield Centre
10am - 5pm

Monday 27th August

Slimming World
Union Street/Argyll Street, Lochgilhead
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel; Rhona 07880 878906

Photography Exhibition
The Rockfield Centre
10am - 5pm

Tuesday 28th 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 29th 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

Events may charge.
Please visit
www.obanwhatson.co.uk
for more details.

To list your event,
please call
01631 568000

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Meet the authors bound for Bookends

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Traditional storyteller Jess Smith headlines Bookends Festival next month telling tales of travellers' lives in Scotland.

The author of *Jessie's Journey*, *Tears for a Tinker* and *Tales from the Tent*, to name just a few of her books, will be at Benderloch's Victory Hall on Sunday September 23 at 7pm. The free event is being sponsored by the Scottish Book Trust.

A self-proclaimed gatherer of tales since she was wee, Jess grew up as part of a travelling family, living with seven sisters and a shaggy dog in an old blue bus - her granny was born in Luining.

Ask her where she belongs and she will say 'wherever the feather falls or the seed is blown', Jess is the proud inheritor of a long gypsy

tradition telling stories and singing songs.

'Oban and surrounding areas are very special to me - my mother's brother and his family lived in Oban. When we lived on the road in our bus home of many summers, it was always our first stop after leaving school in April. We camped at Ganavan Sands and spent a few weeks laughing and cracking around our campfire before moving on to the berry picking in Blair,' she told *The Oban Times*.

And added: 'In my writings I have simply taken a step back to those days of freedom and wanderings from ancient camping grounds to other old places.

'From within this bubble of history I gathered a wealth of tales and when I sit in schools with children, it gives me the greatest pleasure to hand over those stories and a song or two, to another generation

so that they live on and never die. Oban holds my heart.'

Jess, who wrote *Sookin' Berries*, a collection of stories for younger readers, will also be visiting Lochnell Primary and Nursery School on Monday September 24 to share some of those children's tales.

New Scottish writer Kellan MacInnes is another author coming to Bookends. He will be reading from his first novel *The Making of Mickey Bell*, which he describes as a real feel good story about Scotland, the Munros and a dog. Tickets for his event on Saturday September 22, at 7pm, are £8.

Bookends founder Joy Cameron said: 'Questions and answers at this session are bound to be filled with reflection on how Mickey Bell relates to keen hillwalker Kellan's own health struggles and how mountains have

become healers in both their lives.'

Diagnosed with AIDS-related cancer in the late 1990s and given just six months to live, Kellan did what HIV positive people did back then; packed in his job in social work, cashed in his pension, went home and waited to die. Only he didn't. He is still climbing mountains as he has since he was a teenager, is working again, and in 2012 received a grant from Creative Scotland to fulfil his ambition to become a writer.

He will be visiting the English department at Oban High School on Monday September 24 to talk about his writing and living with adversity.

Other events coming up at Bookends include a sing-and-read session with Bookbug on Tuesday September 26 at 11am. This is a free session

suitable for toddlers, nursery age youngsters, parents and their carers, and is sponsored by Argyll and Bute Council.

The complex process of bookbinding will be revealed at a hands-on session with Fiona Anderson on Thursday September 28 at 7pm. There are 10 spaces available at the workshop, giving people the chance to try out the art of gold tooling, lettering or decorating the spine and covers of a book with gold leaf. Booking is advised. Tickets are £6.

To get a taste of what else is to come at the two-week festival, Bookends is hosting a pop-up session at the Reading Room in the Victory Hall on Monday August 27 from 11am to 6.30pm.

GET INVOLVED
email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk

Words of World War One

Words of WWI is a student-run project that came together at the University of Glasgow during the centenary of the First World War (2014-2018).

In that time a team of dedicated poetry enthusiasts sifted through thousands of poems to select 10 seldom-heard yet just as powerful poems from all sides embroiled on the Western Front.

Skilled film-makers then came on board to turn each poem into a gripping visual piece - with the help of professional actors from across Scotland - that exploits the intensive imagery and natural rhythm of the poems.

Poetry recitals have been done before, history has been discussed before, short films have been made before, yet no one has ever attempted to bring them together to form something special.

Words of WWI lies at the



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Lunch: A large ham and mushroom omelette served with a 227g (raw weight) jacket potato and a huge mixed salad plus 1 Mr Kipling Lemon Slice.

Dinner: Oven-baked meatballs (Slimming World Recipe) served with plenty of steamed carrots and courgettes

Snacks: 2 Ryvita Multigrain, 2 Dairylea Triangles, fresh fruit of your choice, Mullerlight Yogurt

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Glencruitten Road
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5.30pm & 7.30pm
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Lochgilphead Baptist Church
Union Street/ Argyll Street
Mondays 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Rhona 07880 878 906

CAMPBELTOWN

Masonic Recreational Lodge
St John Street
Tuesdays 1pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Rhona 07880 878 906

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*Hotel and golf rounds subject to availability. Includes VAT and £3 nightly resort fee. Price shown is per person for four people in a Ugadale Cottage, rates will be slightly higher for stays in The Ugadale and Royal Hotel. Rates vary based on room type and are valid 1 October - 31 October, 2018. †Vouchers are non-transferable, have no cash value, and must be used during your stay.

S SOUTHWORTH
Europe



natural convergence of these fields and builds a framework that lets these poems speak across the span of 100 years of forgotten sorrow.

By reciting poems written during the conflict, in the languages of nations from both sides, the project aims to capture the feelings of those who took part in the First World War.

With this motivation driving the team, it was decided to take on a different approach to poetry recitals. Rather than the traditional fire-side talk, or static speech, it was decided to make recitals dynamic.

Each poem will be recited

by an actor for the camera, which will record the actor as they move through the landscape.

The visual and auditory design of each piece will therefore not just serve to capture the actor and their voice but will also accentuate the meaning behind each poem. The series also follows an overarching, chronological theme where the poems transition from initial enthusiasm and patriotism to a descent into the horrors and moral confrontations the war provoked.

The project took the decision to use poems from both sides in the First World War

to demonstrate how similar the experiences were, no matter the nation or background of the soldier.

A spokesperson for the project said: 'That is why the Words of WWI team has decided to help preserve the voices of Great War poets. We want to try in our own way to capture the experience of First World War soldiers through their most potent means of expression - their poetry. Those involved in this project feel a moral duty and passion to amplify the seemingly faint and distant voices of the generations that passed.'

Visit youtu.be/mn3oX-EiO-IU to view the project.

COMPETITION



BE ONE OF FOUR LUCKY WINNERS TO RECEIVE A £50 M&S GIFT CARD

To celebrate the opening of the new M&S Foodhall in Oban, four lucky winners will each receive a £50 M&S Gift Card to spend on some of the thousands of food and drink products available in store. M&S Oban, which is the second store to open in the West Highlands over the past year, will also offer a small collection of Clothing & Home items in store as well as the full range of products online via its Click & Collect service.

The store team looks forward to welcoming local customers into their new store at Oban Retail Park on Thursday 30th August at 10am, when it officially opens its doors to the community.

Question: How many M&S stores have opened in the West Highlands over the past year?

Answers:
a) 1 b) 2 c) 3

Answer.....
Name.....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....
Telephone..... Email.....

Terms and Conditions: 1. Four winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received after the closing date of 10am, Monday 3 September. Each winner will receive a £50 M&S gift card by secure mail 3. Prize not transferable, no whole/part cash alternatives, delivered within five days of competition closing date

M' ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAIN 23 LUNASTAL THURSDAY 23 AUGUST

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.05 Sùgh an Eòrna (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 **ÜR | NEW:** Nochd
- 23.00 **ÜR | NEW:** Ameireaga air Film
- 23.45 Torcuil's Guide to Being a Gael: Aimsir (rpt)

DIHAOINE 24 LUNASTAL FRIDAY 24 AUGUST

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.10 **ÜR | 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 Stoirme (rpt)
- 21.00 Beloved Wilderness (rpt)
- 21.55 Eadar Chluich (rpt)
- 22.00 Hinterland (rpt)
- 23.30 Nochd (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 25 LUNASTAL SATURDAY 25 AUGUST

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.00 **ÜR | NEW:** Scottish Premiership – Hibernian v Aberdeen
- 20.00 Machair (rpt)
- 20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 20.30 Cuimhneachan (rpt)

- 21.00 **ÜR | NEW:** Belladrum: Cridhe Tartan Highlights 2018
- 22.00 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 22.05 The Quay Sessions – The Little Kicks (rpt)
- 22.25 **ÜR | NEW:** Nochd
- 22.55 Scottish Premiership – Hibernian v Aberdeen (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 26 LUNASTAL SUNDAY 26 AUGUST

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.30 **ÜR | NEW:** Seachd La – News Review
- 19.30 Alleluia (rpt)
- 20.00 Highland Midwives: Mnathan-Glùine (rpt)
- 20.30 Bonn Còmhraidh (rpt)
- 21.00 DIY le Donnie (rpt)
- 21.45 Torcuil's Guide to Being a Gael: Èideadh (rpt)
- 19.30 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan – Wilko Johnson (rpt)
- 22.30 Hinterland (rpt)

DILUAIN 27 AUGUST MONDAY 27 AUGUST

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.55 An Ataireachd Bhuan (rpt)
- 19.25 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 19.30 Beul Chainnt (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.15 Sgeul Seirbheis (rpt)
- 20.30 Gaisgich na Stoirme (rpt)
- 21.00 Bannan (rpt)
- 21.30 **ÜR | NEW:** Trusadh – An Seillean
- 22.30 Sulaisgeir: an t-Sealg (rpt)
- 23.30 Nochd (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 28 AUGUST TUESDAY 28 AUGUST

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.05 Sùgh an Eòrna (rpt)
- 19.30 Beul Chainnt (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 Cuimhneachan (rpt)
- 21.00 DIY le Donnie (rpt)
- 21.45 Torcuil's Guide to Being a Gael: Èideadh (rpt)
- 22.00 Trusadh – An Seillean (rpt)
- 23.00 Taghadh bho Na Trads (rpt)
- 23.30 Alleluia (rpt)

DIADIADAIN 29 LUNASTAL WEDNESDAY 29 AUGUST

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Ataireachd Bhuan (rpt)
- 19.30 Beul Chainnt (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 Kerry's Kirsty: Rothan gu Robhanais (rpt)
- 21.00 Sulaisgeir: na Sealgairean (rpt)
- 22.00 Bannan (rpt)
- 22.30 Ceòlmhor @ Piping Live
- 23.00 Sgeulachd Howard Wilson – Cop Turned Killer (rpt)

DIARDAIN 30 LUNASTAL THURSDAY 30 AUGUST

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Pìobairean Bhoirnis (rpt)
- 19.15 An Là – News
- 19.25 **ÜR | NEW:** FIFA Women's World Cup Qualifier – Scotland v Switzerland
- 21.45 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan – Main Street Blues (rpt)
- 22.05 The Quay Sessions – The Little Kicks (rpt)
- 22.30 **ÜR | NEW:** Nochd
- 23.00 **ÜR | NEW:** Ameireaga air Film
- 23.45 Torcuil's Guide to Being a Gael: Èideadh (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
FRIDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig,

20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rainnie
SATURDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Stephen, 10.00 Sat Morning Live, 11.00 Saturday Morning, 12.00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowsher, 12.03 Sat Morning Live, 12.05 Saturday Morning Live, 13.30 Clyde, 18.00 Sports View - Dream Team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight
SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breege, 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 Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

Bloody marvellous

by Susan Windram
swindram@obantimes.co.uk



All my birthdays and Christmases came at once recently when I was sent three novels in my favourite genre... it was bloody marvellous. Literally!

First to arrive was Ann Cleeves' novel Wild Fire, the final chapter in her Shetland series, which is published on September 6.

Cleeves' easy writing style hooks the reader from the first page - her characters are well developed and her use of nature - sea, mist and the island's harsh landscape - perfectly play with your emotions as the drama unfolds.

As gutted as I am that this is the last book in the Shetland series - not least because it will mean I will be denied seeing the gorgeous Dougie Henshall in the lead role on my TV screen - I couldn't

wait to start reading.

An English family has moved to the island with their two young children. But when a young nanny's body is found hanging in the barn of their home, rumours of her affair with the husband begin to spread like wild fire. DI Perez is called in to investigate, with his on-off lover and boss Willow Reeves called back to the island to take charge.

This eighth and final novel featuring DI Jimmy Perez is an intense and emotionally complex story, which I finished in only two sittings. I should have savoured it, but I was enjoying it so much I was reluctant to put it down.

The second book had been eagerly anticipated. Ambrose Parry may be an unknown name but is, in fact, born of crime-writing royalty. Parry is the pseudonym of Chris Brookmyre and his wife Dr

Marisa Haetzman, a consultant anaesthetist and medical historian.

In the first of what I hope will be the start of a series of novels, medicine, murder and money blur the lines between class and gender in this first book set in Edinburgh in 1847.

Young women are dying across the Old Town, all having suffered gruesome ends. In the New Town, medical student Will Raven is about to start his apprenticeship with the brilliant and renowned Dr Simpson.

Forging an uneasy relationship with Dr Simpson's maid Sara Fisher, and with each having his own motive for looking into the deaths, Will and Sarah dive headlong into the dark shadows of the capital's underworld where they will have to overcome their differences to make it out alive.

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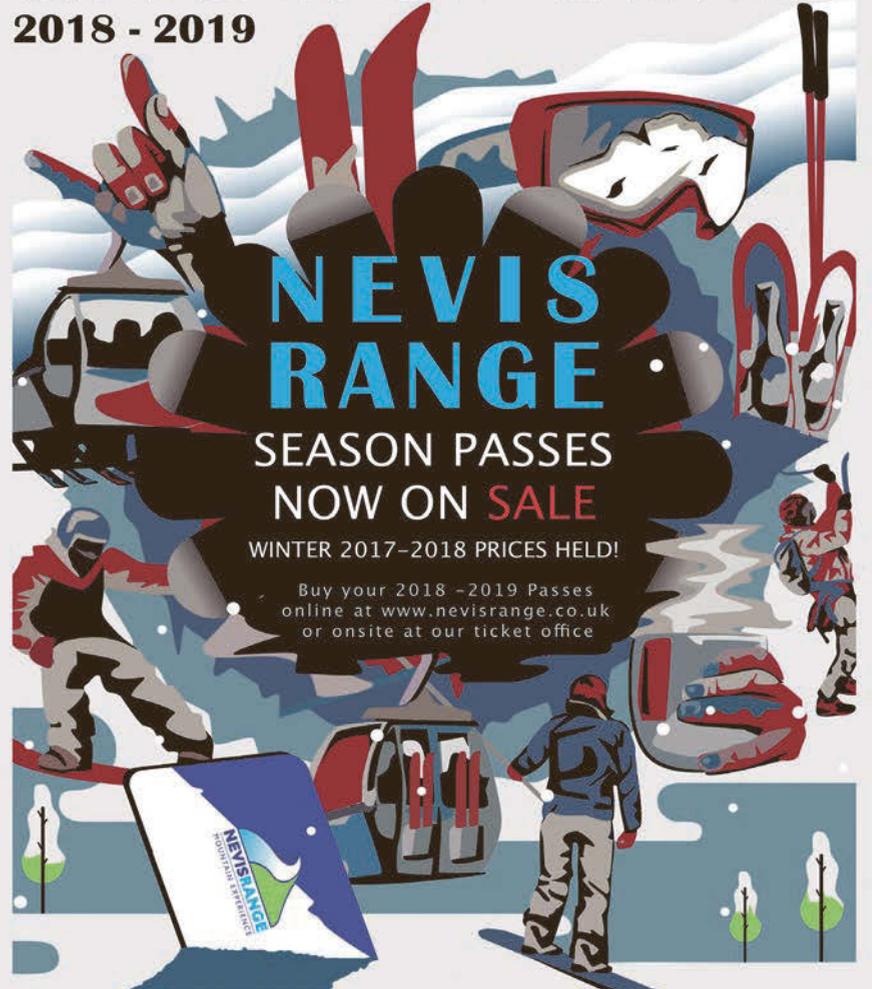
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Left, Chris Brookmyre and his wife Dr Marisa Haetzman, who write together as Ambrose Parry; and above, Val McDermid.

I loved this first book by the husband and wife team, with its real life characters and events, and a strong female protagonist. You would never have known that there were two writers collaborating on this book, it was so well thought out and written, with one clear writing style.

As well as the fiction, the

facts that are seamlessly added to the story make this not only an entertaining read but a fascinating and interesting read. I am definitely looking forward to the next one.

And finally, the queen of crime Val McDermid returns with her new Karen Pirie thriller. Specialising in cold cases, DCI Pirie finds herself

trying to unravel the clues to find a killer, while having to watch her back closer to home. With another strong female taking the lead, McDermid has us travelling seamlessly between 1944 and the present day, the Highlands and Edinburgh.

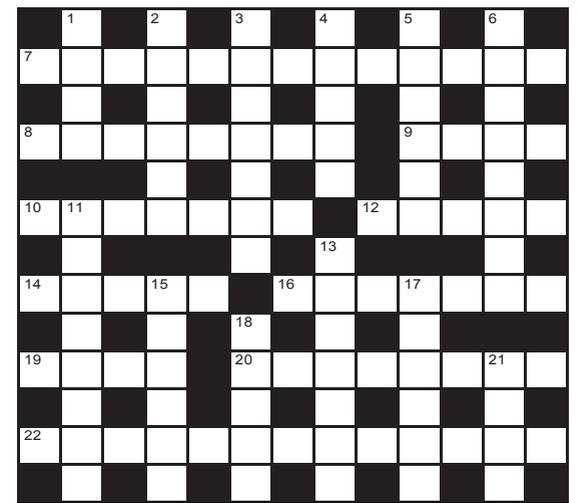
There is not enough space here to write a review that

will do these books justice, but suffice to say, all were greedily devoured and this reader was left happy, but impatient for more.

Which is why I'm looking forward to Bloody Scotland 2018, which takes place in Stirling next month.

Running from September 21-23, all three writers will be taking part in events at this year's festival. Visit bloody-scotland.com

Crossword



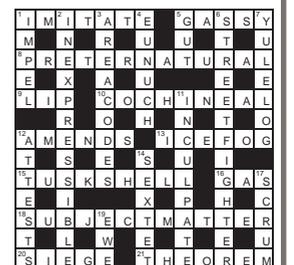
Across

- 7 Large viewing area from house (7,6)
- 8 Ferrous sulphate (8)
- 9 Aid in play (4)
- 10 Driven for fun (2-5)
- 12 Herring (5)
- 14 Old anesthetic (5)
- 16 Ocean dwelling king of the jungle (3,4)
- 19 Wealth (4)
- 20 Rewind and watch again (8)
- 22 Similar in form (13)

Down

- 1 Farm storage space (4)
- 2 Promised land (6)
- 3 Proportionately (3,4)
- 4 Fashionable (5)
- 5 Grab quickly (4,2)
- 6 Medium cigar (8)
- 11 Exactly (2,3,3)
- 13 Ten sided (7)
- 15 Push (6)
- 17 Desire (6)
- 18 Tic (5)
- 21 Walking stick (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



ADVERTORIAL

Growing Aspirations with LEG



This year has been an excellent year for growing, boosted by Lochaber Environmental Group's (LEG) new project 'Go Grow and Glow'. LEG wants to support people in Lochaber to grow more and inspire more local food production. Historical records that show an abundance of oats, rye and barley as well as enormous quantities of potatoes and other vegetables were grown in Lochaber. These skills, however, are often no longer within living memory in

many parts of Lochaber, particularly regarding grain.

LEG has been working with Adam Veitch from 'Doughies', Fort William's own sourdough baker and a crofter close by in Glen Spean, to grow rye that will be used in the production of sourdough bread. The partnership will see the first locally grown rye for commercial bread production predating KK Cameron's bakery in Fort William's high street in the 1940s.

If you have knowledge

of when grain was produced for local consumption get in touch with Stephen at LEG. You'd love to hear from you to discover more about Lochaber's rich agricultural past.

Lochaber Environmental Group is funded by the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund. If you would like a FREE home composting starter kit or support to start growing, get in touch with Stephen on 01397 700090 or info@lochaberenviro.org.uk.



Fort William's Leisure and Recreation Facility

The Nevis Centre

What's on at The Nevis Centre

SEPTEMBER

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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Sunday 7th Irish Country Show
Saturday 13th Doug Allan

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Saying farewell to Runrig

Lifelong Runrig fan and Oban FM presenter Campbell Cameron was at *The Last Dance* in Stirling at the weekend with more than 50,000 others. This is his review:

It's been 45 years. A working lifetime for the band that the Celtic Rock genre was invented for if not by – and that's debateable.

They said goodbye at two sold-out gigs in the shadow of Stirling Castle last weekend – the Runrig years 1973 to 2018 ended there – and they retired at the top of their game.

Speaking to them on Thursday, Runrig, comprising the brothers Macdonald, Calum and Rory, Brian Hurrion, Bruce Guthro, Iain Bayne and Malcolm Jones, rate Oban as one of their favourite destinations.

Oban was an early highlight on the tour and helped them grow their fanbase – on the infamous CalMac Mystery cruises, at the Corran and Argyllshire Gathering Halls and in the big tent at Ganavan. The Corran Halls was often the biggest gig of the year in the



Campbell Cameron with Bruce Guthro at the gig.

early Runrig full-time tours.

We have grown up with them, courted to their sound, and many got married with their soundtrack playing. They have been played at funerals and perhaps most notably on the ill-fated Columbia space shuttle to waken the crew.

Under their belt are 14 studio albums and five live albums, plus so many live dates, including their own festivals over the years. They created a chart hit with the traditional song Loch Lomond, way back in 1983, and we have been singing along to the Runrig version at the end of social events ever since. It's up there with Caledonia

and Flower of Scotland in our psyche as the 'go to' tune for homesick ex-pats and party goers alike.

Over the years we have come together al fresco at Loch Lomond (1992) Scone Palace (2009), Drumnadrochit (2007), Muir of Ord (2013), not to mention Stirling and Edinburgh Castles for epic big number gigs and memorable celebrations of the band's music. But on Friday it was a green field in Stirling where we gathered for the added concert. Added when the original Saturday one-day event sold out in record time – the fastest selling Scottish concert of 2017.

This completed the Final Mile – a series of concerts that took the band all round Europe arriving in Stirling for the Last Dance.

We sang together with lead singer Bruce Guthro and all the hits were word perfect. We revelled in the support artistes, Julie Fowlis and her impeccable band, Donnie Munro and his acoustically amazing band but in fairness they were sideshows, we were only there for Runrig.

Malcolm Jones is one of the finest guitarists you will hear. The backroom boys – Calum MacDonald and Iain Bayne on percussion and drums respectively, along with Rory on the bass keep the beat going – while Brian Hurrion on keyboards and Bruce on acoustic form the completion of the magic.

The song writing has become legendary and the vocal deliver from Rory and Bruce are the sign of one of the tightest closest bands you have ever witnessed, live or on record.

Depute First Minister John Swinney credited Runrig with creating an enthusiasm for Scottish music worldwide, making Gaelic lie in a stronger

position than it ever had before, and 'helping make Scotland a much more confident, buoyant, and optimistic society...much more comfortable with its own identity'.

At 7.30pm precisely this slick and very professional event opened – the music began, and as Iain Bayne was spotted nearing his drumkit, the crowd erupted! Over three hours later Guthro introduced the band one by one before singing Loch Lomond one more time – for the last time.

In between, Julie Fowlis came on for a duet of Somewhere, written to celebrate the life of Dr Lauren Clark who died in the 2003 Columbia space shuttle disaster. Lauren was a big fan of the band and their music. It was the last music the crew ever heard.

The guests, Donnie Munro and full Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir played some of the favourite traditional songs from the early days. Laura McGhee in the traditional flamboyant red dress rocked her fiddle, as did the always well-dressed Duncan Chisholm and Bruce reappeared dapper in a Harris

tweed waist coat and cap. Gary Innes and the gold accordion were almost outshone by Julie Fowlis' outfit – but the Ash was clashed!

Our eyes were on the prize though – a final lingering sight of the band at full throttle and then in reflective mood too and we treasured every moment. There were 32 tracks in all, including two encores and a final reprise of Hearts of Olden Glory before we said farewell.

As the last notes faded away and the exit music played we left the shadow of Stirling castle behind for the long road home.

Runrig tunes can only now be heard playing, as we did on our way, in the car or back in our homes. We will always treasure the memories and revisit them regularly as we would an old friend.

Runrig we loved you – and we always will. I joked with Calum and Iain on Thursday that maybe we will have the 'big bucks' comeback gig, ABBA style, here in Oban in five years or so. Maybe not, but...oh! How we all hope so. We can only believe.

Jim Smith - Back to the Teuchter!

Over 18s only due to possible strong language

Perthshire farmer-turned-stand-up-comedian Jim Smith has been a finalist in the Scottish Comedian of the Year and So You Think You're Funny? competitions.

Fresh from his 2018 run at the Edinburgh Festival, his

show *Jim Smith - Back to the Teuchter!* features another trailer load of tales of rural life and how country people view the outside world.

Jim, who also played the farmer in BBC Scotland's *Scot Squad*, uses a range of char-

acters and regional accents to address a wide range of hot topics such as internet dating for farmers, village nightlife and how to pimp your Land Rover. Suitable for both country bumpkins and dead trendy city folk.



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COMEDY NIGHT

😊 Jim Smith 😊

Back to the Teuchter!

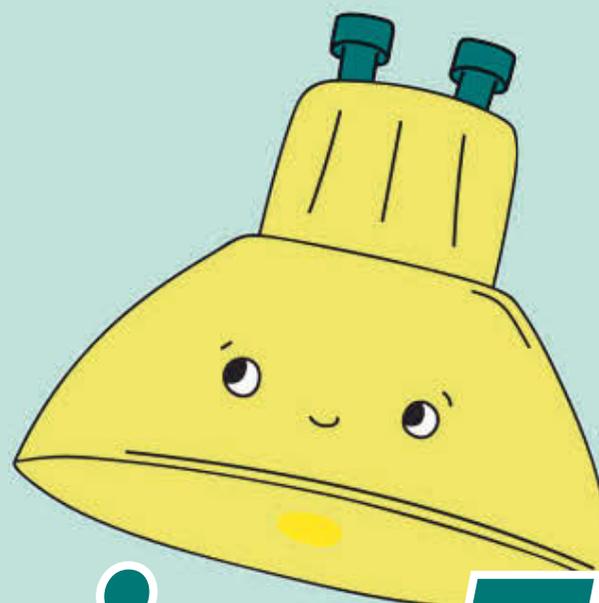
Easdale Island Community Hall

Saturday 25th August (Doors & Bar open 7.30pm)

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DON'T STAY
IN THE DARK



Energy Saving Tips

Ground source heat pumps

Ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) use pipes which are buried in the garden to extract heat from the ground. This heat can then be used to heat radiators, underfloor or warm air heating systems and hot water in your home.

A ground source heat pump circulates a mixture of water and antifreeze around a loop of pipe, called a ground loop, which is buried in your garden. Heat from the ground is absorbed into the fluid and then passes through a heat exchanger into the heat pump. The ground stays at a fairly constant temperature under the surface, so the heat pump can be used throughout the year.

The length of the ground loop depends on the size of your home and the amount of heat you need. Longer loops can draw more heat from the ground, but need more space to be buried in. If space is limited, a vertical borehole can be drilled instead.

The benefits of ground source heat pumps

- Could lower your fuel bills,

especially if you replace conventional electric heating

- Could provide you with income through the government's Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)
- Could lower home carbon emissions, depending on which fuel you are replacing
- No fuel deliveries needed
- Can heat your home as well as your water
- Minimal maintenance required

Unlike gas and oil boilers, heat pumps deliver heat at lower temperatures over much longer periods. During the winter they may need to be on constantly to heat your home efficiently. You will also notice that radiators won't feel as hot to the touch as they might do when you are using a gas or oil boiler.

Air source heat pumps are usually easier to install than ground source as they don't need any trenches or drilling, but they are often less efficient than ground source heat pumps. Water source heat pumps can be used to provide heating in homes near to

ivers, streams and lakes.

Find case studies and examples of homeowners who have installed a ground source heat pump using our Green Homes Network.

How do ground source heat pumps work?

Heat from the ground is absorbed at low temperatures into a fluid inside a loop of pipe (a ground loop) buried underground. The fluid then passes through a compressor that raises it to a higher temperature, which can then heat water for the heating and hot water circuits of the house. The cooled ground-loop fluid passes back into the ground where it absorbs further energy from the ground in a continuous process as long as heating is required.

Normally the loop is laid flat or coiled in trenches about two metres deep, but if there is not enough space in your garden you can install a vertical loop down into the ground to a depth of up to 100 metres for a typical domestic home. Heat pumps have some impact on the environment as they need

electricity to run, but the heat they extract from the ground, the air, or water is constantly being renewed naturally.

Is a ground source heat pump suitable for me?

To tell if an air source heat pump is right for you, there are a few key questions to consider:

- Is your garden suitable for a ground loop? It doesn't have to be particularly big, but the ground needs to be suitable for digging a trench or a borehole and accessible to digging machinery.
- Is your home well insulated? Since ground source heat pumps work best when

producing heat at a lower temperature than traditional boilers, it's essential that your home is well insulated and draught-proofed for the heating system to be effective.

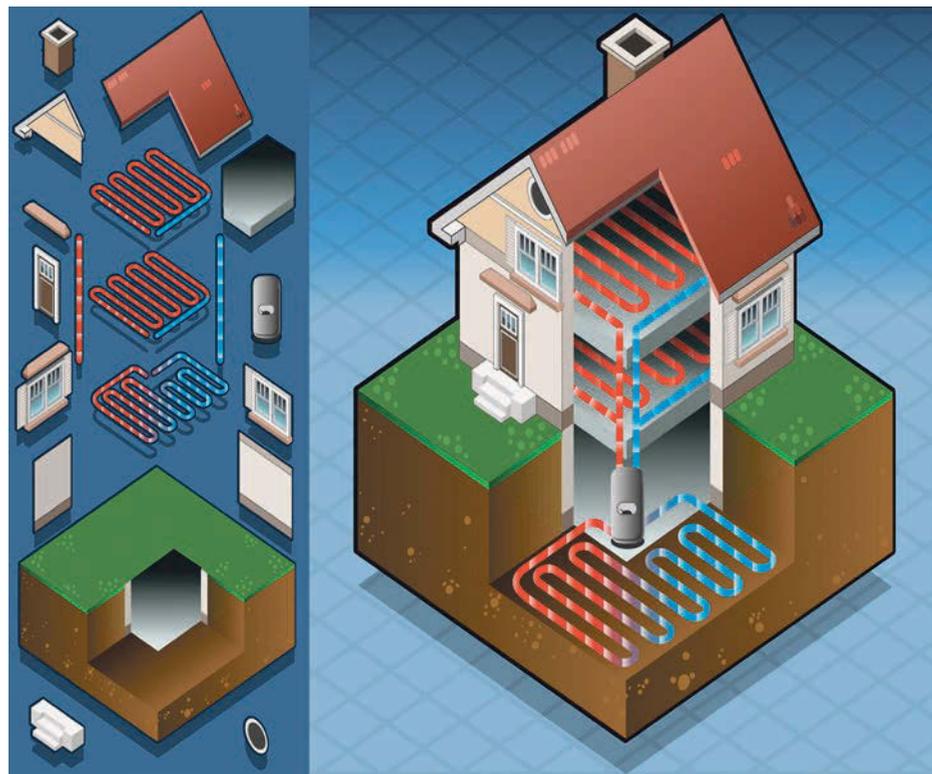
• What fuel will you be replacing? The system will pay for itself much more quickly if it's replacing an electricity or coal heating system. Heat pumps may not be the best option for homes using mains gas.

• What type of heating system will you use? Ground source heat pumps can perform better with underfloor heating systems or warm air heating than

with radiator-based systems because of the lower water temperatures required.

• Is the system intended for a new development? Combining the installation with other building work can reduce the cost of installing the system.

To find out more, please visit <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/renewable-energy/heat/ground-source-heat-pumps>



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Advertorial

Make energy and money saving home improvements with interest-free loans from the Scottish Government

THE Scottish Government's Home Energy Scotland interest-free loan is helping homeowners make energy and money saving improvements to their home.

Up to £38,500 per home is currently available to owner occupiers and some registered private sector landlords in Scotland.

The loan can be used for energy efficiency improvements like insulation and replacing single glazing with double glazing, with cashback grants of up to 25% also available for a limited time.

Home renewables systems like heat pumps and solar photovoltaic panels are covered as well as energy storage systems and connections to an approved district heating scheme powered by renewable energy.

Loans must be used to improve existing residential buildings. New buildings under construction, where the property is already owned by the intended owner occupier, are also eligible for support for renewables systems or district heating connections but not energy efficiency improvements.

General information

Funding is on a first-come, first-served basis and is subject to availability.

Cashback grants are not available for renewable technologies like solar PV or for district heating connections.

Only Home Energy Scotland can arrange to have an application form sent to you; third parties like installers or letting agents cannot apply on your behalf.

Work must not commence on any installation until you receive a loan offer in writing.

All applications will undergo credit and affordability checks.

Successful applicants who claim funding will need to pay an administrative fee of 1.5% of the total loan value up to a maximum of £150 per application.

The complete loan terms and conditions are stated in the application form.

Get in touch now

If you are interested in applying or would like more information, please call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 (free from landlines and most mobiles).



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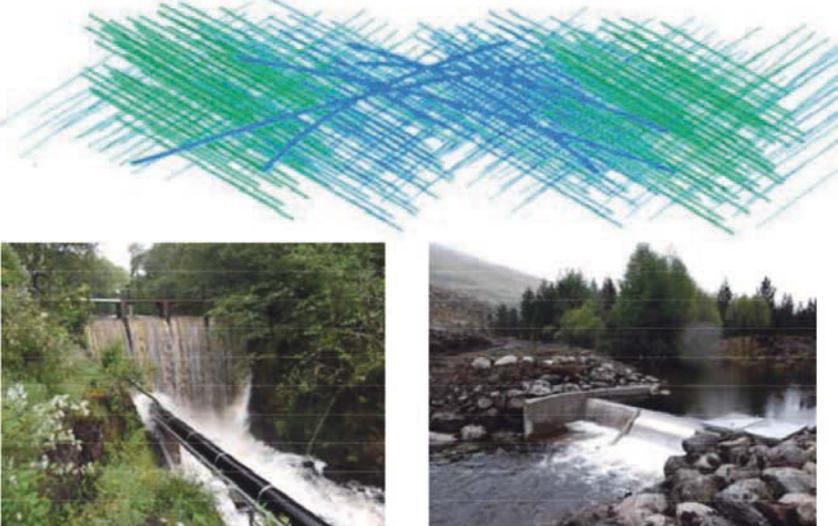





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First time buyer relief is a positive change to the LBTT Scotland Act



by ESPC

Effective from June 30 2018, changes to the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT) Scotland Act 2013 introduced tax relief for first-time buyers acquiring ownership of a property, if certain conditions are met.

Tax threshold for first time buyers

The change has raised the zero-tax threshold for first time buyers from £145,000 to £175,000. Additionally, first-time buyers purchasing a property above £175,000 will qualify for relief on the portion of the price below the same threshold.

This means that all first-time buyers who meet the qualifying conditions will benefit from relief of up to £600.

Claire Flynn, PR and content executive at ESPC, said: 'This is a highly positive change to the LBTT Act and an encouraging sign to would-be homeowners.'

'The present market conditions are particularly difficult for first-time buyers and any measure introduced to help people in their journey towards owning a home is a welcome one.'

Welcome news

'In addition, this change highlights that there is room to review and improve the LBTT Act as it currently stands.'

'At ESPC, we are open to engaging in discussion with the government about the Act and improvements that can be made to allow the Scottish housing market to flourish.'

Jenna Spence, operations director at Neilsons Solicitors and Estate Agents, said: 'The introduction of tax relief for first-time buyers up to a purchase price of £175,000 is welcome news.'

Effect on the Edinburgh market

'The current market in Edinburgh is challenging for buyers across the board but particularly challenging for first time buyers because the valuation sets a ceiling on the loan to value ratio of the borrowing, i.e. you can only borrow up to 95 per cent of Home Report valuation and anything you offer over has to come in 100 per cent from your own resources.'

'In east central Scotland, it

has been a seller's market in recent years – there has been a shortage in properties coming to the market and so demand has outstripped supply.'

'The effect on the market is that closing dates are a key feature where all interested parties submit their best offer in a blind bidding process and the result is that properties are regularly selling for above valuation.'

'When the market is hot, first time buyers need as much money as possible to put towards the purchase price and anything which assists in this connection is to be welcomed.'

Further information on the introduction of tax relief for first-time buyers can be found on Revenue Scotland's website

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FARMING

Around the markets

Oban – United Auctions held the first sale of the season of lambs and sheep at Oban Livestock Centre on Tuesday August 14. Lambs were well presented although they lacked size and condition. The 4,218 lambs sold averaged £52.08 against £54.99 for 4,021 sold last year (- £2.91). At the show previous to the sale, Mr Tony Miller, High Games Hill Farm, judged the various classes and awarded the champion pen to Mr D MacCormick, Baligarve, Lismore for a pen of 26 Texel crosses which later realised £71.00 and purchased by Mr D Scott, Wooler.

Principal lots and prices

Lambs

SUFFx: £69.00 – Acharonich:

£65.00 – Strongorm:

£62.50 – Frackersaig:

£62.00 – Poltalloch:

£61.00 – Ardlarach, Luig:

£60.50 – Balnagown Croft:

£60.50 – Ardlarach, Luig:

£60.00 – Acharonich:

£60.00 – Frackersaig: £60.00

– Strongorm: £60.00 – Mid

Farm: £60.00 – Torbhlaire.

TEXx: £78.00 – 3

Baligrundle: £74.00

and £71.00 – Baligarve:

£69.50 – Keilbeg:

£69.50 – Balnagown:

£68.00 – Newfield:

£67.00 – Barguillan:

£67.00 – Baleveolan:

£65.00 – Ardachy:

£64.00 – 67 Tangasdale,

Barra: £64.00 – Poltalloch:

£63.00 – Balnagown:

£63.00 – Baligrundle

2: £63.00 – Baligarve:

£63.00 – Strontoiler:

£62.50 – Lusraganbeag:

£62.00 – Poltalloch:

£61.00 – Ardlarach, Luig:

£61.00 – Strongorm: £60.50

– Newfield: £60.00 – Keilbeg:

£60.00 – Ardachy.

BELTx: £73.00 – Achuaran.

CHARx: £46.00 –

Creagnich: £46.00

– Barranrioch.

CHEVx: £70.50 – Caddleton

Farms: £61.00 – Dunach

Estate: £59.50 – Caolis, Coll:

£58.50 – Caddleton Farms.

CROSS: £58.00 – 67

Tangasdale, Barra: £57.00

– Baleveolan.

MULE: £64.50 – Fiart:

£59.00 – Achuaran.

Ewes

TEXx: £60.00 – Strontoiler.

CHEV: £51.00 – Dunach

Estate.

MULE: £40.00 – Achuaran.

Dalmally – United Auctions held their opening sale of all classes lambs and sheep at



Left to right, judges Tony Miller with Alan King named Donald A MacCormick of Balligarve, Lismore, the winner of the Reid and Robertson Shield for his pen of 45 Texel lambs at Oban Livestock Centre's first lamb sale of the year, with Karen MacKay. Photograph Kevin McGlynn



Dalmally Auction Mart on Friday August 17. A good show of quality bred lambs was on offer although most lots lacked flesh and weight on the year. Lambs sold to £66 per head for Texel Crosses from Lephinkill. The sale average was £48.59 per head or 167.65 pence per kilo (- £3.59 per head or 3 pence per kilo). Principal lots and prices: Lambs per head SUFF X: Duallin - £62.50 and £58.50: Blarmafoldach - £56: Corncrake Cottage, Colonsay - £55: Drumclach,

Colonsay - £54: Couston Farming - £50 TEXEL X: Lephinkill - £66: Tombuie - £62: Keilbeg - £59.50: Barguillan - £59: Duallin - £58: Ichrachan - £58: MULE: Duallin - £52 BLACKFACE: Keilator - £38: Blaimafoldach - £37: Innisherach - £37 Leading prices per kilo SUFF X: Drumclach - 180p £ 178p: Couston - 177p: Duallin - 175p: Blarmafoldach - 173p: TEXEL X: Barguillan - 197p: Couston - 188p:

Blarghour - 184p: Duallin - 184p: Ichrachan - 183p: Duallin - 182p: CHEVIOT X: Tigh-Airigh, Fort William - 171p: CROSS: Blarmafoldach - 177p: Couston - 164p: Duallin - 163p: BLACKFACE: Keilator - 129p: Couston - 119.

Tiree – United Auctions held their annual sale of 4,503 lambs at Tiree Auction Mart on Saturday August 18. Lambs were shown in good bloom and like other centres, they lacked flesh which

resulted in a drop of 1.2 kilos on the year. Trade was firm and all classes sold to a good turnout of mainland buyers. Lambs averaged 33 kilos and levelled out at £56.28, recording a drop of 11 pence per head on the year whilst being six pence per kilo up. Principal lots and prices: Top prices per head: SUFFx: £84.50 – Heylipol Farm: £83.50 – 2/15 Balevullin: £81.50 – 9 Barrapol: £81.00 – Mannal: £80.50 – 2/15 Balevullin: £80.00 – Braeside: £78.50 – 6 Barrapol: £75.50 – Heylipol

Farm: £73.00 – 10 Crossapol: £72.50 – Braeside and Hillcrest: £71.50 – 9 Barrapol: £70.00 – 6 Crossapol and Cnoc Gorm: £69.50 – Salum and 2 Heylipol: £68.50 – 6 Barrapol: £68.00 – Croish. TEXx: £82.50 – 2/15 Balevullin: £81.00 – 7 Balinoe: £80.50 and £78.50 – 2/15 Balinoe: £75.00 – Hough: £74.50 – Heylipol Farm: £73.00 – Lochside: £70.00 – Hillcrest: £69.50 – Ruaig: £69.00 – 8 Kilkenneth: £68.50 – Sandaig: £68.00 – Crofthouse: £67.50 – Druimasaidh: £66.50 – Benview: £66.00 – 6 Crossapol. BELTx: £88.50, £87.50 and £82.00 – Heylipol Farm : £81.00 – Drumaglea: £75.50 – Ruaig & Ardmay: £75.00 – Drumaglea: £74.50 – Ardmay: £73.50 – Heylipol Farm: £70.50 – Ruaig: £69.50 – Ardmay: £68.50 – Ruaig: £67.00 – Heylipol Farm. CHEV: £60.50 – Vault: £59.00 – Croish: £56.50 – 8 Kilkenneth. CROSS: £57.00 – Clachan. MULE: £65.00 – 16 Moss: £62.50 – Lochside: £58.50 – Braeside: £55.00 – 16 Moss. CHARx: £46.50 – 4 East Baugh. Top prices per kilo: SUFFx: 206p – Garaphail: 205p – Salum: 198p – 6 Barrapol: 195p – Garaphail: 192p – Lochphuill: 189p – Druimasaidh: 189p – 15 Crossapol: 188p – Hillcrest: 187p – 31 Balephetrish: 187p – Croish: 186p – 2 Heylipol: 185p – Heylipol Farm: 184p – Clachan: 184p – Druimasaidh: 182p – Scarinish Farm: 181p – Salum: 180p – Benview & Heylipol Farm. TEXx: 205p – Crofthouse: 200p – 2 Kilkenneth: 195p – Dunbeag: 186p – 8 Kilkenneth: 183p – 2/15 Balevullin: 182p – Benview, Crofthouse and Lochphuill. BELTx: 245p – Ruaig: 231p – Heylipol Farm: 223p – Heylipol: 214p – Drumaglea: 210p – Heylipol Farm: 207p – Ardmay: 203p – Drumaglea & Ruaig: 201p – Heylipol Farm: 200p & 199p Ardmay: 198p – Garaphail: 194p and 190p – Ruaig: 188p – 34 Balephetrish. CHEV: 200p – Ardeas. CHARx: 183p – 34 Balephetrish. CROSS: 175p – Garaphail. MULE: 164p – Lochside: 162p – Braeside.

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The supreme open show champion was a Limousin-cross calf called 'The Captain' from Euan MacGillivray, Barcaldine Home Farm.

The Captain takes Mid Argyll Show supreme title

by Colin Cameron
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Young farmers took the lead as they provided the livestock judges for the 121st Mid Argyll Show.

Entries for livestock classes were healthy and the standard high as the show got underway in the Lochgilphead sunshine.

After a busy day of competition, show umpire John Graham of Mains of Burnbank, Blair Drummond decided that the supreme champion was a superb

Limousin-cross calf shown by Euan MacGillivray, Barcaldine Home Farm. The five-month-old animal is by Lodge Hamlet out of a home-bred Belgian Blue cross cow. Known as 'the Captain' the calf was on its first show outing.

Narrowly pipped for the overall show championship was a classy Clydesdale foal from Callum MacPhail, Gargalfra Sweet Iona. Daughter of past Mid Argyll champion Sweet Chloe, the February-born foal was a champion at the previous

week's Kintyre Show and a winner at the Royal Highland Show in June.

Highland cattle champion and reserve overall cattle champion was a two-year-old heifer from the Cladich fold, shown by Stuart Campbell. She was champion at Lorne Show and third at this year's Royal Highland Show. The overall confined cattle champion award went to a cow and calf from A McNair & Son, Stroneskar, Ford.

The open Blackface sheep championship went to a ewe from Messrs McArthur,

Arnicle, Glenbarr out of a home-bred ewe and by an £8,000 Nunnerie.

A Blackface gimmer from R&A Shaw, Acharonish, Barbreck was handed the confined champion sheep rosette by judge David MacArthur. The winning sheep is by a Nunnerie sire out of a ewe by an Arnicle-bred son of a £20,000 Auldhouseburn.

The overall open sheep title went to a bluefaced Leicester ewe from Mrs Turner, Kildalloig, Campbeltown shown by John MacLachlan.



The Blackface open champion, a ewe from Messrs McArthur, Arnicle.



Reserve open show champion, Gargalfra Sweet Iona, shown by Callum MacPhail.

SCF urges revision of payments regime

The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) has emphasised in its response to the government's Stability and Simplicity consultation that change is urgently needed in the agricultural and rural development payments regime to get a fair deal for crofters.

'Certainty is more important than stability,' said Russell Smith, chairman of the SCF.

'Why emphasise stability when we can take the opportunity to improve the system? Many of the issues raised in this consultation are relevant whether there is a transition period or not, but are imperative due to the uncertainties about the UK withdrawal.

'The opportunity to consider how agriculture and rural development are currently supported in Scotland and how they will be in future is a very useful exercise. It is an opportunity to rebalance how the system works for public good, to target resources to where they most benefit sustainable food production,

environmental maintenance and the wellbeing of rural communities.'

Mr Smith added: 'The current system urgently needs revision. It was announced only this week that the New Entrants Capital Grants Scheme has been extremely successful – yet is to be discontinued.

'New entrants are the lifeblood of crofting and farming, and we want to see the reinstatement of a Crofting New Entrants Scheme, a workable arrangement to tackle land abandonment by getting unused crofts working again under new entrants.

'The Less Favoured Area Support Scheme has also been used to pay higher rates to farmers on better quality land within the designated areas. This is clearly not the intention of the scheme, but, despite having been criticised by bodies such as the European Commission, this mechanism has continued and will continue, in the name of stability.'

Unions issue warning over no deal Brexit

Livestock representatives from NFU Scotland, the Ulster Farmers' Union and NFU Cymru say the prospect of the UK leaving the EU with no trade deal would have serious implications for the beef and sheep sectors.

The comments were made following a recent meeting in Belfast. NFU Scotland livestock committee vice-chairman Jimmy Ireland said: 'A no deal Brexit could have unthinkable consequences on Scottish farms and crofts.

'The UK currently exports more than £380 million of lamb and sheep meat, with the vast majority being exported to European markets. Any imposition of barriers to trade as a result of Brexit will impact thousands of sheep and cattle farming businesses across Scotland.

'We also need to see the UK government secure future protection of our food names, such as Scotch Beef PGI and Scotch Lamb PGI.

These names are synonymous with quality and we need to see them protected from imitation, both in the United Kingdom and the European Union.

'Future support for the food and farming sector must deliver on-farm profitability that ensures there is a critical mass of cattle and sheep to drive productivity across the supply chain.'

Wyn Evans, chairman of the NFU Cymru livestock board, added: 'The government in its trade talks with the EU must ensure we have measures in place that continue to allow tariff-free and unfettered access to export markets in Europe. This is vital to maintaining the already tight margins in this sector.'

The UK unions are committed to working together to highlight this to decision makers over the summer and autumn as the UK enters a critical period in the Brexit negotiations.

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Closing date for applications: Friday 31st August 2018

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The main role will be to provide relief cover on the company's 34 metre supply barge but you will also have the opportunity to assist with crewing or skippering our passenger vessels. Ideally candidates will possess a Master 500t CoC but consideration will be given to candidates with Boatmaster Tier1 Level 2 certificates. ASD experience would be beneficial but not essential.

This position will require candidates to possess an ENG1 medical or be able to pass one.

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Confirming the Significance of Kilmartin Glen's
Archaeology

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Full details of the post and an application pack can be downloaded from our website www.kilmartin.org/home/get-involved/vacancies/.

Closing date: 19th September. Interviews will be held on 26th September.



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WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION ALLT EASACH HYDRO SCHEME AND GLENKINGLASS LODGE HYDRO SCHEME

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Green Highland Renewables (Argyll) Limited for authorisation to carry on controlled activities at, near or in connection with Allt Easach Hydro Scheme (CAR/L/1169145), namely:

Description of controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 2.25m in height	Allt Easach	NN 0629 4139
Abstraction of 118,778 m3 per day of water	Allt Easach	NN 0629 4139
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1.95m in height	Allt Lochan an Lair	NN 0649 4126
Abstraction of 58,774 m3 per day of water	Allt Lochan an Lair	NN 0649 4126
Return of abstracted water	Allt Easach	NN 0668 3997

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Green Highland Renewables (Argyll) Limited for authorisation to carry on controlled activities at, near or in connection with Glenkinglass Lodge Hydro Scheme (CAR/L/1169108), namely:

Description of controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1.95m in height	Allt nan Clach Sgoilte	NN 1751 3720
Abstraction of 58,483 m3 per day of water	Allt nan Clach Sgoilte	NN 1751 3720
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1.85m in height	Allt Cloiche Finne	NN 1920 3786
Abstraction of 30,586 m3 per day of water	Allt Cloiche Finne	NN 1920 3786
Return of abstracted water	Allt nan Clach Sgoilte	NN 1685 3827

SEPA considers that the above controlled activities may have a significant adverse impact on the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at:

<http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advertised-applications-under-car/>

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, either by email to registrydingwall@sepa.org.uk or to the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1169108 for Glenkinglass Lodge Hydro Scheme or CAR/L/1169145 for Allt Easach Hydro Scheme:

Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall Office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- * assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- * assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- * consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- * consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- * assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- * assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- * apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

A I Cameron
Cnoc Bhan, Ardnamurchan
& Sunart
0.121 ha – Site for a dwelling house
91262

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 20/09/2018. 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-customer-care.

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

E A Gray & E J MacDonald
& A P Gray
8 Inveroy, Kilmornivaig
83990
0.093 ha
Reason – Existing house site and amenity ground
Condition – With fencing conditions.

J & J Caldwell
78, 79 & 82 Portuairk
Ardnamurchan & Sunart
85694
0.242 ha
Reason – Existing house site
Condition – With fencing conditions.

Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk



MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 MODIFICATION OF EXISTING MARINE FARM EAST TARBERT BAY, ISLE OF GIGHA

Notice is hereby given that The Scottish Salmon Company has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of the modification of an existing marine farm at:

Cost	£3,600	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
East Tarbert Bay,	55° 43.130' N	005° 42.730' W
Isle of Gigha	55° 43.120' N	005° 42.270' W
Moorings Area	55° 42.720' N	005° 42.300' W
	55° 42.730' N	005° 42.770' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Isle of Gigha Post Office.

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: 05064V and The Scottish Salmon Company

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

Argyll and Bute Council

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

(B845 BARCALDINE-TAYNUILT-TAYCREGGAN ROAD, TAYNUILT)
(PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2018

On Monday 20th August 2018, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order in terms of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. The Order, which comes into operation on 5th October 2018, introduces a no waiting at any time restriction on both sides of a section of the B845 Barcaldine-Taynuilt-Taycreggan Road in Taynuilt.

Modifications

The restriction on the west side of the road has been reduced in length by 4 metres, this is a change to the Order as originally proposed and advertised in the Oban Times on 21 June 2018.

A copy of the Order and plan relative thereto can be inspected by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trafficorders or viewed during normal office hours at:-

- (i) Argyll and Bute Council, Customer Service Point, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban;
- (ii) Taynuilt Post Office, Main Street, Taynuilt;
- (iii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilhead.

Any person, who wishes to question the validity of the Order or any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act or any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks from 24th August 2018, apply to the Court of Session for this purpose.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenity Services,
1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD, PA31 8RD

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra - Gàidheal agus Bhòid



PUBLIC NOTICES

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. The croft registration number is C5277.

First Registration of a Croft

Allan William MacLean has registered his croft 4 Inchree (Share), Kilmallie 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 May 6, 2019

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C5330.

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
18/03734/FUL		9 Glenfern, Fassfern, Kinlocheil Fort William	Demolition of office building and replacement with 2 no. semi-detached houses
18/03638/FUL		Land 1020M NE Of Inshlaggan House, Invergarry	Erection of 3 no. Staff Houses
18/02660/PIP		Quality Cottage West, Arisaig	Erection of new dwelling house
18/03701/FUL		Lochaber Yacht Club Achintore Road, Fort William	Erection of shed (renewal application (13/01008/FUL))

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

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

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.

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
18/01257/PP	Construction of run-of-river hydro scheme comprising; 2 intakes, penstock, powerhouse, outfall, construction of new access tracks, bridge, 4 temporary compounds, temporary landing point and upgrading of existing tracks	Land West Of Allt Easach Loch Etive Argyll And Bute
18/01509/PP	Demolition of existing house and erection of replacement dwellinghouse, formation of new access and installation of new septic tank and soakaway.	Homestead Heanish Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6UL
18/01527/LIB	Installation of 6 replacement windows from single glazed to double glazed of the same style and finish	Seabank Tiberonochy Isle Of Luing Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4UE
18/01535/PP	Installation of 6 replacement windows from single glazed to double glazed of the same style and finish	Seabank Tiberonochy Isle Of Luing Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4UE
18/01258/PP	Construction of run-of-river hydro scheme comprising; intake weir, penstock, powerhouse, outfall, improvement of existing access from Inverawe via coast of Loch Etive and Glen Kinglass, construction of 2 No. new access tracks and 5 No. bridges, construction of switchgear building, export cable route and landing point, 5 No. temporary construction compounds and temporary construction access track	Allt Hallater Hydro Glen Kinglass Argyll And Bute
18/01605/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Ariogan Croft No 1 Ariogan Soroba Oban
18/01716/PP	Conversion and alterations of existing barn to form dwellinghouse. Erection of detached garage/store, installation of septic tank and solar panels	Land West Of Corrie Farm Fishnish Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
18/01259/PP	Construction of run-of-river hydro scheme comprising; 2 intakes, penstock, powerhouse, outfall, construction of new access tracks, 3 bridges and one pipe bridge, 2 culverts, 3 temporary construction compounds, buried export cable and upgrading of existing tracks	Land North And East Of Glenkinglas Lodge Glenkinglas Taynuilt Argyll And Bute
18/01728/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 15/02108/PP - Erection of dwellinghouse	Garden Ground Of Ach Na Caoraich Erray Road Tiberonochy Isle Of Mull 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.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 20

Planning Application Reference Number: 18/01257/PP

Proposed development at: Land West of Allt Easach, Loch Etive, Argyll and Bute

Notice is hereby given that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council by SIMEC Green Highland Renewables Ltd relating to the planning application in respect of: Construction of run-of-river hydro scheme comprising; 2 intakes, penstock, powerhouse, outfall, construction of new access tracks, bridge, 4 temporary compounds, temporary landing point and upgrading of existing tracks

A copy of the EIA Report and the associated planning application may be inspected during office hours in the register of planning applications kept by the Planning Authority, at 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD or by logging on to the Council's Website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and going through the Planning Application Information during the period of 30 days beginning with the date of this notice.

Copies of the EIA Report may be purchased from Green Highland Renewables Ltd via email or telephone (info@greenhighland.co.uk or 01738 493110) at a cost of £300 plus vat per copy.

Any person who wishes to make representations to Argyll and Bute Council about the Environmental Impact Assessment Report should make them in writing within the period to - Planning Services, Development and Infrastructure, Argyll and Bute Council, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AW.

13 August 2018

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND)

REGULATIONS 2017

NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 20

Planning Application Reference Number: 18/01259/PP

Proposed development at: Land North And East Of Glenkinglas Lodge, Glenkinglas, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
Notice is hereby given that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council by SIMEC Green Highland Renewables Ltd relating to the planning application in respect of: Construction of run-of-river hydro scheme comprising; 2 intakes, penstock, powerhouse, outfall, construction of new access tracks, 3 bridges and one pipe bridge, 2 culverts, 3 temporary construction compounds, buried export cable and upgrading of existing tracks.

A copy of the EIA Report and the associated planning application may be inspected during office hours in the register of planning applications kept by the Planning Authority, at 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD or by logging on to the Council's Website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and going through the Planning Application Information during the period of 30 days beginning with the date of this notice.

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13 August 2018

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND)

REGULATIONS 2017

NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 20

Planning Application Reference Number: 18/01258/PP

Proposed development at: Allt Hallater Hydro, Glen Kinglass, Argyll And Bute

Notice is hereby given that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council by SIMEC Green Highland Renewables Ltd relating to the planning application in respect of: Construction of run-of-river hydro scheme comprising; intake weir, penstock, powerhouse, outfall, improvement of existing access from Inverawe via coast of Loch Etive and Glen Kinglass, construction of 2 No. new access tracks and 5 No. bridges, construction of switchgear building, export cable route and landing point, 5 No. temporary construction compounds and temporary construction access track.

A copy of the EIA Report and the associated planning application may be inspected during office hours in the register of planning applications kept by the Planning Authority, at 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD or by logging on to the Council's Website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and going through the Planning Application Information during the period of 30 days beginning with the date of this notice.

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13 August 2018

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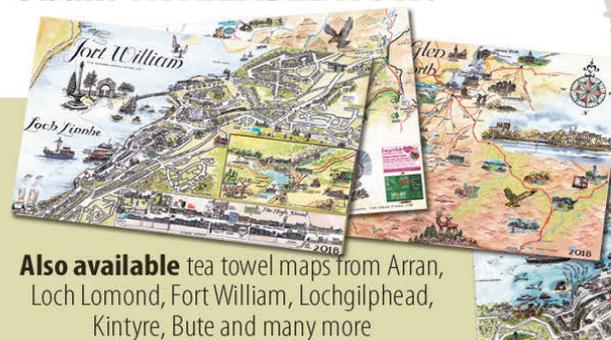
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Baby Equipment

HIGH CHAIR Mamas and Papas Zest high chair, cost £100 used twice asking £50, Tel 01852 300320.

Bathroom

CHROME HEATED TOWEL RAIL 650mm x 400mm, unused, still in box, £35 Tel 01631 564477.

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BICYCLE CARRIER FOR CAR Saris Bones Solo rear Carrier for single bike. Used only once. Very compact, secure and easy to use. Tel: 07930 431962, £28 Tel 07930 431962.

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110 VOLT CIRCULAR SAW Bosch 110volt 1020 watt circular saw, 160mm blade. Together with transformer, two sockets, £40 ono Tel 01631 770698.

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, Tel 01546 886628.

AVERY BERKEL FX220 SCALES One Set. Includes Battery and Mains. Maximum of 15kg. Good working condition. Contact for a price, Tel 01546 886628.

BRINSEA INCUBATOR OCTAGON 100 with rocker and assorted trays. Contact for a price, Tel 01546 886628.

CHALLENGE 18V JIGSAW and skillsaw set, made by Hilka, with one battery and charger, £15 Tel 01852 200256. INDUSTRIAL 3 PIECE LADDER approx 9 mtr, £95 Tel 07760 334367.

INTERIOR FIRE DOOR, one 6 panel, 6ft 6" x 2ft 10", new, £10 Telephone 07760 334367.

PETROL CHAINSAW, 14 inch bar, 36cc, hardly used, £75, Tel 01631 566475.

REPLACEMENT CHIMNEY POTS for older houses, ornate Victorian/Edwardian pots in various sizes and colours, £40, Tel 01631 564578.

TRANSLUCENT GLASS TILE 15x15x8mm, 10 sheets 9.69sq ft (0.9m²), never been opened, £99.95 Tel 07769 717153.

Car Accessories

BRAND NEW TYRE 255/65/R16 AS above, tyre never used, on a 6 stud steel wheel. This is a massive tyre, 6ply. for a 4x4. Post code is PA29 6XG Tayinloan, £40 Tel 07809 143406.

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 Tel 07809 143406.

Clothes, Shoes and Accessories

ADIDAS TRACKSUIT TOP made in West Germany. Red and white. Size is 36" chest, in VGC, £15 Tel 01475 726360.

COAT winter coat, black & white, size 12, brand new. Call evenings, £20 Tel 01852 300154.

Computers and Games

WII-U GAMES CONSOL, excellent condition, £95 Tel 01631 566475.

Domestic Appliances

CARVEL FREEZER, top opening ideal for ice cream, £80 Tel 01852 300320.



ESSE SOVEREIGN oil fired cooker for cooking, hot water and central heating. Currently in use, to be uplifted September 2018. Sold as seen, £350 Tel 07729 041766.

FREEZER Hotpoint space saver, £50 Tel 01852 300320.

HOTPOINT twin tub washing machine, rarely used, £99 Tel 01397 712231.

MICROWAVE, Sharp, £30 Tel 01852 300320.

MINI VACUUM, "Easy Home", VGC, £8 Tel 07765 503085.

TUMBLE DRYER, Hotpoint Aqualtis, £60 Tel 01852 300320.

WASHING MACHINE Electrolux Aquacycle 1200, £60 Tel 01852 300320.

Domestic Pets

REGISTERED COLLIE PUPS Black, White and Tan, for Particulars Tel 07919 071747.

Furniture

'RISE & RECLINE' CHAIR perfect condition, one year old, bargain at, £200 Telephone 01586 553674.

COMPUTER TABLE c/w with pull out keyboard shelf. Size: 750mm high x 740mm wide x 500mm deep, £20 Tel 07833 356396.

DINING TABLE round, mahogany, 42ins diameter with 4 matching chairs. Excellent condition, £50 Tel 01852 300320.

DUCAL EXTENDING PINE TABLE will seat 8-10 when extended with 6 matching chairs. Pics available. Could deliver local, £90 Tel 07729 293296.

SET OF PINE DRAWERS (3), £20 Tel 01852 300320.

SINGLE BED with mattress, as new. Buyer needs to uplift, £95 Tel 01631 570915.

SINGLE FUTON from Ikea. Cushion has velcro pouch to take pillow. Navy Blue, approx size width 80cm, 85cm high, 2 metres laid out flat, £50 Tel 01852 200256.

SMALL WHITE WARDROBE two door wardrobe. 64cm x 51 deep x 170 high, metal hanging bar, buyer to collect, £30 Tel 01880 821245.

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VINTAGE CART WHEELS and smaller implement wheels. Colourful garden display items. Prices from £30, Tel 01631 564578.

VINTAGE CHIMNEY POTS Vintage chimney pots in various sizes and styles, make lovely garden planters. Prices from £40, Tel 01631 564578.

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EXECUTIVE DESK, excellent condition. 3 drawer right & 1 drawer + filing drawer left. Call evenings, £60 Tel 01852 300154.

SMALL COMPUTER DESK very good condition, can deliver to Oban, call evenings, £35 Tel 01852 300154.

Indoor sports equipment SQUASH RACKET Dunlop Airfoil Graphite racket with cover, 2 balls. As new, never used, £18 Tel 01852 200256.

Kitchen

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BIRTHS

MACLEAN - Jamie and Jodi are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Keir Alexander, born on August 8, 2018. First grandchild for Nancy MacLean, Knock, Gruline, Isle of Mull and third grandchild for Anne and Ivor MacLeod, Bunessan, Isle of Mull. Huge thanks to Paisley RAH Maternity Unit and the Oban Midwife Team.

McAULEY - Ryan and Alison are delighted to announce the birth of their baby daughter - Robyn Grace, sister to Mirren Rose, born at home in Oban on July 9, 2018. Second granddaughter for Stuart and Mary MacKay and 5th grandchild for Myles and Cathy McAuley. Special thanks to Katherine and Elayne from Oban Maternity Unit.

DEATHS

CAMERON - Jean Cameron, Dalnabreac, passed away peacefully at home, on August 18, 2018. In accordance with her wishes, there will be no funeral and her ashes will be scattered by the family.

DUNLOP - Robert J (Robbie) peacefully at Vale of Leven Hospital, Alexandria, on Saturday August 18, 2018, aged 91 years. Devoted husband of Shirley and loving father of Alastair, Timothy, Gillian and Andrew. Funeral service will be held in Appin Parish Church on Friday August 31, 2018, at 1pm, to which all are welcome. Family flowers only please.

HEATHER - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban with Kieran at his side, on August 7, 2018, aged 65, Steve, devoted husband to Mary, loving dad to Kieran, precious son of Jacky and dear brother to Sonya and Alison. A private family funeral took place on Friday August 17.

HUNTER - Peacefully at Cnoc Nan Craobh, Ballachulish, after a short illness on Sunday August 12, 2018 in his 81st year, Norman Hunter. Devoted husband of the late Agnes MacCallum, loving partner of Margaret, much loved dad of Norma, Michelle and Alistair. Cherished granda and

papa of Greg, Rhona, Cian, Aela, Emily, Freya and Evan. Admired father-in-law, brother and friend to many. Funeral service was held at 1pm on Tuesday, August 21 at Beoraid Cemetery, Morar.

MACKAY - Donald John (Donnie) aged 72 years, passed away peacefully in his own home, surrounded by all his family, on Saturday August 18, 2018. Much loved husband of the late Christine, precious dad of Donna, Finlay and Rebecca, father-in-law to Scott, Leanne and John, adored papa to Aidan, Ruairidh, Innes, Neve, Finlay and Katy and treasured friend to Dinease. Funeral service to take place from St Columba's Cathedral, Oban at 10.00 am on Friday August 24, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/ donations if desired for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

MACSWEEN - Ann Clyde Gow - Formerly of Braemar, Lundy Gardens, Inverloch. Peacefully at Jordanhill Care Home on Friday August 17, 2018. Ann much loved wife of Angus, mother of James, Biff, Rhona and Andrew. Funeral service at Linn Crematorium, Lainshaw Drive, Glasgow, G45 9SP on Friday August 24 at 12.45 to which all friends are respectfully invited.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GRAHAM - Fiona, Mark, Ailsa, Martin and Toni would like to thank all family and friends for their kindness and support shown following their sad loss of Hamish on July 27, 2018. Thanks also to all at GCF and all local contractors for their much appreciated support. Thanks to all who donated at the Church, the sum of £1,547 will be shared between Lochaber District Nurses and Lochaber Macmillan Nurses. Special thanks to Rev Richard Baxter for his comforting service and home visits, thanks to McDonald Bros for the lovely flower arrangements. Grateful thanks to John McLellan Funeral Directors for their professional and caring funeral arrangements.

HAMILL - The family of the late Mrs Christina Hamill would like to thank all those who have supported us following our recent bereavement. These include all

those who attended her funeral and those who sent condolences, the staff at Victoria Court, staff and nurses at the Belford Hospital, the Rev R Baxter, Church Officers at the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church, the staff at Mike McFall Funeral Directors and the staff at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William. Their help and support is greatly appreciated.

MACKINNON - The family of the late Margaret MacKinnon, would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their cards, kindness and support at this sad time. Thanks to all the staff at Mull and Iona Community Hospital, also to the staff on Ward I, Lorn and Islands Hospital for their care and kindness shown to mum. Thanks to Billy McClymont for the helpful and caring funeral arrangements and to Donald Kirsop for a lovely service. A special thanks to Linda Noble and all the carers who looked after mum over the years at Glen Iosal, finally thanks to all those who attended her funeral at Cardross Crematorium.

SILLARS - The family would like to sincerely thank all friends, colleagues and relatives for the many flowers and cards received following the sad loss of Chrissie. Grateful thanks go to CAU - Belford Hospital, to Rev Morag Muirhead for her comforting and uplifting service, also thank you to Rachael Walker and May MacIntyre for their beautiful music contributions. Sincere thanks to the Railway Club for the catering, to John McLellan Funeral Directors for all the support and guidance to make Chrissie's final journey so personal. Finally, thanks to all who paid their respects at the Church, the sum of £104.21 was collected for Ward 1 and CAU Patients Fund - Belford Hospital.

MEMORIALS

CARMICHAEL - In loving memory of our dear mother, mother-in-law and grandmother Mary Logan, who died August 24, 1996. Forever in our hearts. Always in our thoughts. - Inserted by Irene, Donald, Nigel and family, Islay and Glasgow.

GOURLAY - In loving memory of Allison, who passed away August 27, 2017, a cherished daughter, wife, mum, granny, sister, sister-in-law and auntie. Those we lose don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Very sorely missed by us all.

MACDONALD - Treasured memories of Alister, a devoted husband and father, who passed away on August 18, 2001. The many things you did for me In your kind and loving way Give me memories to treasure As I think of you each day. - Helen.

We miss you dad, our hearts are sore With each new day we miss you more No longer in our lives to share But in our hearts you're always there. - Iain, Deirdre and Mhairi.

MACLACHLAN - In memory of a loving mum and gran Fodie, who died August, 2016. Deep are the memories Precious they stay No passage of time Will take them away. - Christine, Alasdair and family, Blairgowrie and Muir of Ord.

McGRATH - Precious memories of our dear mum Margaret, Achaleven Farm, who died August 23, 2006. There are no words to tell you Mum, what losing you has meant, but now each day brings memories of happy years we spent. You'd want us all to smile again and that's just what we do, every time we reminisce with loving thoughts of you. You're with us when each new day dawns and when we say goodnight, our guardian angel here on earth and heaven's shining light. Your loving children and grandchildren. XXX

MILNE - Janice. In loving memory died August 14 2005, sadly missed by Jimmy, Gary, Andrew, Raquel, Samantha and Robert (Milne).

GRADUATIONS



SOPHIE LOUISE KERR

Graduated from Robert Gordon University with a 2:1 in International Business Management. Daughter of William Kerr and Fiona Harper, granddaughter of Dorothy and the late Donald Harper. A former pupil of Rockfield Primary and Oban High School



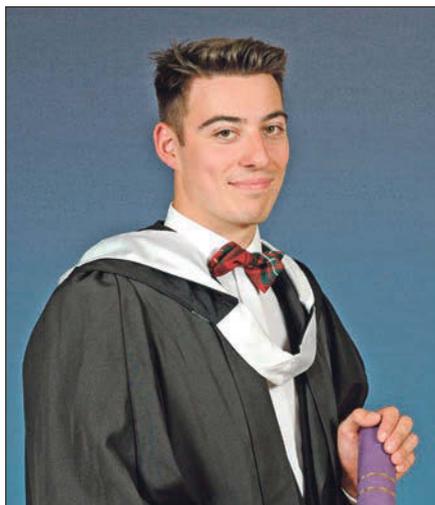
ANNA McDONALD

Graduated from the University of Strathclyde, with a 2:1 in Business with Marketing and Hospitality and Tourism Management. Daughter of Cameron and Nicola McDonald, granddaughter of Lovat and Sheila McDonald, Mairi Campbell and the late Hector. A former pupil of Rockfield Primary and Oban High School.



REBECCA ALICE MACKELLAR

Graduated from the University of Glasgow with a BA Honours Degree in Rural Business Management, after studying at SRUC, Craibstone. Daughter of Bobby and Catherine MacKellar, Kingairloch and granddaughter of Ian and Peggy Campbell, Strontian and the late Robert and Joan MacKellar, Dunbeg. Rebecca is a former pupil of Ardgour Primary and Ardnurchan High School.



PATRICK MACKINNON

Graduated with a Master of Engineering with Merit in Mechanical Engineering from Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen. Patrick is the son of Ewen and Rebecca MacKinnon, brother of Clare, grandson of Angus and Barbara Rogers, and the late Colin and Lily MacKinnon, Connel. Patrick is a former pupil of Park Primary School and Oban High School.



AMY MACLEOD

Graduated from the University of Stirling with a BSc Honours Degree in Management. Amy is the daughter of Brian and Lynne MacLeod, Tobermory. She is a former pupil of Tobermory Primary and High School. Congratulations from all the family.

'Miracle' takes place at Dalmally's Craig Lodge after prayer restores a deaf woman's hearing

Craig Lodge founder Calum MacFarlane-Barrow is hoping the 'striking' miracle which happened during a rosary prayer in its chapel will encourage more prayers from the heart.

On Sunday September 2, the 85-year-old will be leading a kilted prayer team to the top of Ben Nevis as part of a rosary relay to conquer Britain's highest peak raising funds for their house of prayer.

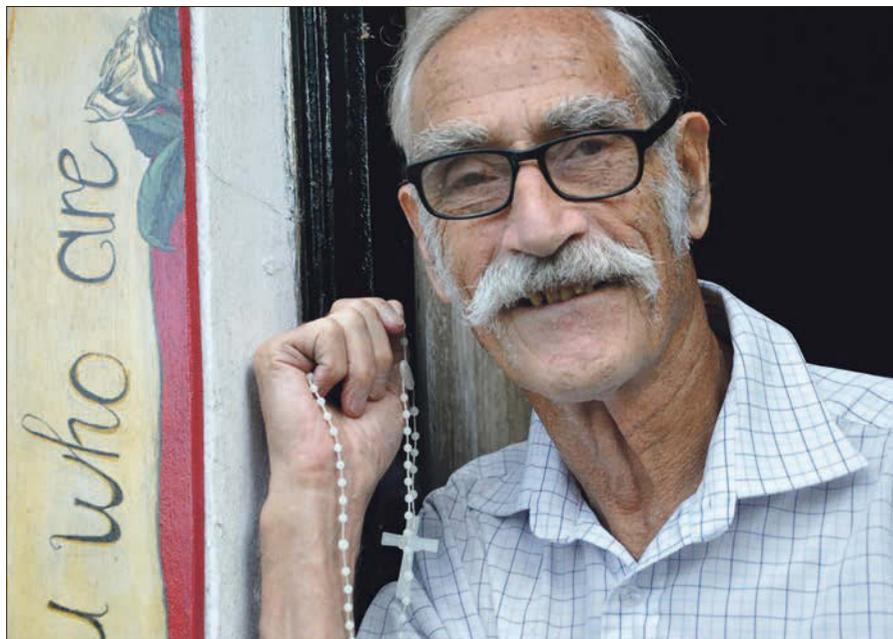
The group will pray the rosary in relays from base to summit, creating an unbroken prayer chain all the way to the summit – and former shepherd and stalker Calum is inviting people to send the team their prayers to take with them closer to heaven.

'Many miracles have been attributed to the recitation of the rosary. In fact, we had a striking miracle here at Craig Lodge while we were reciting the rosary in our chapel. A lady who had been almost totally deaf for a number of years

rose from her seat and left the chapel. We found her outside sitting on a garden bench quietly weeping. We went to console her but she said these were not tears of sadness but rather of untold joy. Her hearing had been fully restored and she could even hear the sounds of the insects beside the garden bench.'

He added: 'I'm sure many people wonder what this strange Catholic prayer all about. I, personally, am a great believer in prayer and know it brings that peace and joy which is beyond all human understanding. All prayer from the heart is good and the world would be such a better place if we would all seek this beautiful gift and come to be people who pray.'

The rosary prayer honours, not worships, Mary the mother of Jesus. 'We pray and meditate on important events in the life of Jesus and that she may draw us closer to her Son. We also ask Our Lady to intercede to Jesus



Calum MacFarlane-Barrow will be taking people's prayers Ben Nevis closer to heaven.

for our own needs and those of our neighbours.'

So far their Justgiving campaign at justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/craig-lodge/bennevisrosary has brought in almost £2,000.

Prayer intentions for the Ben Nevis climb can be sent to mail@craiglodge.org

The MacFarlane-Barrow family ran Craig Lodge as a hotel but, after a life-changing pilgrimage

to Medjugorje in 1990, were inspired to give their home over to the service of God and a community of young people, forming a programme of retreats around it.

THOUGHT for the week



Catherine Sheldrick.

Over the past few weeks, it has been a pleasure to join with other believers for the Summer Sundown Services at St John's Cathedral in George Street.

Aimed at connecting with the wider body of Christ, it has done just that, with attenders from almost every congregation in Oban, as well as the outlying villages and visitors from further afield – as far even as New Zealand.

What a blessing it is to know that wherever we are on our journey through life, both physically and spiritually, God is always present.

The psalmists tell us 'that the Lord inhabits the praises of His people' (Psalm 22:3) and 'to see how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to live together in unity' (Psalm 133:1); those of us at the Summer Sundown Services experienced for ourselves the truth of those words.

The invitation is to each one of us: 'Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!' (Psalm 34:8).

Divisional Envoy Catherine Sheldrick, Oban Salvation Army.

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OT

GOLF



Prizewinners at the Dalmally Mixed Open

Mixed Open at Dalmally



Ann Munro of Benderloch Stores, the Pink Shop

Sponsored by Ann and Campbell Munro of Munros of Benderloch (the 'Pink Shop'), the Dalmally Mixed Open on Sunday August 19 was blessed by good weather. The course was in great condition and the greens in eminently playable form; all thanks to the efforts of the greenkeeping team.

With the usual warm hospitality and excellent fayre – as ever, to expected high standards – Dalmally welcomed some 50 players from Taynuilt, Glencruitten, Isle of Seil, Erskine, Dunaverty, Lochgilphead, Comrie, Clydebank and Clober.

The home team made a good showing despite some of its winning members having celebrated, taken a glass and shed tears with Runrig, the night before at their farewell concert in Stirling.

The prizes were awarded by sponsor Ann Munro of the Pink Shop:

Scratch: 1 Ann McLaren and Graeme MacKechnie (both Dalmally); 2 Janet Buchanan (Dalmally) and Richard Bergant (Taynuilt); 3 James MacMillan (Dalmally) and Mary Phillips (Isle of Seil).

Handicap: 1 Andrew Diggory (Taynuilt) and Ann Munro (Dalmally); 2 Christine Cameron and Stewart Cameron (both Glencruitten); 3 Maud Marshall and Tony Graham (both Dalmally).

Best Inward nine: Ann Munro (Dalmally) and Andrew Diggory (Taynuilt); Catriona O'Keeffe and Martin O'Keeffe (both Dalmally). Best Outward nine: Ann Colthart and Steve Rumsby (both Dalmally)

Nearest the Pin: Fiona McLeod and Roddy MacDonald (both Lochgilphead).

Magic Twos: Wilma Frew and Callum MacFarlane Barrow (both Dalmally); Fiona McLeod and Roddy MacDonald (both Lochgilphead); Ann Munro (Dalmally) and Andrew Diggory (Taynuilt)

Prize draw winner was Duncan Aitken of Machrihanish, to whom goes a bottle of Oban Malt and tasting glasses with the compliments of Oban Distillers.

Disappointment for Bob

After his recent superb second place finish in Finland Oban's Robert MacIntyre failed to make the cut in the Calgrom Resort and Spa Northern Ireland Open in Ballymena last week.

The Glencruitten golfer carded rounds of 76 and 68 to finish two over par.

The competition was won by another Scot, Calum Hill, who finished 19 under par with fellow countryman Scott Henry one shot behind.

Robert will be hoping to get back to winning ways as the Challenge Tour moves to Geneva in Switzerland for the Rolex Trophy starting on August 22.

Results from Glencruitten

James Scott Snr won the Cameron Trophy at Glencruitten at the weekend with scores of 67, 64 = 131. Alan Jamieson was runner-up with a score of 66, 67 = 133. This Saturday a Par 3 Open takes place.

Dunoon dumped by 8-goal Saints

Oban Saints	8
Dunoon	1
SAFL Premier Division	

Oban Saints got their 2018-19 Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division campaign off to a flying start with an emphatic 8-1 win over newly promoted Dunoon at Glencruitten last Saturday.

Only some excellent saves from Dunoon goalkeeper Stephen Boyd and an equal measure of wayward finishing prevented Saints from reaching double figures in the first ever top-flight meeting between the clubs.

However, in true football parlance, new management duo Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell will be 'over the moon' to take full points from their first competitive fixture.

Saints kicked off attacking the railway line end and were immediately on the attack

with Lewis Cameron shaving the outside of Stephen Boyd's right hand post inside the first minute.

The visitors gave an early warning of their threat on the counter attack when Kjeld MacIntyre pounced on a misplaced pass just inside the Saints half in the third minute. MacIntyre raced forward and attempted to lob Saints goalkeeper Graham Douglas, who had to scamper back to his goal-line to safely gather the ball just under his crossbar.

Saints shrugged off this brief scare and swept to the other end where Ruaridh Horne won a corner kick on the right. Lewis Cameron's delivery was headed out to the edge of the box by Craig Anderson but immediately returned by Willie Gemmell, who picked out James Ford nine yards from goal. Ford's drilled low right foot shot gave Stephen Boyd no time

to adjust his feet and the ball nestled in the net to give Saints an early lead.

Ruaridh Horne's endeavour on the right won another corner kick in the seventh minute from where Lewis Cameron found the head of Craig MacEwan. Saints top goal scorer for the past two seasons climbed well above Kjeld MacIntyre but was unable to direct his header on target.

Dunoon keeper Stephen Boyd made the first of a number of good saves in the 12th minute denying Lewis Cameron after the Saints striker had been played in by a slide rule Willie Gemmell pass.

Saints thought they had doubled their tally in the 25th minute when Stephen Boyd allowed a Fraser MacFarlane shot to squirm beneath him. Boyd got a hand to the ball stopping it on the goal-line before Craig MacEwan slid in

FOOTBALL

to knock the ball into the net. Referee Jimmy Litster controversially ruled MacEwan's challenge to be illegal and awarded a free-kick to the visitors.

Mr Litster was again the centre of attention five minutes later when Dunoon levelled the scores through Jamie Robertson. Saints were caught out on the counter-attack and, despite Steven MacLeod's desperate late challenge, Robertson was able to force an effort on target from 10 yards.

Graham Douglas was adamant that he had prevented the ball from crossing the line but Mr Litster awarded the goal much to the annoyance of the Saints number one. In awarding the goal Mr Litster may well have spared Steven MacLeod a red card for his challenge, however, this was of little consolation to Douglas who was denied a highly prized clean sheet.

Craig Anderson picked up the first yellow card of the afternoon for chopping down Lewis Cameron on the edge of the D straight from the restart. Having failed to test the keeper with three previous efforts Willie Gemmell finally found his range and bent his free-kick around the Dunoon wall only to see Stephen Boyd pull off an excellent finger tip save low to his left.

It was Boyd to the rescue again two minutes later denying Lewis Cameron with his legs from close range.

Fraser MacFarlane had a goal bound effort deflected behind for a corner kick before Dene Cassells and



Harry Hall has a wee tug at Dougal Graham's jersey.



Dunoon coach David Mitchell can't believe his eyes as his team lose another goal.



Lewis Cameron, No 10, fires home goal number seven from a tight angle.



James Ford opens the scoring early on in the Argyll derby with Dunoon.

Match report and photos: Derek Black

Dougal Graham both sent shots narrowly wide of target.

Jamie Robertson joined Craig Anderson in the booked for hauling down Scott Maitland 22 yards from goal. Willie Gemmell's quickly taken free-kick played in Lewis Cameron but once again Cameron was unable to get the better of Stephen Boyd.

Mr Litster's half-time whistle arrived with the scores somehow still level at one goal a-piece but with the prospect of another busy 45 minutes ahead for the embattled Dunoon defence.

Management team Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell withdrew Dougal Graham at half-time and dropped Scott Maitland back to left-back replacing him in midfield with substitute Matthew Kelly.

Stephen Boyd continued to keep the Saints attack at bay shovelling a James Ford shot behind 60 seconds after the restart. The Dunoon defence could only partly clear the resulting corner kick from the right with James Ford returning the ball to the danger area from the corner of the 18-yard box. Craig MacEwan's misfortune in front of goal continued when he allowed Ford's ball to slip under his left boot with the goal at his mercy.

Saints made their second change in the 58th minute bringing on Matt Rippon to replace Fraser MacFarlane.

The Saints pressure eventually told in the 59th minute from a Lewis Cameron corner kick on the right. Cameron and Ruaridh Horne worked a short corner to the edge of the 18-yard box for Matthew Kelly. Kelly's cross come shot into the 'corridor of uncertainty', coupled with lurking presence of Craig MacEwan, deceived Stephen Boyd with the ball bouncing past him and into the net.

Having taken 55 minutes to find a way past Stephen Boyd for a second time it took only five minutes more for Saints to conjure a third goal. Lewis Cameron robbed Dunoon defender Andrew Lochrie midway inside the Dunoon half and slipped the ball through for Matt Rippon

who steered the ball into the bottom corner past the advancing goalkeeper.

A Dene Cassells foul on Conor McClymont in the 68th minute gave Dunoon the chance to put the ball into the Saints box. The Saints rearguard was unable to clear the danger from Kjeld MacIntyre's delivery and was indebted to Graham Douglas for an excellent finger tip save to deny McClymont from close range.

Co-manager Willie Gemmell repaired to the sidelines to join Donald Campbell for the closing 20 minutes. Gemmell's place in the midfield was taken by Kerr Newbigging.

Craig MacEwan finally found his shooting boots in the 77th minute with a good turn and left foot shot which beat Stephen Boyd low down to his right. Opting to quit while he was ahead MacEwan trotted off to be replaced by Daniel Croarkin.

Croarkin had only been on the field of play for 60 seconds when he had a shot blocked by Jamie Robertson. The ball broke kindly for James Ford who slammed an unstoppable effort into the bottom corner for Saints' fifth goal.

With 10 minutes remaining on the clock Ruaridh Horne made way for Jamie Graham in Saints' final change of the afternoon.

A quickly taken free-kick on the left in the 84th minute sent Lewis Cameron jinking into the box where he was tripped by Dunoon skipper Stuart MacIntyre. Referee Litster had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot from where Cameron sent Stephen Boyd in the wrong direction adding a sixth goal for Saints.

Two minutes later Cameron doubled his tally from his own corner kick on the right. Kerr

Newbigging's off-target volley from the back post across the face of goal was controlled by Cameron who beat second half substitute Cairn Limbert on the corner of the six-yard box and slammed the ball into the opposite corner of the net.

One of the three minutes added by Mr Litster had elapsed when Daniel Croarkin robbed Jordan McIlkenny midway inside the Dunoon half and fed midfield

colleague Matty Kelly. Kelly's driving run into the box left Stuart MacIntyre and Craig Anderson trailing in his wake as he rounded Stephen Boyd and rolled the ball into the unguarded net to make the final score 8-1.

Next up for Saints is a trip to Cowan Park, Barrhead to face last season's Premier Division One Champions Barrhead Arky. The game will kick-off at 3pm with referee Pat O'Donnell in charge.



Craig MacEwan congratulates Matty Rippon on his goal while a distraught Dunoon goalkeeper Stephen Boyd sits on the ground.



Harry Hall and Jamie Robertson slide in on Scott Maitland.



Dene Cassells sends this diving header just wide of the post.

RUGBY



Magnus Bradbury

Oban rugby star is back in training

Oban pro rugby star Magnus Bradbury is back in training for the new rugby season, which begins later this month.

The Edinburgh back-row will also be hoping to resume his international career when Scotland compete in the autumn international series.

Magnus's mother, Dee Bradbury, the new president of Scottish Rugby, said: 'He is in training and looking forward to getting back into it. He is hoping to be involved in the autumn tests but time will tell on that front.'

Edinburgh's new season kicks off on Friday August 31 with a trip to Ospreys. The autumn internationals begin on Saturday November 10 against Fiji and continue on the following two Saturdays against South Africa and Argentina.

Magnus joined Edinburgh Rugby on an Academy contract in summer 2014 after impressing as part of the Scotland age-grade set-up.

He made his senior debut in the starting XV against Leinster at the RDS Arena in the Guinness PRO12 in October 2014, and scored his first try for the club in the European Challenge Cup defeat of Agen at BT Murrayfield.

After coming through the national age-grade and sevens systems, Magnus made his full Scotland debut in the 2016 November test victory over Argentina and BT Murrayfield. He committed to Edinburgh on a three-year deal ahead of the 2017/18 season and made his 50th appearance for the club in the Guinness PRO14 clash with Ulster.

Magnus's brother Fergus will be playing rugby for Stirling University this coming season, before he takes off in January to Hawaii to continue his studies for a semester.

BADMINTON

New badminton season

Oban Badminton Club's new season starts on Tuesday nights from September 11 8pm-10pm at Atlantis Leisure Centre.

Players of all abilities are welcome, from high school age and up. The aim is to make it fun and suitably challenging throughout the evening.

The club plays mostly mixed and level doubles games. Feather shuttles are used and there are at least three courts available each club night.

To satisfy those players with competitive cravings, the club hosts and enters teams into a number of tournaments throughout the year, including the fiercely competitive Argyll Cup tournament fought over by Oban, Dunoon, Mid-Argyll and Campbeltown.

The club is affiliated to Badminton Scotland so members can take advantage of coaching, tournament and ticket discounts. There's no joining fee so feel free to turn up on the night and try with no commitment. Each session is £6 (£4 students). Email obanshuttles@gmail.com or see www.facebook.com/groups/obanbadminton/ for more information

OT

YOUTH FOOTBALL



Oban Saints under-13s played their first competitive match in the Glasgow and District YFL last Sunday defeating Renton Craigandro 3-1 at Glencruitten. The team is coached by Alex Craik and Allan MacDonald.

Youth results and fixture

Oban Saints youth teams kicked off the new season in a new league last Sunday. The club's youth teams have joined the Glasgow and District YFL with League Cup games taking centre stage last weekend.

Results - Under 13s 3, Renton Craigandro 1. Scoring for Saints were Gabriel Tidser, Cody McCulloch and Aidan MacDonald. Kirkshaw Colts 5, Under 14s 0; Under 16s no game.

This Sunday's fixtures - Under 13s v Helensburgh; Under 14s v Glasgow BC; Dumbarton Riverside v Under 16s.

Good start to the season for the Green Machine

Oban Lorne	43
Strathaven	12
West Regional Shield	

Oban Lorne welcomed Strathaven RFC to Glencruitten on Saturday for the West Regional Shield Qualifier. This is the first of three meetings this season as Strathaven are also in Oban's league West Division 2.

The Green Machine started brightly and were quickly on the front foot but the old habits of previous seasons of attacking too close to the rucks were allowing Strathaven to contest well and turnover ball and they held on to it through a number of phases of their own without really trying the



No way through for this Strathaven player as he's tackled by Oban Lorne captain Iwan Roberts. Photo: Stephen Lawson

Oban defence.

The first score of the game came when new club captain Iwan Rhys Roberts latched on to a great pass and sprinted through a yawning gap to score under the posts. This was a relief all round as he had been doubtful right up to kick-off with a muscle strain. This was promptly converted by Finlay Carmichael.

Oban then became a penalty machine as no fewer than 15 penalties were given away around the ruck, which saw Oban marched back a further 20 metres for answering back to referee. This was crazy given the warning the team had been given from the official before the game. This was a warning that was ignored as the referee was soon to sin bin Liam Burns after only 60 seconds on the pitch for an alleged high tackle, another area that the referees are clamping down on this season.

Oban did well to withstand this spell of pressure and they were soon on the scoreboard again with Craig Wright dancing down the touchline from an opposition drop out 22. Wright then doubled his tally when straight from the kick-off a great kick off reception allowed Oban to shift the ball wide early for Wright to sprint clear from inside his own 22 to score at the other end.

Again poor discipline was to be Oban's downfall as a failure to clear away from the tackle area resulted in Strathaven being able to kick the ball into the corner and

score from a rolling maul off their lineout which had been poorly defended by Oban.

This brought an end to the scoring to an enjoyable first half with Oban leading 17-5.

Oban were quick to find their stride in the second half with new Oban High PE teacher Callum Murray flying in for another score after being released by some great work in the midfield. This was again well converted by Finlay Carmichael.

Strathaven were struggling to cope with the speed of play of the Oban backs and the back row who were all quite exceptional on the day. Flankers Matt Walker and Daniel Speirs were a thorn in their side all day winning a number of contests at the breakdown while newly appointed vice-captain Stephen Povey was a strong and able ball carrier all day long. Young Daniel Speirs was eventually selected as the man of the match for his display.

Craig Wright was soon to claim his hat trick of tries with another scything run down the flank.

Next up on the scoreboard was Radi Maksimov, the Bulgarian international hooker, who was revelling in the freedom given to him in the new system to hang out wide on the wing. This allowed him to use his pace to beat the cover defence after another fantastic piece of multiphase play.

Oban fell asleep for the next five mins or so and gifted Strathaven another soft try

RUGBY

from a quick tap penalty when the defence was caught flatfooted.

Callum Murray was the next to cross the line for Oban with another opportunistic try after a fantastic break from Calum McLachlan.

The big fella, playing his first game in his new role of prop, broke the Strathaven defence from his own 10-metre line and looked like he might go all the way but was dragged down just yards from the line, the offload was knocked backwards over the line by a Strathaven hand and the flying winger was on hand to pounce and score his second try of the day.

This brought the final score to Oban Lorne 43, Strathaven 12; a good victory to start the season. The Oban coaching team were delighted with the majority of the performance but realise that there are a number of areas which still need to be tightened up for the season ahead.

There are a number of players back in the mix this weekend and it is great to have options available across the park. With good numbers at training everyone knows that they are going to have to earn their slot in the starting lineup.

This weekend Oban host old foes Annan in the next round of the West shield before starting their league campaign the following week at home to Cumbernauld. Saturday's fixture with Annan is due to kick off at 3pm.

An Evening with Susie Wolff and Friends



A 25 year Celebration Gala raising funds for Atlantis Community Leisure

Friday 28th of September
2018
7pm for 7.30pm
Argyllshire Gathering
Halls
£65

Ticket includes:
3 course dinner
Welcome drink
Raffle
Exclusive access to
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Black Tie Event - Tickets at;

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Please visit Atlantis Leisure's website or Facebook for auction lots and full details..

Contact claire.hutchison@atlantisleisure.co.uk for further details.



The final stage is a mile-long kayak at Glencoe.

Entries still open for coast to coast 105-mile challenge

Entries are still open for the Coast to Coast 2018 adventure challenge which takes place through the Great Glen on Saturday September 8 and Sunday 9.

Two thousand athletes are set to run, bike and kayak 105 miles on a point to point, east to west journey along the Great Glen from Nairn Links to The Isles of Glencoe Hotel.

Coast to Coast is a fully supported and way-marked multisport adventure challenge, a wild endurance event in unforgiving terrain.

The route, which includes a total ascent of 10,840 feet, takes in stunning lochs,

brooding glens, enchanting forests, rugged mountains and the most fantastic views imaginable.

It also features many evocative landmarks and locations that are steeped in generations of history. These include The Great Glen, Fort William, Glen Coe and Loch Leven.

Since it was first staged in 2007, more than 10,000 intrepid adventurers have taken on this magnificent challenge. As many as 8,000 of those participants have travelled from outwith Scotland, from as far a field as New Zealand, the USA and Europe, to

experience the true beauty (and sometimes brutality) of the Highland terrain and its ever-changing weather.

The athletes, taking part as solos or in pairs, start with a seven mile run to Cawdor Castle, followed by a 48 mile road cycle along the edge of Loch Ness and a half mile run (that includes a 500-metre kayak on Loch Ness).

They then transition again into a 21-mile off road cycle and a 13.5-mile road cycle through the Great Glen to Fort William, where the bike is replaced by running shoes and they take on a 14-mile trail run to Loch Leven.

COAST TO COAST

The adventure challenge finishes with a one-mile flat water kayak at Glencoe.

The Coast to Coast is definitely not for the faint hearted and participants will need to be prepared physically and mentally with an element of self sufficiency in remote locations.

This epic journey can be taken over two days as a Challenger (an average time of 14 hours) or in just one day as an Expert (an average of 12 hours), a mammoth undertaking.

Oban Lorne Ladies back in action

Oban Lorne Ladies
Broughton
National League 1

Oban Lorne Ladies open the 2018/2019 season with a home game against Broughton RFC at Glencruitten on Sunday.

The Oban side are looking to build on a fantastic finish to last season where they were unbeaten in their National League 2 triumph and also lifted the National Bowl at BT Murrayfield with an impressive victory over Garioch RFC.

Pre-season has been going well for the team under the guidance of head coach Corrie Louw with a number of new players attending training.

The team also had success at the Moffat 10-a-side competition where they fended

WOMEN'S RUGBY

off Premiership opposition in the form of Annan and Stewartry to win the festival. This Sunday's fixture kicks off at 2pm at Glencruitten. All welcome.



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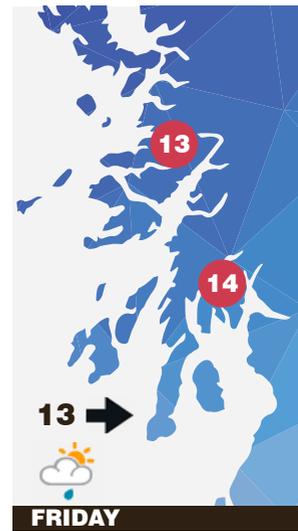


WEATHER

Thursday
Sunshine and showers
Moderate breeze from the west south west
Temperatures 10°C to 14°C.

Friday
Sunshine and showers
Moderate breeze from the west
Temperatures 9°C to 14°C.

Weekend Outlook
Sunny on Saturday
Cloudy on Sunday
Gentle breeze from the south
Temperatures 9°C to 15°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday August 23, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	04.06	3.1	10.24	1.4
Thur	16.13	3.4	22.39	1.5
Fri	04.34	3.3	11.01	1.2
	16.51	3.6	23.15	1.4
Sat	05.08	3.5	11.34	1.1
	17.27	3.8	23.48	1.2
Sun	05.43	3.7	12.06	1.0
	18.02	4.0	***	**
Mon	00.21	1.1	06.16	3.8
	12.37	0.9	18.35	4.5
Tues	00.54	1.0	06.47	3.8
	13.06	0.9	19.06	4.0
Wed	01.26	1.0	07.12	3.8
	13.32	0.9	19.34	3.9

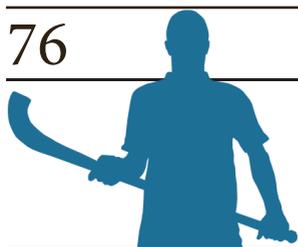
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

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

Kinlochshiel defeat Kyles to

Kinlochshiel won the Artemis Macaulay Cup, Newtonmore went further ahead at the top of the Marine Harvest Premiership and Kilmallie returned to the top of the Marine Harvest National Division following the shinty action on Saturday August 18.

Artemis Macaulay Cup – final Kyles Athletic 2 Kinlochshiel 3

A strong first half performance helped Kinlochshiel lift the Artemis Macaulay Cup for the second time in three years after they defeated holders Kyles Athletic 3-2 in their 2pm throw-up at Mossfield, Oban.

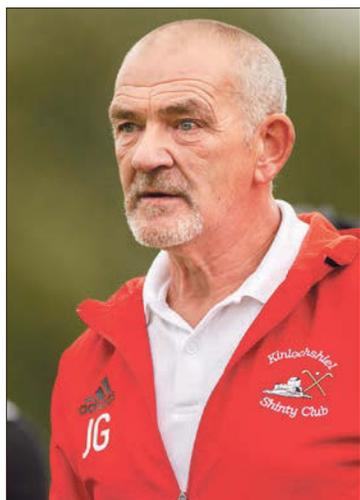
Kyles fought off Inveraray and Oban Celtic before edging out Oban Camanachd 2-1 to reach the final whilst Kinlochshiel took a tougher path, following up a 2-1 win over Newtonmore with single goal victories over Kingussie and Lovat.

It was a wet day in Oban but the pitch looked in good condition despite the rain making the surface slippery.

The timing of the final clashed with the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, so Oban Celtic player Michael MacKinnon piped the teams onto the field and he did the job well.

Ahead of throw-up, Macaulay Association president Davie Thomson, Graham Mitchell from sponsors Artemis and Argyll and Bute Depute Provost Roddy McCuish were introduced to the players.

Kyles Athletic manager James Perlich was dealt a blow during the week with news that wing centre Thomas Whyte had suffered ligament damage in the league win over Skye the previous week so he watched from the sidelines on crutches. Dunkie Kerr started in his place. Roddy MacDonald had recov-



Kinlochshiel manager Johnstone Gill. Photograph: Neil Paterson.



Kinlochshiel captain Paul Macrae, centre, with goalscorers John Macrae, left, and Duncan Matheson.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.

ered from a shoulder injury, suffered towards the end of June, and took up a place on the bench. Andrew King returned to defence, but Donald Irvine was missing.

Kinlochshiel boss Johnston Gill welcomed Oliver Macrae back into the starting line-up after he missed the previous week's league win over Lochaber. Duncan 'DA' Macrae came back into the fold and started on the bench. Keith Macrae was also named as a substitute.

Kinlochshiel started with the wind in their favour and made the most of the advantage.

Macaulay finals are building a reputation of being high-scoring affairs with an average of 6.5 goals over the last six finals and there were only a couple of minutes gone when Kyles keeper John Whyte made a great save with his left hand to keep out a powerful Jordan Fraser strike from the left before the keeper used his feet to keep out John Macrae's effort from the rebound.

Kinlochshiel continued to do most of the early attacking and got their reward on seven minutes. Kyles failed to deal with a long Donald Nixon shy from the left and Oliver Macrae nipped in to win possession and played the ball low to John Macrae around the penalty spot. Macrae out-muscled Calum Miller before stretching to lay the ball off to 16-year-old Duncan Matheson on the right.

With Cammy Keith drawn to try

and clear the ball, Matheson had time to let the ball run across his body before sending the ball low across the keeper and into the far corner of the net to give Kinlochshiel a 1-0 lead.

John Whyte was the calmest player on Mossfield when he palmed down a spectacular effort from Ali Nixon and swept the ball away, with Duncan Matheson looking to profit from any slip-up.

Both defences took command with the Tighnabruach back-line the busier and Neil MacVicar particularly effective in his first national senior final.

Kinlochshiel full forward John Macrae and Kyles full back Callum Miller were positioned at the edge of the 'D' for each goal-hit and when one such effort looked to deflect off Macrae's stick on 28 minutes, the ball broke to the Kinlochshiel right where Callum Miller raced out and tried to clear. His ball forward went to Duncan Matheson who knocked the ball inside to John Macrae who, with his back to goal, took a couple of steps forward to make space before turning and cracking the ball into the top corner of the net, beating a helpless keeper on his left side.

John Macrae got his second and Kinlochshiel's third three minutes later. Duncan Matheson gathered another loose clearance out of the Kyles defence and his ball forward flicked off Jordan Fraser's camanachd to the Kinlochshiel left where John

Macrae had run across goal with Callum Miller on his shoulder. However, as Macrae quickly turned inside, Miller lost his footing on the greasy surface and Macrae leathered the ball over keeper John Whyte's left shoulder and into the net to make it 3-0.

A good Mark MacDonald challenge halted Scott MacDonald but Kyles attacks were rare and Scott Kennedy in the Kinlochshiel goal was untroubled.

With only a couple of first half minutes remaining, Duncan Matheson and Jordan Fraser exchanged passes following a Kinlochshiel corner on the left and Fraser's shot cannoned off John Whyte's shoulder for a corner.

Kinlochshiel almost added a fourth when Duncan Matheson swung in the resultant corner. The ball dropped for Ali Nixon at the edge of the 'D' but he steered the dropping ball just the wrong side of the post.

Kyles stayed on the field during the interval and made a change with Roddy MacDonald taking over from Colin MacDonald in attack.

The Tighnabruach men now had the elements in their favour and they looked a different prospect from the restart with MacDonald's introduction giving them a noticeable boost.

Scott Kennedy made a comfortable save with his feet to keep out Grant Irvine's low shot and, soon after, an excellent Donald Nixon block

halted Dunkie Kerr from Robbie MacLeod's free-hit. Kinlochshiel responded and John Whyte saved well with his feet to keep out Jordan Fraser's shot.

Kyles engineered an opportunity when Roddy MacDonald won the ball on the left and played Scott MacDonald through on goal, but Scott Kennedy spread himself to save at the expense of a corner with Kyles claiming in vain for a penalty.

A second Kyles Athletic change on 57 minutes saw Ross MacRae replace Dunkie Kerr and the move paid dividends a minute later when Macrae pulled a goal back with his first touch. Roddy MacDonald's rampaging run forward saw him twice win challenges and when the ball broke to Ross Macrae, he sent a clean strike goalwards which went in off the keeper's thigh to make it 3-1 with 58 minutes played.

Kinlochshiel immediately made their first switch with Scott MacLean coming on for Jordan Fraser.

Kyles were now launching wave after wave of attack, only punctured by a John Macrae shot which went close following an Ali Nixon free-hit on 69 minutes.

Another Kinlochshiel change saw Duncan 'WD' Macrae replace Duncan Matheson in attack.

It was 'game on' as the final reached the 71 minute mark. The Kinlochshiel defence failed to clear a ball forward from Andrew King and Scott MacDonald gathered possession and shot goalwards. Scott Kennedy saved with his left foot but referee Graham Cameron pointed to the spot after consulting with goal judge Billy Wotherspoon. Roddy MacDonald thumped the penalty high into the net and although keeper Kennedy got his stick to the ball, he couldn't keep it out.

Sandy MacKenzie shot wide as Kyles went for a leveller.

The changes continued and Jordan Fraser came back on with Paul Macrae withdrawn.

Grant Irvine limped off with what looked like a recurrence of his achilles problem, so Innes MacDonald came off the bench.

Fraser MacVicar then took over from Ali Nixon.

Although Kyles continued to attack, they struggled to get at Scott Kennedy in the Kinlochshiel goal and were guilty of over-hitting the ball at times.

Paul MacRae returned at full forward for the closing stages, with Scott MacLean returning to the bench.

Jordan Fraser sent a shot wide in added on time and Scott MacDonald's effort was deflected for a corner at the other end.

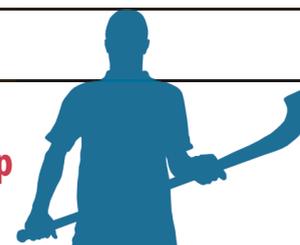
After three minutes' stoppage time, referee Graham Cameron blew for time and Kinlochshiel's

**Camanachd Cup
Macaulay Cup**

**MacTavish Cup
Celtic Society Cup**

**Sutherland Cup
Balliemore Cup**

**Strathdearn Cup
Bullough Cup**



win Macaulay Cup in Oban

delight was tangible. You couldn't wipe the smile from young Duncan Matheson's face, whilst John Macrae was on his knees after giving his all for the cause. Man of the match went to Kyles Athletic's Andrew King who put in a power of work defensively in the first half and urged his team forward from the buckshee back position in the second period.

Graham Mitchell from sponsors Artemis took to the podium, flanked by Davie Thompson and Davie Hamilton from the Macaulay Association, and they first presented Kyles Athletic captain Cammy Keith and his team-mates with their runners-up medals.

Next up, Kinlochshiel skipper Paul Macrae came forward and introduced his squad and management team before receiving the Artemis Macaulay Cup, first presented by former Oban Times editor Flora Macaulay in 1947, and presentation caman.

Marine Harvest Premiership

**Lovat 0
Newtonmore 0**

Newtonmore and Lovat shared the points, drawing 0-0 in their noon throw-up at Balgate.

Lovat's Danny Kelly was free of suspension but suffered a broken thumb in training so was sidelined. Callum Cruden played with a helmet after suffering a facial blow the previous week. Martin Mainland was free to play but will miss this weekend's league meeting

with Kingussie for a bookings accumulation. Newtonmore's Glen MacKintosh was available following his one-match ban and started in his usual full forward position as the visitors were along usual lines.

This was a game of few real chances with Thomas Fraser and Greg Matheson having first half opportunities.

Lovat, with wind advantage, had more of the first half pressure.

Newtonmore had the elements after the re-start and Craig Mainland and Daniel Grieve played well in the home defence, protecting keeper Stuart MacDonald.

The Lovat keeper had to display good reflexes though to turn away a deflected effort with what was the closest to a second half goal.

MacDonald also made routine saves from Evan Menzies and Jamie Robinson.

Michael Russell earned a booking for a challenge on Callum Cruden and Lorne MacKay had to leave the field for a time after appearing to twist his knee.

What will be concerning for Newtonmore boss Paul John MacKintosh is that defender Andy MacKintosh had to come off after hurting his knee when clearing the ball up the park.

The sides meet in next month's Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final and it may just be they are both keeping their powder dry until then.

**Kingussie P
Skye Camanachd P**

The 3pm throw-up between

Kingussie and Skye Camanachd at The Dell was postponed. The match will now be an early throw-up on Saturday September 15.

Marine Harvest National Division

**Fort William 0
Inveraray 2**

Fort William went into their meeting with Inveraray at An Aird on top of the Marine Harvest Premiership, ahead of second placed Kilmallie on goal difference.

But they conceded top spot to their local rivals after losing two late goals against Inveraray.

Fort William were still without Arran MacPhee and Ally MacRae was out with a hand injury. Graham Campbell was free to play but he is about to start a two-match suspension after his booking against Oban Celtic a week earlier took him through the disciplinary points threshold.

Inveraray travelled north without regular trio John Kennedy, Ally Munro and Douglas Dando.

Despite the players' best efforts, the first 85 minutes of the game was goal-less.

Inveraray broke the deadlock five minutes from time. There was a battle for possession just outside the box and the ball broke to young Ruairaidh Graham who slipped it past the keeper to make it 1-0.

The visitors clinched the win a minute from time. Fraser Watt played a free-hit from near the corner flag to the back post where Garry MacPherson sent a half-volley into the bottom corner of the net.

**Inverness 0
Kilmallie 7**

Kilmallie took advantage of Fort William's defeat and they return to the top of the Marine Harvest Premiership after beating bottom side Inverness 7-0 at The Bught Park.

Kilmallie's Michael Rodger started a three-match suspension for an accumulation of disciplinary points but their forwards made up for his absence. Craig MacIsaac gave Kilmallie an early cushion with goals on 10 and 22 minutes. Calum MacDougall made it 3-0 at the break, scoring on 31 minutes.

Liam MacDonald added a fourth on 56 minutes, with Calum MacDougall getting his second on the hour. Brian MacKay chipped in with a double on 64 and 86 minutes to make the final score 7-0.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

**Newtonmore 4
Aberdeen University 0**

The Newtonmore seconds beat Aberdeen University 4-0 at The

Eilan on the day they were again presented with the Marine Harvest North Division 1 trophy.

With Aberdeen travelling short of players, Newtonmore agreed to play the match nine-a-side which made for a lot of running for the players during the 90 minutes.

Craig MacLeod took advantage before anyone could settle into the new formations, scoring after three minutes.

Calum Stewart made it 2-0 on 32 minutes when he cut inside from out wide, putting the ball through a defender's legs then running into the box before hitting a shot high into the net.

It stayed that way until 81 minutes when Calum Stewart got his second. This time Calum won the ball about 25 yards out and hit a hard shot into the centre of the goal.

Calum Stewart completed his hat-trick a minute from time when he flicked the ball past his marker

in his own half and ran all the way to the edge of the box where he hit a low hard shot, again into the middle of the goal.

After the final whistle, Marine Harvest's Steve Bracken presented the Marine Harvest North Division trophy to Newtonmore captain Stuart Mitchell.

**Kingussie 9
Glengarry 6**

The Kingussie seconds and Glengarry shared 15 goals in a noon throw-up at The Dell.

Kingussie's Dylan Borthwick was the game's top scorer with six goals.

Russell Menzies scored twice and Cluanie Fraser got the other.

Nick Dalgety's hat-trick, John MacKinnon's brace and a strike from Archie Johnstone counted for Glengarry who remain second in the table. The win means Kingussie leap-frog Fort William into third

Continued on page 78

Fixtures

**Wednesday August 22
North Division Two**
Beaully v Caberfeidh - 6.30pm

**Thursday August 23
National Division**
Beaully v Inverness - 6.30pm

**Saturday, August 25
Aberdeen Considine
Sutherland Cup final**
Newtonmore v Kingussie - 3pm

Premiership
Lovat v Kingussie - Noon
Newtonmore v Caberfeidh - noon
Kinlochshiel v Kyles Athletic
Lochaber v Oban Caman - 3pm

National Division
Inveraray v Strathglass
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Oban Celtic
Kilmallie v Fort William - 3pm

North Division One
Fort William v Glengarry
Skye v Aberdeen University

South Division One
Kyles Athletic v Bute
Lochside Rovers v Kilmory
Ballachulish v Inveraray
Taynuilt v Tayforth
Col Glen v Aberdour

North Division Two
Kilmallie v Strathglass - noon
Lochaber v Inverness - noon
Lewis v Boleskine
Lovat v Lochcarron - 3pm

South Division Two
Oban Celtic v Bute
Strachur v Glasgow Mid Argyll

Throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated.

Results

**Wednesday August 15
Marine Harvest
North Division 2**
Caberfeidh 10 v 0 Inverness

**Saturday August 18
Artemis Macaulay Cup Final**
Kyles Athletic 2 v 3 Kinlochshiel

Marine Harvest Premiership
Lovat 0 v 0 Newtonmore
Kingussie P v P Skye
Rescheduled for September 15

**Marine Harvest
National Division**
Fort William 0 v 2 Inveraray
Inverness 0 v 7 Kilmallie

**Marine Harvest
North Division 1**
Kingussie 9 v 6 Glengarry
Newtonmore 4 v 0 Aberdeen Uni

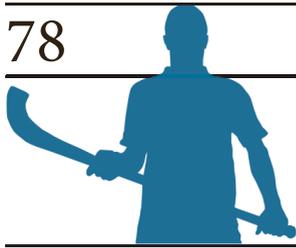
**Marine Harvest
South Division 1**
Ballachulish 4 v 3 Aberdour
Bute 5 v 0 Col Glen
Tayforth P v P Inveraray
Rescheduled for October 6

**Marine Harvest
North Division 2**
Caberfeidh 0 v 5 Lovat
Lochaber P v P Boleskine
Rescheduled for September 8
Kilmallie P v P Lochcarron
Rescheduled for October 13
Inverness 1 v 5 Strathglass
Strathspye 2 v 0 Beaully

**Marine Harvest
South Division 2**
Oban Celtic P v P Bute
Rescheduled for August 25



Kinlochshiel's Finlay Macrae and Kyles Athletic's Colin MacDonald battle for the ball. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.



SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Continued from page 77

place in the table and although they hold a single point advantage, Kingussie have played a game more.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

**Bute 5
Col Glen 0**

Bute cut Kyles Athletic's lead at the top of Marine Harvest South Division 1 to a point when they defeated Col Glen 5-0 at The Meadows.

Bute's Chris Lawrence was free of a two-game ban, whilst Col Glen's John MacPhail completed a two-match suspension.

Bute did the damage in the first half. Iain McDonald gave them the lead on six minutes and James Craig added a second on 32 minutes.

Bute killed the contest with two goals late in the first half. Robert Walker made it 3-2 on 42 minutes and Iain McDonald got his second a minute before the interval.

A second from Robert Walker on the hour mark was the only goal of the second half.

With five games each still to go, the Kyles Athletic second team hold a one point advantage over Bute at the top of the table and the sides are scheduled to meet at Tighnabruich this Saturday.

Last year's league winners Lochside Rovers are just three points off the top with the same number of games played.

Ballachulish 4 Aberdour 3

Ballachulish resisted a second half Aberdour fight-back to win 4-3 at The Jubilee Park.

Ballachulish went into the game having taken three from the last four points and they were at full strength with 20 players to choose from.

Aberdour travelled without manager Lisa MacColl, Angus Thorburn, John Martin Philips, Ruairidh Reid,

Sam Evans and Panda Fraser.

Alan Clark gave the hosts the lead on 20 minutes and Scott Henderson added a second five minutes later.

Duncan MacDonald on 40 minutes and a second from Scot Henderson a couple of minutes later gave the home side a 4-0 interval advantage.

It was a different Aberdour who started the second half and David MacKenzie on 46 minutes and Mark McKean a minute later made it 4-2.

Aberdour's Alec Mitchell made it 4-3 with 20 minutes remaining but Ballachulish stayed in front to take the points. In the end, Ballachulish built up enough of an advantage during the first 45 minutes and Aberdour left themselves too much to do in the second half.

Tayforth P Inveraray P

Tayforth and the Inveraray second team were scheduled to meet for the second successive Saturday in a noon throw-up at Levenhall Links.

The match has been rescheduled for Saturday October 6.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

**Caberfeidh 10
Inverness 0**

The Caberfeidh second team made the most of one of their games in hand, beating the Inverness second team 10-0 in a re-arranged match at Castle Leod on Wednesday August 15.

Caberfeidh took control from the start in this 7pm throw-up.

Alan Ross, from around the penalty spot on two minutes, and Ruairidh MacLeman, finishing off a good move on seven minutes, gave the hosts an early cushion.

Ruairidh MacLeman went on to complete his hat-trick with goals on 25 and 39 minutes and Caberfeidh, who introduced Logan Beaton for his debut late in the first half, led



Kinlochshiel's John Macrae and Calum Miller of Kyles tussle for the ball during the Macaulay Cup final at Mossfield. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

4-0 at the break. Alan Ross added a fifth four minutes into the second half and Caberfeidh racked up an 8-0 lead with three goals in four minutes.

Paul Ross added his name to the scoresheet on 62 minutes with 14-year-old Finlay Coleman on 64 minutes, and Jamie Matheson a couple of minutes later, putting them further ahead.

Kyle MacLeod blasted home to make it 9-0 on 73 minutes and Finlay Coleman got his second four minutes from time to round off the 10-0 victory.

Caberfeidh 0 Lovat 5

The Caberfeidh colts and the Lovat colts met in a top of the table clash at Castle Leod.

Although third-placed Caberfeidh trailed Lovat by six points going into the game, they had two games in hand so this was a significant match in terms of the title race.

Lovat's Duncan Urquhart opened the scoring on 10 minutes and Ryan Ferguson made it 2-0 five minutes before the break.

Lovat moved out of sight during the final 20 minutes of the match. Duncan Urquhart got his second on 70 minutes and Raymond Rennie made it 4-0 five minutes later.

There was still time for Duncan Urquhart to complete his hat-trick as he netted with just a couple of minutes remaining.

Lovat have three games to go – at home to Lochcarron and Caberfeidh and away to Lochaber – and they currently lead Lochcarron by seven points and Caberfeidh by eight points although they have played two more games than their rivals. However, a win against Lochcarron at Balgate this Saturday will all but secure the title.

Inverness 1 Strathglass 5

The league's bottom two sides met at the Bught Park where the Strathglass second team beat the Inverness second team 5-1.

Colin Birnie gave the Strathglass the lead on nine minutes and Ruairidh Strachan got another on 19 minutes to make it 2-0 at the break. Colin Birnie got his second on 57 minutes to make it 3-0 and although Jack Craig pulled a goal back 15 minutes from time, strikes from Colin Birnie on 85 minutes, to complete his hat-trick, and Ally Rothe, with a couple of minutes remaining, earned Strathglass a 5-1 win.

Strathspey Camanachd 2 Beauly 0

Strathspey Camanachd beat the Beauly second team 2-0 in their 1.30pm throw-up at Grantown Grammar School.

Beauly's Peter Dickson was free of suspension. Blustery conditions made it difficult for both teams and Strathspey won the game with two goals in two minutes.

Arran MacBain gave them the lead on 13 minutes and Connor Aubrey added a second 60 seconds later.

Strathspey, with Scott Macintyre a stand-out, stay fifth and Beauly remain eighth in the division.

Kilmallie P Lochcarron P

The meeting between the Kilmallie second team and Lochcarron at The Canal Parks has been rescheduled for Saturday October 13.

Lochaber P Boleskine P

The Lochaber reserves fixture against Boleskine at Spean Bridge will now take place on Saturday September 8.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

**Oban Celtic P
Bute P**

The clash between the Oban Celtic second team and the Bute second team at Ganavan was postponed.

The game has been rescheduled for Saturday August 25.

WCA round-up

Some regional Women's Camanachd Association fixtures were played on Sunday August 19.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

**Glenurquhart 4
Lovat 2**

Glenurquhart defeated Lovat 4-2 in their 6.30pm throw-up at Blairbeg on Tuesday August 14. Hazel Hunter grabbed a hat-trick and Abi Stoddart got the other for Glenurquhart, cancelling out efforts from Paige MacDonald and Fiona Urquhart.

Strathglass 3 Glengarry 4

Glengarry edged out Strathglass 4-3 at Cannich. Cassie Dorriain scored twice for the hosts with Laura Fraser also netting but Shaina Archibald's brace and strikes from Margaret Jane Malcolm and Leona Falconer gave Glengarry the points.

Inverness 0 Kinlochshiel 3

Kinlochshiel, boosted by their men's senior side's Macaulay success the previous day, won 3-0 against Inverness at the Bught Park outside pitch. All the goals came in the first half, with Eilidh MacInnes scoring twice and Alaina MacLennan also on target.

Skye Camanachd P Lochaber P

The Skye Camanachd second team's fixture against the Lochaber second team has been rescheduled for Saturday October 13.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

**Cowal & Bute 9
Tayforth 0**

Cowal & Bute were too strong for Tayforth, winning 9-0 at Strachurmore. Nuela Neary and Fay Robertson both scored four times with Kym Pollock completing the scoring.

Dunadd W/O v Glasgow Mid Argyll

Dunadd were awarded the points when the Glasgow Mid Argyll second team were unable to raise a team for their league fixture.



Kilmallie's Liam MacDonald and Ewan Neilson from Inverness during last Saturday's National Division game. Photograph: Donald Cameron.

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New Camanachd Association vice president

Current director Steven Mackenzie has taken on the role of Camanachd Association vice president.

Steven Mackenzie has a long association with shinty, playing for Beauly up to the age of 23 before moving to Aberdeen University Shinty Club for the next 19 years. Highlights during this period included the centenary celebrations in 1992 at Beauly and winning the old North Division 2 in 1992/93.

For Aberdeen, Steven Mackenzie captained the team to Sutherland Cup success and led the organising

committee for its 150th celebrations, earning him the Marine Harvest Volunteer of the Year in 2011.

He has played an active role in the administrative side of shinty since the age of 21.

Camanachd Association president Keith Loades said: 'Steven has been an influential member of the board since joining in November 2016.

'He played an instrumental role in establishing the Shinty Business Club and adds a wealth of experience and knowledge both from a playing perspective as well as an administrative perspective.

'Steven has taken on the challenging role of competitions director and he has taken the lead for the international representative matches with the GAA.'

Cowal and Bute are S1 Macaulay champions

Prior to the Senior Macaulay final last Saturday, three area teams representing Oban/Balachulish, Mid Argyll and Cowal and Bute contested a round robin tournament on the rugby pitch in Oban.

This tournament showcases the best talent across the South area at S1 level in the hope that it will promote an increase in participation at this age group.

With three teams competing, each team played each other twice and the winner was decided by who topped the group at the end of the league games.

Mid Argyll were up first against the Oban area team. From the start Oban put pressure on the lesser experienced Mid Argyll side and at the end of the 15 minute game had managed to win by two goals to nil.

Mid Argyll then faced Cowal and Bute and the Cowal area team put five past the Mid Argyll.

It was clear that the next game would be close and it was won by a

goal to nil for the Oban area team.

The next round of games took place and the younger Mid Argyll side, although still losing both games, had shown a vast improvement getting used to the bigger pitch and playing 12-a-side shinty

The final game would be a decider between Cowal and Bute and Oban and Balachulish. As with the first game it was a good match with excellent skills and tactical awareness demonstrated.

Although Oban dominated, it was the Cowal team that scored first and then shortly after in another breakaway. This ensured that Cowal and Bute would retain the trophy for a second year.

The victorious squad were presented with their medals and trophy by Camanachd Association President, Keith Loades and thanks must also go to the MacAulay Association and Artemis who kindly sponsored the event this year.



Cowal and Bute won the Macaulay under-13 South of Scotland tournament held before Saturday's senior final. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £4900

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

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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 Shinty Ball competition.

Placing a cross exactly in the centre of the ball is necessary to win the jackpot.

However, should this not happen before Thursday September 6, when the prize pot reaches £5,000, 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 of £2,500 will carry on to the following week. So keep your eye on the jackpot in the coming weeks and good luck!

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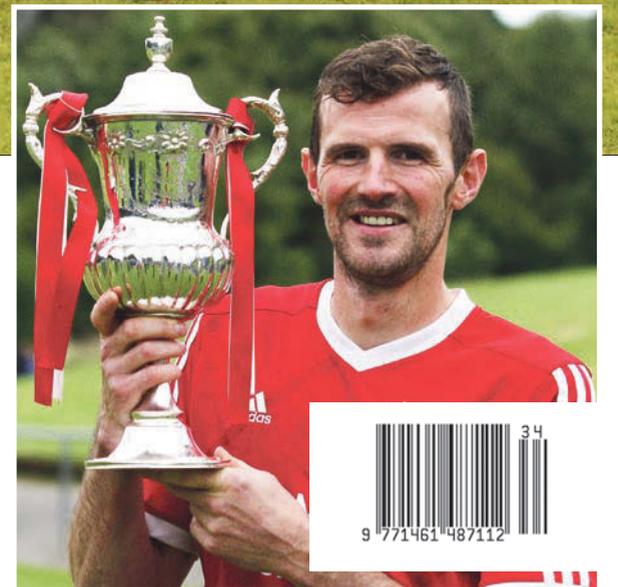


INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Dunoon dumped by 8-goal Saints
Oban rugby star is back in training



Kinlochshiel's John Macrae gets the champagne flowing after his team beat Kyles Athletic 3-2 in an enthralling Macaulay Cup final at Oban's Mossfield Stadium last Saturday. Inset: Kinlochshiel captain Paul Macrae with the trophy. More photographs and match report on the shinty pages. Photographs: Neil Paterson and Kevin McGlynn.

Kinlochshiel win Macaulay Cup

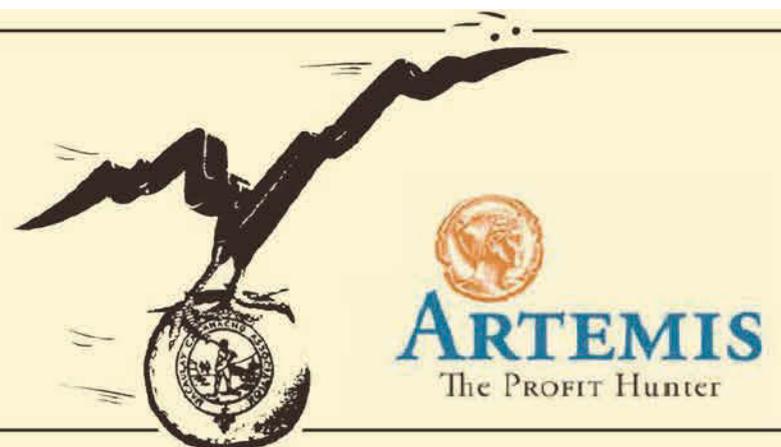


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Councillor slams changes to Kinloch bus timetable

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Some bus users in Kinlochleven have had no choice but to hand in their notice at work because of recent bus timetable cutbacks, according to Councillor Niall McLean.

The SNP councillor for Fort William and Ardnamurchan has criticised the recent changes by the Highland Council to the Kinlochleven to Fort William bus timetable, which he has labelled as 'unacceptable' and says will 'add to economic hardship in the area'.

The changes to the new bus timetable for the N44 service, operated by Shiel Buses under contract to Highland Council, means the last bus leaving from Fort William has been removed and the next last bus has been changed from 8.40pm to the earlier time of 8pm.

Speaking of the changes, Councillor McLean said: 'This change and the loss of the late service has drastically altered

the effectiveness of the service. The changes might seem slight but if you finish work at 8.30pm then they are very difficult to work with.

'The problem continues along the route through Onich, North Ballachulish, Glencoe and on to Kinlochleven, with stops at campsites along the way where many valued workers serving the tourist industry are affected.

'Residents in Kinlochleven are finding themselves at a disadvantage due to the poor bus service and this will only add to economic hardship in the area. Kinlochleven is one of the only places with available council housing stock. With these changes this stock is less likely to be used, thus carrying a heavier maintenance cost for the council.

'Through the relentless hard work of the people of Kinlochleven, the place is on the up. A reduced bus service when there is no alternative public transport is unacceptable.'

Continued on page three

Gathering draws in the crowds



This year's Glenfinnan Highland Gathering has been hailed a success with more than 1,000 spectators flocking through the gates for the 72nd annual event at the weekend.

Those attending were treated to the usual high quality Highland games events, as well as piping and dancing competitions. There was also the traditional clan gathering elements to the

proceedings, including an appearance by these three 'Jacobite' gentlemen.

For our three-page colour special feature and results, turn to pages eight to 10.

Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

Fort FC appeal for new members

Fort William Football Club is hosting a public meeting as part of an appeal for new volunteers and committee members to help at the club.

The meeting will take place on Sunday September 9 at 8pm at the clubhouse at Claggan Park and is open to members of the public.

The committee announced the meeting after two current directors said they will be stepping down from their positions at the club, with two months' notice.

Mikey MacKinnon, of the Highland League club's committee, said: 'A couple of the older committee members are stepping away so we are looking to get new members involved.'

'The meeting is open to everyone, from those who could help out serving teas and coffees at half-time to those who could be committee members. No-one should be scared to come forward and help out.'

Anyone interested in getting involved with the club should contact Mikey MacKinnon or message Fort William FC's Facebook page.

Lochaber Agricultural Show & Family Fun Day Out

121st Lochaber Agricultural Show & Family Fun Day will be held on Saturday 25th August 2018

CASTLE FARM, HAPPY VALLEY

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www.lochaberagriculturalshow.co.uk

LT

Sentence deferred on Fort man who assaulted his father

A Fort William man has admitted assaulting his own father in an attack that saw him put his arm round the older man's throat and compress it.

At an appearance at Fort William Sheriff Court last week, Alexander Michael MacGillivray, aged 21, pleaded guilty to charges that at his home in Lundnavra Road, Fort William, on June 29 this year, he assaulted his father, Alistair Neil MacGillivray, aged 60, by pushing him; placing him in a headlock, repeatedly punching him on the head and body, placing his arm round his throat and compressing his throat.

MacGillivray further pleaded guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner likely to cause a reasonable person fear and alarm in that he brandished a knife at police officers and threatened to stab them.



MacGillivray's pleas of not guilty to further charges of damaging property and assaulting a police officer and attempting to punch him at Fort William Police Station later that same day were accepted by the Crown.

Sentence was deferred until September 9 for compilation of a criminal justice social work report and MacGillivray's bail was continued.

Sectarian abuse man is sentenced

Fort William man was banned from pub

A Fort William man who caused a disturbance in a pub in the town during the television screening of a football match by shouting and swearing and yelling sectarian remarks, has been sentenced to supervision and unpaid work in the community.

Craig Robert Brian Cook, of Brown Court, had pleaded guilty at an earlier court date to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner likely to cause fear and alarm in a pub in Fort William on May 19 of this year and had sentence deferred for preparation of a criminal justice social work report.

Last week at Fort William Sheriff Court, pictured, Procurator Fiscal Depute



David Morton recounted to the court that the offence had occurred around 4pm while the establishment's television screen was showing a Celtic versus Motherwell football match.

On noticing the 27-year-old enter the pub, staff had approached him and told him to leave as Cook was banned

under the Pubwatch notification system. 'He reacted aggressively to being told this and became abusive,' said Mr Morton, recounting the type of sectarian remarks Cook had subsequently made.

Cook had continued this conduct and staff had then called the police.

Defence agent Hamish

Melrose said Cook accepted he had an alcohol problem.

'He was very much under the influence of drink at the time of this incident,' said Mr Melrose. 'And he acknowledges that his behaviour was completely out of order.'

Cook's plea of not guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner likely to cause fear and alarm by shouting and swearing at police officers after they arrived at the pub, and threatening them with violence, had previously been accepted by the Crown.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald ordered that Cook be the subject of a one-year supervision order and that he complete 64 hours of unpaid work in the community.



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Inverlochy pensioner banned for driving over drink limit

An Inverlochy pensioner who drove a car while more than three times over the legal alcohol limit, has been banned from driving for a year and fined £480.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard last week how Robert Stewart Mitchell, 71, of Lundy Road, Inverlochy, Fort William, had parked his car at the fuel pumps at the Morrisons petrol station at An Aird, Fort William, on June 9 this year.

Staff noted he appeared to be under the influence of alcohol and contacted the police.

'The accused was traced by police officers a short distance from the petrol station and tested positive on being breathalysed,' said Procurator Fiscal Depute David Morton. Mitchell's

breath alcohol reading was 75mcgs of alcohol in 100mls of breath. The legal limit is 22mcgs of alcohol.

Mitchell pleaded guilty to driving while over the limit at the filling station and elsewhere on the date in question and the court heard he had co-operated fully with the police.

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy told the court that his client was a widower and employed as an NHS Highland janitor.

'He had only travelled a very short distance from his home in Fort William to the petrol station,' said Mr Kennedy, who added Mitchell had consumed two bottles of beer with a meal earlier.

'Rather than leave his car on the forecourt of the filling

station, he had then driven it 200 yards into the car park next to Morrisons supermarket and left the car there,' said Mr Kennedy, adding that his client had decided to take the advice of the staff at the petrol station not to drive home.

'He was going to walk home from there but had already driven by that time and it was when he was walking home that he was apprehended by two police officers.'

Banning Mitchell for a year and imposing the £480 fine, Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald told him she would certify him as suitable for the drink-driver rehabilitation scheme, which if completed successfully, could earn him a discount of three months on the length of the driving ban.

Fined for overtaking on blind bend

A driver has been fined £350 for overtaking before a blind bend on the A85.

Charlotte Wright, 55, of The Lime Tree, Achintore Road, Fort William, pleaded guilty to careless driving near Achnacloch Bridge on

September 12, 2017, when her car overtook approaching a blind right-hand bend, causing an oncoming vehicle to take evasive action.

'It was a driver error,' solicitor advocate Shahid Latif told Oban Sheriff Court on

Tuesday. 'The court is dealing with someone with a clean licence. Her licence is essential for her employment.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes fined Wright £350, reduced from £500, and imposed six penalty points on her licence.

Judge finds Fort GP 'negligent' after death

The family of a man who died from a heart attack has been awarded damages from a doctor who failed to properly diagnose his health problems.

Relatives of William Brown sued Dr Alison Smith and her fellow GPs at the Craig Nevis Surgery in Fort William after Mr Brown passed away on January 6, 2011, at the age of 67.

The dead man's wife, Euphemia - who is now aged 70 and lives in Caol - his children and his brother and sister instructed lawyers to go to the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

They claimed that Dr Smith failed to diagnose that Mr Brown was suffering from unstable angina when he attended at her practice on December 31, 2010.

The family also claimed that Dr Smith had failed to refer Mr Brown to hospital on December 31, 2010, and failed to prescribe drugs which would have helped his condition.

Mr Brown's relatives also claimed that it was cold on the day Mr Brown suffered his heart attack and that this weather could have triggered the cardiac arrest.

In a written judgement, which was issued on Wednesday, judge Lord Armstrong ruled in favour of the family.

Lord Armstrong concluded that Dr Smith failed to act properly in her dealings with Mr Brown.

He wrote: 'I find that Dr Smith was professionally negligent and breached the duties of care which she owed to the deceased, in that on Friday December 31, 2010, she i) failed to diagnose unstable angina, ii) failed to refer him immediately to hospital, iii) failed to provide appropriate worsening advice, and iv) failed to prescribe the medication appropriate for a diagnosis of stable angina.

'I am satisfied, given my findings in relation to the agreed issues, that it is proved that these failures were materially causative of death, in that their consequences were that the deceased was denied the appropriate treatment which, on the balance of probabilities, would have reduced his level of cardiac ischaemia to the extent that ventricular arrhythmia would have been prevented.

'I find in addition, that in any event, if the fatal cardiac event on Thursday January 6, 2011, was caused by exposure to the cold, as a pro vocational trigger, her failures were responsible for him being denied the protection from such exposure which admission to hospital would have provided. For these reasons, I find in favour of the pursuers.'

The exact sum awarded to the family has not been disclosed.

However, the judgement tells of how Mr Brown had previously enjoyed good health and had enjoyed playing golf and cycling.

On December 29, 2010, Mr Brown, who hadn't previously suffered from chest pain, became unwell after walking up and down stairs.

He visited Dr Smith that day and she arranged for him to have an ECG test after checking his blood pressure and pulse.

The judgement tells of how the following day, Mr Brown once again suffered pain after going out for a walk. He only got as far as his garden gate.

On December 31, 2010, Mr Brown once again suffered chest pain and his wife arranged an emergency appointment with Dr Smith.

Mr Brown then attended Dr Smith again on January 5, 2011, and once again complained of chest pain. But Dr Smith failed to refer Mr Brown to hospital.

Lord Armstrong wrote that he considered evidence from medical experts and had concluded that Dr Smith had failed to follow medical guidelines: 'If, on Friday December 31, 2010, Dr Smith had prescribed beta blockers or an appropriate alternative, the deceased would have had the benefit of their anti ischaemic effect.

'On the basis that their maximum effect would have been in place within about three days, the likelihood of a fatal cardiac event, the principal cause of which was ischaemia, would have been significantly reduced.'

Councillor slams 'unacceptable' Kinlochleven timetable changes

Continued from page one

Mr McLean has, in particular, lambasted the 'abysmal' level of consultation by the council. He said that some bus users he spoke to found out with five days' notice through a post on the bus operator's social media platform.

'This is not consultation,' Mr McLean said. 'The inadequate bus service isn't an effective means of cost saving for the council and will actually end up costing more in the long run, and residents are already feeling the negative impact of the changes.

'I believe this change cannot be allowed to happen, it's putting people out of employment without adequate consultation. I'll be doing all I can to apply pressure to get these timings changed for our community.'

When asked about Mr McLean's concerns, Highland Council said it had received a number of complaints about the timetable but changes to the late services could not be made immediately.

A council spokesman said: 'The council intends that public transport should sustain

communities, and it is of concern if people are losing jobs through timetable changes. We have a restricted budget but have worked closely with Shiel Buses to provide as full a service as possible within the financial constraints.

'Having received concerns from ward councillors we have raised this matter with Shiel Buses which is prepared to revert to the previous departure time from Fort William of 8.35pm. This will require the change to be registered with the Traffic Commissioner so cannot be made immediately.'

Intoxicated Caol man had to be woken by police

A Caol man, who was so intoxicated after consuming alcohol and taking drugs that police officers had to wake him up to speak to him, appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

Jordan Blackmore, 22, of Glenpane Street, Caol, had already pleaded guilty to the two offences, which took place at a bar in Fort William, on March 24 this year.

Blackmore admitted to being in possession of both cocaine and cannabis, although his defence agent Stephen Kennedy pointed out these were in very small quantities.

Procurator Fiscal Depute

David Morton told Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald that on the day in question, police officers had been carrying out licensed premises checks.

'They had information about possible drug use and spoke to him [Blackmore], at which point they could smell cannabis from him,' said Mr Morton.

Blackmore was found to be in possession of two small bags, which once tested were found to contain 0.2g of cocaine and about 1g of cannabis, with a street value of between £20 and £30.

Mr Kennedy told the court: 'As well as the drugs, he had

consumed a very large quantity of alcohol to the extent that, when police arrived, they had to wake him up.

'The quantities of drugs involved were very small.'

Mr Kennedy added that his client was the subject of restrictions under the Pubwatch scheme and it was this which had resulted in his arrest by police.

Fining Blackmore a total of £460 for the two offences, Sheriff MacDonald told him he had two very recent analogous convictions.

'Despite the very small quantities of drugs involved, it is clearly indicative of a larger problem.'

Ballachulish man is admonished

Ballachulish resident Angus Allan MacInnes, of Albert Road, was admonished at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

MacInnes, 54, had previously had sentence deferred to be

of good behaviour after admitting that on January 13 of this year in Garbhein Crescent, Kinlochleven, he had assaulted a woman by striking her on the head with his hand; seizing her by the body and pulling her

along the floor and pushing her on the body.

On hearing that MacInnes had indeed been of good behaviour for six months, Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald ordered him to be admonished.



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Eddie 'the Eagle' headlines Lochaber Ideas Week 2018

Alastair Campbell to deliver prestigious Charles Kennedy Lecture.

The 2018 programme for Lochaber Ideas Week has been released with a few famous names on the line-up as well as the first ever junior Dragon's Glen competition.

Some fascinating people with incredible stories will take to the stage this year for the Lochaber Chamber of Commerce's flagship week of business and community-focused events, most notably former Winter Olympian Michael Edwards (Eddie 'The Eagle') and author, broadcaster and former political aide, Alastair Campbell.

The programme - presented in partnership with Developing the Young Workforce West Highland, runs from Monday November 12 to Friday November 16 in various venues in Fort



William - also includes performance coach Don McNaughton, who applies sports psychology to business

performance; Dale Murray, a tech entrepreneur and angel investor, and round-the-world cyclist Josh Quigley.

Lochaber Ideas Week celebrates business, education and community in the region, and is a catalyst to stimulate fresh initiatives and ventures, creating new connections and points of collaboration designed to enhance Lochaber as a place in which to live, work, study and visit.

Now in its fifth year, it is a firm fixture in the local business and community calendar. Last year's event was the busiest yet, with more than 850 people from across the region and further afield attending.

Lesley Benfield, CEO of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, said: 'Lochaber Ideas Week is all about inspiration and creativity in business. It's a week to think about the big picture and make connections as well as to learn new business skills. It's open to the entire community and we're delighted that so many people come along and get involved. We're proud to be able to bring such

Eddie 'the Eagle' Edwards will give a motivational talk based on his experience of fighting to compete in the 1988 Winter Olympics as the UK's unlikely ski jumper.

a unique and inspiring range of events to Lochaber.'

On Monday November 12, Eddie 'the Eagle' Edwards will give a motivational talk based on his experience of fighting to compete in the 1988 Winter Olympics as the UK's unlikely ski jumper. He may not have won (he came last) but he became the stand-out star of the competition and remains a household name thanks to his incredible story of perseverance, courage and humour.

Alastair Campbell author and broadcaster, best known for his work as Tony Blair's spokesman and strategist, will deliver the prestigious Charles Kennedy Lecture, the annual lecture in memory of the former Liberal Democrat leader and long-serving Lochaber MP, on Friday November 15. He follows in the distinguished footsteps of Baron Jim Wallace, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Lord Thurso.

As a former Mind Champion of the Year, Alastair Campbell is an ambassador for the Time to Change campaign to raise awareness of mental illness. The 2018 Charles Kennedy Lecture will address the importance of male friendship in mental health and addiction.

Close friend of the late Charles Kennedy, Alastair Campbell, whose father was a Hebridean vet, is a

regular visitor to Argyll. His friendship with Charles Kennedy developed when the Campbell family holidayed in the area.

Alastair Campbell said: 'Charles was a great MP and a wonderful man. Both Fiona and I miss him hugely, and I am delighted to be able to give this lecture and help keep his memory alive.'

The popular, fast-paced and not-to-be-missed business connections event, Around Lochaber in 80 Tables, is back this year with the lively speed-networking set to take place on Tuesday November 13. Always a sell-out event, it guarantees new collaborative business ventures as well as direct business promotion.

On the evening of Wednesday November 14, six budding entrepreneurs will step into the Dragons' Glen with 10 minutes to pitch their business ideas to four top entrepreneurs ready to invest £10,000 in the worthy winner.

This year will also see the introduction of the first Junior Dragons' Glen to inspire entrepreneurship in primary school children. Pupils from p6 and p7 across Lochaber will be invited to submit their business ideas to win a share of the £2,000 prize donated by leading renewables company, HWEnergy.

Lochaber Ideas Week culminates with the Lochaber Ideas Week Gala Dinner at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, on the evening of Friday November 16.

To find out more about all the events taking place during Lochaber Ideas Week, go to lochaberchamber.co.uk or call 01397 705 765 to chat to a member of the team.



Alastair Campbell will deliver the prestigious Charles Kennedy Lecture.

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Cinema group to roll out rural screenings

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber Cinema Group (LCG) has announced its plans to bring the world of film to communities across the West Highlands using pop-up venues.

Following the news reported in last week's edition of the Lochaber Times that the former cinema building in Cameron Square, Fort William, is to be rebuilt by entrepreneur Angus MacDonald, the LCG board have taken the decision to concentrate on a new rural cinema project with immediate affect.

The group, which had previously led a campaign to open a new community cinema in the centre of Fort William, will now turn its attention to providing film screenings to communities in pop-up venues across Ross, Skye and Lochaber.

Chairwoman of LCG Marie MacPherson said: 'We plan to host a 12-month project on pop-up cinemas covering all ages. We plan to visit areas

that have transport issues and slow broadband speeds and show film there.

'We plan to purchase a DCP projector to enable us to show newer films, and new sound and screen to make our screenings better. We have done 60 public screenings to date and have learned all about film licensing and equipment ourselves.'

LCG's last attempt to reinstate a cinema in Fort William was unsuccessful as it was unable to secure the necessary funding to build a new complex.

'We have obviously failed in our intention to establish a full-time community cinema for the town,' Marie continued.

'Please remember we were the first group to successfully get planning permission for the Airds Crossing project but, as ever with grants, it only had a nine per cent success rate.'

The group will continue under the new name of Lochaber Community Cinema - pending approval from the Office of the Scottish Charity

Regulator - and its plan is to deliver film programmes to communities, schools and specialist events.

Disappointed not to have progressed further in their plans to bring a cinema back to Fort William, Marie and the rest of the committee are looking forward to bringing the silver screen to rural venues across the region.

Marie continued: 'The public continued support of LCG has been amazing and we hope everyone will continue to support us.'

'A project plan is currently being put together and we will announce locations shortly.'

LCG said it wishes Angus MacDonald and his new venture every success and hoped that the two projects could co-exist and supplement one another.

Due to LCG's charitable purposes and constitution, the group is unable to be directly involved in the new Cameron Square cinema as it can only operate as a community-based charitable business.

MSP Cameron to meet Lochaber health chiefs at new Belford site

MSP Cameron to meet Lochaber health chiefs

Highlands and Islands Regional MSP Donald Cameron is set to meet senior health chiefs in Lochaber this week as part of a visit to the site of the new Belford Hospital in Fort William.

The meeting, which will involve an update from clinicians, will take place tomorrow (Friday) and the MSP will be joined by senior health figures from NHS Scotland, including the national clinical director Professor



Jason Leitch. The MSP, who is from Achnacarry near Spean Bridge, will also be visiting a local GP practice as part of his on-going campaign to

improve treatment and prevention of Lyme Disease, as well as attending the Lochaber Agricultural Show at the weekend.

Mr Cameron commented: 'I am particularly excited to see what progress is being made on the new Belford, and also to hear how clinicians are getting on and what

health issues they are facing locally.

'It is important that this project has the support of all local politicians and I will continue to work with others to ensure that the people of Lochaber have a hospital fit for the future.'

'Similarly, I am keen to speak to as many people as possible at the Lochaber Show, so if you see me out and about, please do come and meet me.'

VISITUS
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Gary Innes auctions Runrig signed shinty shirt

Musician and broadcaster Gary Innes is auctioning off the shinty shirt he wore on stage with Runrig at their Last Dance gigs.

The shirt was the one he also wore at Scotland's last win at Croke Park in 2010 at the shinty/hurling international meet.

When the fireworks closed Saturday night's gig, Gary asked each of the band to sign the top.

Fans have until Sunday to put in their bids and all the money from the auction will go to Scotland youth shinty development.

Gary, who is also the founding member of Mánran, had the honour of joining Scottish icons Runrig as part of their Last Dance finale shows in Stirling last week to perform as part of their famous shinty song, Clash of the Ash.

He was also the front-cover image and poster boy for Runrig's penultimate album, Everything You See, in 2007 and has joined



the band many times since for Clash of the Ash.

'Performing with the lads as part of the Last Dance on Friday and Saturday night was a complete honour and two of the most special gigs I have ever been part of.'

'It's thanks to my shinty career that I was chosen to be a small part of Runrig's journey, so I wanted to give something back to the sport and I thought auctioning off my number nine shirt from our win at Croke Park in 2010 and asking the band to sign it might be a good way of doing that.'

To get bid details, go to Facebook and search for Gary Innes.

Blar Mhor house plan submitted

Plans to build up to 250 houses on Blar Mhor as part of a major development which includes a new Belford Hospital and a science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) centre have been submitted for planning permission this week.

Councillors previously accepted the pre-planning proposals at a committee meeting earlier this year.

Phase one of the development, which could see houses built on Blar Mhor by April next year, is likely to comprise 115 houses between the police station and Fort William Health Centre.

The houses, expected to be a mix of social, mid-market and shared equity rented properties, will be built by Highland Council, Lochaber Housing Association and Highland Housing Alliance.

Phase two is expected to add more houses to the development, taking the total number to 250.

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LT

From Hertfordshire to the Highlands with love

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Hundreds of miles from the mighty Ben Nevis, a stirring family festival raised more than £1,200 for Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team, linking the Highlands to the heart of the event.

Organised by the family of the late Ian Bell, who lost his life on Ben Nevis in August 2015, the second annual 'IanFest' fundraiser remembered the much-loved father of two and focused its fundraising on the incredible work of the Fort William-based team which searched tirelessly to find the 60-year-old.

Once again the successful 'IanFest' mini music festival was held in the back garden of Ian's family home in Hertfordshire.

Erecting gazebos, a home-



Above left, Ian Bell, who died while walking on Ben Nevis in 2015. And right, his wife Julie, who organised IanFest to raise money for the Lochaber Mountain Rescue team.

made bar, decorating the garden with bunting, ivy and fairy lights, and carrying the family piano outside for some sing-a-long songs ensured a beautiful summer setting was created.

Blessed with sizzling

sunshine, a sensational day of music unfolded that prompted smiles, donations, dancing, singing and an emotional journey of joy and poignant memories.

'We chose to celebrate Ian with music, friends and



family,' said Ian's wife, Julia.

'There must have been more than 150 people in our back garden and it really was an exceptional day enjoyed by so many.

'I thank everyone who performed, everyone who came

along to share the music and good time, and to the generosity of so many who came along and donated money, food, drink and joy.

'The family were deeply grateful to all the musicians who stepped up to perform.'

The musical menu included a mesmerising performance from legendary saxophonist, Dave Chambers; the stirring sound of the bagpipes from RAF piper Regina Pendleton plus a superb piano sing-a-long from American pianist 'Just Jeff'.

Completing the line-up was local community ukulele group - Ukie Toones - and a heart-stirring performance from traditional folk duo Celtic Krystal.

'We were very spoilt with so much incredible music,' added Julia. 'It lifted hearts and spirits, and it was a fine sight to see so many people

in our garden having a great day.

'I do want to make a special thanks to Robin Campbell and Krystal Woodbridge from Celtic Krystal who put together a very stirring tribute set for Ian.

'Robin, who was born in Glasgow, has performed at countless venues in the Fort William area and has a personal passion for the Highlands.

'His carefully selected traditional ballads took us on a journey to the Highlands, and back to the Scotland that Ian loved. It was just right and deeply appreciated.

'Robin also kindly donated a box of Celtic Krystal CDs, The Silver Darlings, to further increase our fundraising.

'It meant so much that so many musicians gave up their time and energy to entertain everyone and help us raise funds for the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team.

'The team based at Fort William deserves recognition for everything they do. We never forget them.'

Last year, following fundraising for IanFest 2017, Julia, her sons Oscar, 26, and Louie, 24, and cousin David Bell and his wife Wilma, went to meet the rescue team at Fort William and hand over more than £850.

A further two music-focused fundraisers followed at the family home in recognition of the team's strength and spirit in their rescue work.

'It is important to us that we come together, enjoy music, remember Ian and give thanks to LMRT,' Julia told us.

'Around 150,000 people walk the paths of Ben Nevis every year. The LMRT is the only service integral to the safety of walkers and climbers. They rely on fundraising to continue their work. It is important they are supported.'

The family has pledged that, due to the success of the back garden festival, they will be supporting LMRT with another 'IanFest' next year.

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The annual fundraiser saw family and friends come together for an afternoon of music, dancing and singing.

GETINTOUCH

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WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

■ Nether Lochaber Craft Fayre will take place in the hall at Onich on Saturday, August 25, from 10am to 4pm. Cakes, jams, cards, knitted and crocheted crafts, cushions, jewellery, candles, refreshments and soup will be available.

Contact Berit for details on 01397 705539.

■ Drop-in sessions will be held at Lochaber Women's Aid premises on Mary Street, Fort William, on Wednesday August 29 and Wednesday September 5 from 5.30pm to 7pm each day.

■ Nether Lochaber Flower and Produce Show will be held on Sunday September 2 in Nether Lochaber Village Hall. Entries will be taken on Saturday September 1 from 6-8pm for handicrafts. Exhibits to be at the hall between 9am and 10am on the Sunday. Judging will then take place, with the hall open to visitors from 1pm. Prize giving approx 2pm.

For details visit www.netherlochabercc.org.uk or call Ann Marie 01855 821231.

Lochaber Women's Aid's gender equality honour

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

This year is proving to be a benchmark year in more ways than one for local charity Lochaber Women's Aid (LWA).

In a year when nationally there have been celebrations of 100 years of votes for women, Lochaber Women's Aid is proud to have been selected as an example of best practice for its work in raising awareness of gender equality.

Global organisation International Women's Day created awards to recognise the achievements of public, private and charity sector organisations in promoting International Women's Day and gender parity. More than 100 groups worldwide were in the running to be selected across 14 award categories. LWA was selected in the charity sector for awareness



raising. Service manager Lorraine Revitt said: 'While the main focus of our work is to provide support to women and children who have experienced domestic abuse, as a feminist organisation we work to end domestic abuse and violence against women, children and young people by tackling the root cause which

is gender inequality. Our message on International Women's Day and every day is simple.

'We encourage individuals and communities to realise that wherever we live and work, our actions matter and can make a difference.

'While there have been significant achievements by

Lochaber Women's Aid's Helen Gallon, Eilidh Fraser and Christine Donnelly. Front, Deirdre Coull and Karen MacInnes, chairperson.

women over the past 100 years, there are still too many barriers for women and girls to achieve their potential.

'We are delighted that our work in raising awareness of gender inequality has been recognised on a world-wide level,' said Karen MacInnes, the charity's chairwoman.

'Ironically, in a year which saw our Highland Council budget cut by 12 per cent, we have seen the number of women and children accessing our service increase, due in part to our awareness raising.

'In our 15th year of delivering a support service, the funding cuts have made this

an extremely difficult year for us, so, to be recognised as 'leading the charity sector' is phenomenal.'

■ LWA is seeking women with a passion for its cause to join its board. If you are interested and would like to learn more the group is hosting two drop-in sessions in the coming weeks.

Drop-in sessions will be held at Lochaber Women's Aid premises on Mary Street, Fort William, on Wednesday August 29 and Wednesday September 5 from 5.30pm to 7pm each day.

For further information about the support offered by the charity for women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse visit: www.lochaberwomen-said.org.

For more information about International Women's Day visit: www.international-womensday.com

Advertorial

A career for everyone

Tourism is one of Scotland's growth sectors and vital to the Argyll economy with over 12% of the region's workforce employed in the Accommodation and Foodservice sector and accounting for 10% of all registered businesses.

Worryingly, recent research shows that over one in four hotels and restaurants in Scotland – around 2,305 establishments – reported at least one unfilled vacancy in the previous 12 months, much higher than the Scottish average. Over a fifth of those vacancies were attributed to skills shortages. Demand, quite clearly, is high.

An analysis of the sector by Skills Development Scotland, published last September, found that between 2012 and 2022, the tourism sector will need to recruit 32,700 elementary workers – the likes of catering assistants and domestics – some 15,700 in managerial and senior roles, and a further 9,600 skilled tradespeople.

They also estimate that between now and 2027 there will be a demand for 3,200 tourism jobs in Argyll alone.

Although Tourism has traditionally been side-lined as a sector in which to make a lifelong career, the range of jobs roles is staggering – from management, finance or personnel, event management, to running an award winning kitchen, or even adventure tour guiding; there's a career for everyone.

With average salary for a head chef in the UK being up to £50,000 per year, and no shortage of job opportunities, you may be right in thinking that there has never been a better time to indulge your 'Masterchef' dreams and sign up for a full time career in the kitchen.

If you feel the time is right for a career change, or you want to enhance the skills you already have consider the range of courses on offer at Argyll College Oban,



from HNCs in Hospitality and a BA degree in Event Management through to a range of practical SVQ courses in Professional Cookery where you'll get hands on experience from day 1.

Argyll College SVQ3 Professional Cookery Student, Ewan Collins says, 'There's so much to learn, my presentation skills and desserts have certainly improved. My employers value me doing this course, as I can use the knowledge I'm getting in college which helps me do my job better.'

Curriculum Lead Chis Wolfe says, 'So many people don't think about a career in the hospitality industry. Sometimes it can be challenging to see that amazing career paths that are available if your only experience has been a summer job waiting tables or washing dishes.'

'Signing up for a full time course is a great way to get started on the career ladder' he continues, 'many of our SVQ cookery students will combine their college work with employment, giving them the added advantage of gaining valuable on the job experience while earning a wage.'

View our full list of courses at www.argyllcollege.ac.uk. If you'd like to find out what your options are get in touch with Argyll College Oban on 01631 559500 or email ACoban@uhi.ac.uk, and of course you can pop into the Centre anytime during office hours.

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LT

Delight as crowds flock to Glenfinnan Highland Gathering

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

If anyone is familiar with how the Glenfinnan Highland Gathering has evolved over the years, it was this year's event chieftain Aonghas Grant.

Regarded as a Highland musical treasure, he is known as the Left-Handed Fiddler of Lochaber and has enjoyed a musical career that has spanned more than six decades and seen him visit many countries.

Mr Grant, who was recently honoured with a BEM, officially opened the 72nd gathering on Saturday, sheltering under the new canopy

included in a raft of improvements made to the games field by owners Glenfinnan Estate.

This year's gathering attracted a crowd of 1,100 through the gate and, in contrast to last year's monsoon-like conditions, the weather stayed mainly dry.

Mr Grant first attended the gathering in 1956 and, speaking after the official opening, he told the Lochaber Times why such community events still had a vital role to play.

'I've been involved with the gathering since 1956. Much has changed. There are more modern things and the estate has done a wonderful job tidying everything up,' he said. 'Everyone used to come in

wellington boots - some still do - because it was always a bog. But the new canopy is brilliant.

'And yes such things are still very important. Going back 273 years ago when Prince Charles Edward Stewart raised the standard here, it was a gathering and they've kept that feeling.'

Asked if he might be persuaded to play a tune or two, Mr Grant, who will soon be 87, laughed: 'Too wet the day for a fiddle! But I'm still thoroughly enjoying it.'

Gathering secretary and estate manager Alistair Gibson agreed it had been a highly enjoyable and successful day. Speaking the day after, he

commented: 'It was a good day. We had 1,100 through the gate and had a lot of compliments about the new gravelled track which made things much more enjoyable.'

And he added laughingly: 'One lady, though, did complain that after last year she'd bought a new pair of wellies especially for this year and then didn't need them!'

Mr Gibson said he had heard some people from Fort William had decided not to come to the gathering because of the well-publicised issues with car parking.

'We need to encourage more people to use the train or buses and enjoy a day out without driving. Hopefully, the planned new car park might help alleviate that,' he said.

The star of the heavy events was Fort William's David Hart, who set several personal bests during competitions.

He took the Lang Trophy after sweeping the boards in all seven categories, although Alasdair Davidson ran him close, with six runner-up spots.

Mr Hart also collected the MacMillan and Peto trophies.

He was the only athlete to successfully toss the caber, achieving the feat on three occasions with his best throw a 12.01 - the aim being to get the caber to go end over and fall as near 12 o'clock as possible.

The caber being used by the heavy events competitors had actually been planted in 1977 by an estate squad of which Mr Gibson was a member.

The bark had been stripped off by deer which was what gave it a light colour.

'I improved every time,



finishing with a 12.01, after starting off with 12.06 and then a 12.05.5,' Mr Hart said. 'I've had some season's bests so can't complain. I thought there would've been a few more throws today but the standard was still good. And there are a few youngsters coming through which is good for the sport.'

In the piping, Archie Clark took first in the Cameron-Head Scholarship prize, with Laura Smith winning the MacKellaig Cup and the Mairi Rae Quaich in the Highland dancing.

Gathering dance steward Mairi Illsley was also delighted with the standard of competition in the dancing classes.

'This year has been very, very good. The standard of dancing has been exceptional. 'Each age group was filled which has been fantastic and as for the adult dancers - you'll not get better anywhere,' she said.

'The weather has stayed okay and the field is looking fantastic.

'The new canopy over the platform has made a tremendous difference. So overall I think it has been a very successful day.

'All the dancers loved the new canopy, especially after last year when they had a terrible time with the weather. I've loved being involved again. It's the highlight of my year.'



The adult races were fiercely contested.



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A high view of the games field at Glenfinnan and this year's Highland Gathering.

Photographs
by Abrightside
Photography.

Left: Carolyn Seggie, left, and Kate Stewart were helping man the 1745 Association stand.



Some of the dancers enjoying the new canopy over the platform.



Chieftain of this year's Gathering was Aonghas Grant BEM - the Left-Handed Fiddler of Lochaber.



Young Shane O'Rua raises the Saltire with a little help from gathering committee member Lewis Gibson.



Gathering committee member Angus MacDonald, right, enjoys the official opening.



David Hart, of Fort William, dominated the trophy list in the heavy events.

More
photographs
and results
on page 10.

Advertorial

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Every parent knows that childhood is a precious time and most agree that it's over far too fast. At Lomond School, we make every moment count.

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LT



The Clan Cameron Association had its customary stand.



Lochaber Pipe Band leads the parade of clan flags from the monument to the games field ahead of the official opening.



The wheel barrow race saw some laughs.



Concentration on the face of this youngster as competition hots up in the Glenfinnan Highland Gathering long jump.

Glenfinnan Gathering results

Piping: Open (adult) Piobaireachd - Edward McIlwaine; Open (Adult) Marches - Dan Lynden; Open (Adult) Strathspey and Reel - Sandy Cameron; Open (Under 17) Marches - Archie Clark; Open (Under 17) Strathspey & Reel - Archie Clark; Open (Under 17) - Piobaireachd - Archie Clark; Local (Under 17) Marches - Archie Clark; Local (Under 17) Strathspey & Reel - Archie Clark.

Dancing: Adult Fling - Darra Wood; Adult Strathspey & Reel - Laura Smith; Adult Swords - Laura Smith; Adult Sean Truibhas - Laura Boyle; Adult Schottische - = Laura Smith & Laura Boyle; Adult Hornpipe - Laura Boyle; Adult Jig - = Darra Wood & Laura Smith; Open (12-15) Fling - Molly Smith; Open (12-15) Strathspey & Reel - = Isla MacKenzie & Molly Smith; Open (12-15) Swords - Isla MacKenzie; Open (12-15) Sean Truibhas - Innes MacKenzie; Open (12-15) Flora - Innes MacKenzie; Open (8-11) Fling - Katie Taylor; (Open 8-11) Strathspey & Reel - Sophie MacRae; Open (8-11) Swords - Sophie MacRae; (Open 8-11) Sean Truibhas - Sophie MacRae; Open (8-11) Flora - Sophie MacRae.

200 Yards - Max Phillips; 1/2 Mile - Matt Waterston; 1 Mile - Es Tressider; Hill Race - = Es Tressider & Kate Tuer; 16lb Hammer - David Hart; 22lb Hammer - David Hart; 22lb Ball - David Hart; 22lb Ball - David Hart; Caber - David Hart; 28 wt distance - David Hart; 56 wt over the Bar - David Hart.

Hop, Step, leap - Dave Farrington; High Jump - John Currie; Long Jump - Matt Waterston; Junior (12-16) 100 Yards - Stan Ham; Junior (12-16) Long Jump - Stan Ham; Junior (12-16) High Jump - Iain Hughes; Junior (12-16) Hill race - Jamie Langley; Under 12 High Jump - Emil Hildesbrand; Under 12 Long Jump - Jamie Langley; Junior (12-16) 1/2 Mile - Magnus Hexball. TROPHIES: Piping - Cameron-Head Scholarship - Archie Clark. Dancing - MacKellaig Cup - Adult Open - Laura Smith; Mairi Rae Quaich - Adult Swords - Laura Smith; Glenfinnan House - Junior Open - Innes MacKenzie; MacGuire Cup - Open (8-11) - Sophie MacRae. Field & Heavy Events - Peto Caber - David Hart; MacLeod 22lb Hammer - John Currie; MacMillan Cup - Athletics - David Hart; Conaglen Trophy - Tug O'War - Conaglen; Lang Heavy Events - David Hart.



Action from the high jump.



Action from the ball competition in the heavy events.



One of the boys' and girls' races.

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Community council objects to toilet closures

Fort William Community Council (FWCC) has written to Highland Council to object to plans to close the public toilets in the centre of the town.

At the July meeting of the council, the proposed closure of toilets at the West End of town was discussed.

Sue Keen advised that the Fort William Town Team had been approached by Highland Council to consider taking on the toilets under the Community Transfer of Assets Scheme but they declined.

FWCC agreed to write to the council to advise of their objection to any planned closure.

The FWCC hopes as many FWCC members as possible will attend the next committee meeting.

CONTACTUS
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Belford calls for public to help with job search

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Funding for four permanent consultant posts in the Belford Hospital, Fort William, has been approved by the board of NHS Highland.

Three surgical posts have been altered to strengthen links with the surgical team based at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

A physician post is also being advertised and the health board has worked with local staff to develop a Lochaber information pack to help attract candidates.

Dr Katharine Jones, associate medical director for NHS Highland's north and west division, said: 'We know there is a national shortage of people able to combine specialist skills with the generalist approach required to meet the needs of the local

population and recognise the need to be flexible in our approach to recruiting and retaining staff to these roles.'

The board is looking for Lochaber communities to play their part in spreading the word about the benefits of living and working in the area.

Dr Jones continued: 'We have prepared job information packs and a scenic poster to promote the professional development opportunities of working in a unique environment within a rural general hospital and the benefits of living in Fort William, the outdoor capital of the UK.'

'We recently held a workshop to plan the replacement for the Belford Hospital and shape the redesign of health and social care in Lochaber and the response from the local community was incredible.

'It's clear the people of Lochaber care passionately about health and social care and we are asking communities to help us get the word out that we are recruiting.

'We would encourage them to use all of their connections and networks to share the information packs and promote the benefits of living and working in Lochaber.

'It's important to underline these aren't jobs for people interested in simply maintaining rural health services. This is about making them fit for the future,' Dr Jones added.

'With the planning of the replacement hospital for the Belford, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to re-design a rural general hospital.

'And we want local people to play a key role in this process.' NHS Highland's consultant physician at the Belford

Hospital Dr Patrick Byrne said the Fort William hospital was one of the few places where doctors can learn to be a generalist.

'There are very few places remaining in the UK where one can be a true 'generalist' and we pride ourselves that 'generalism is our specialism' in the Belford Hospital,' he said.

'My job has combined work as a consultant physician at the Belford Hospital and a GP at Glen Mor Surgery in Fort William and is just one example where NHS Highland has been forward-thinking and underlines the health board's commitment to innovative solutions to deliver high-quality health and social care services to Highland communities.

'If you're looking for a career move where you can really make a difference to your pa-

tients, I would encourage you to get in touch.'

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes said she was particularly pleased at the level of community engagement regarding plans for the new Belford hospital following her recent visit. 'The Lochaber population has grown,' she said 'and looks set to grow even further. As such, I am pleased to see on-going community engagement.

'I visited the Belford because I was keen to meet the healthcare professionals who tirelessly care for patients and save lives.

'They are exceptional people who dedicate their careers to serving other people, often with very little gratitude. The National Health Service only exists because of their service. They have my greatest respect and admiration for all that they do in Lochaber.'

MSP backs community care hub in Strontian

MSP Kate Forbes is backing efforts to create a community care hub at a care home on the Ardnamurchan peninsula.

Dail Mhor in Strontian had to close last summer following plumbing issues and after a year of community campaigning it re-opened recently with day care services, but no residential care.

Kate Forbes MSP met with NHS Highland management and representatives from community councils to discuss future plans for Dhaill Mhor and ensure its long-term survival.

Local GPs have previously described the retention of the care home as the most critical need for healthcare in the area.

Kate Forbes MSP said: 'Dail Mhor has long been an important part of the community on the Ardnamurchan peninsula and the need for care is as strong as ever. There has been some progress since the centre was shut, in that respite care is now being provided, but I believe more can and should be done. I met with the local manager, who is fantastic and knows the local need for care provision. I also met with members of the community councils who have a vision for the centre. For me, there is a clear requirement for local need and so now it's a case of delivering that and creating a community hub that can be a model of care for rural areas across the Highlands.'

James Hilder, chairman of the Combined Community Councils Working Group, added: 'We were pleased to have Kate visit a few members of the group. She was intrigued as to how she can help us with our campaign.



Kate Forbes with Claire Cameron, Dail Mhor general manager; Marie Law, NHS Highland district manager; James Hilder, Sunart Community Council and Joanne Matheson, Acharacle Community Council.

'The group is delighted we have re-opened the home on a temporary basis. But our long-term goal remains a hub for adult care across the peninsula. We are concluding negotiations with NHS Highland that will see funding secured to fund a three-day-a-week project worker, who will explore how other services can be delivered at Dail Mhor. We are also looking at other ways to improve care in a rural setting, such as promoting recruitment and acting as a link between the community and care professionals.'

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Staffin and Kyle projects get share of £300,000

Almost £300,000 of Scottish Land Fund money will go towards two important projects in Skye and Lochalsh.

Staffin Community Development Trust will receive £231,700 to buy land to provide six affordable homes, two business units and a store.

Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust received £67,240 to buy the former Skye Bridge toll office building and the adjacent 80 acres known as The Plock of Kyle.

Constituency MSP Kate Forbes welcomed the news and said: 'This is spectacularly good news for Staffin where there is a chronic need for new housing.'

'This is the first step in delivering Staffin Community Development Trust's vision of new affordable homes, enabling people to stay in the area or move there.'

'The lack of affordable housing is directly linked to depopulation so I hope more affordable homes in Staffin will mean more children in the school, more full-time residents and more young families.'

'It's been a long slog to get to this point and full credit to those who persisted throughout. I look forward to seeing the first house occupied.'

She added: 'Land is so often a barrier to community potential so I'm pleased Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust is one step closer to using the toll office for community benefit.'

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Archaeologists stand by as site work starts



A digger removing the top soil.

Archaeologists are standing by on Skye as contractors begin to remove top soil as part of preparation work for Broadford's new £15m community hospital.

An ecologist and staff from the AOC Archaeology Group have been on hand since Monday to supervise as mechanical diggers begin removing the vegetation and top soil at the site for the new hospital, located between the Dr Mackinnon Memorial Hospital and Broadford Health Centre.

The early site strip has been organised to mitigate against any potential archaeological risk that could impact on construction, allowing sufficient

time for archaeology work if this is required. An assessment will also be made over any potential ecological risks.

Building work on the new community hospital hub is expected to start mid-2019.

Construction work can sometimes throw up surprises. In 2011, archaeologists supervising the site clearance of Broadford Health Centre uncovered the remains of some significant archaeological structures.

These included the remains of an intriguing cairn-like structure, a grain-drying kiln, an underground stone-lined passage and a burial cist

containing a ceramic Beaker vessel which was dated to 2300 to 2200 BC.

The current 'site scrape' work and ecological and archaeological risk assessment is expected to take two weeks.

Diane Forsyth, NHS Highland's senior project manager, said: 'During the first week, the ecologist will survey the soil and vegetation excavated from test scrapes. Then staff from AOC will supervise the stripping of the area in stages.'

Design work on the new hospital is continuing and a planning application is expected to be submitted within the next couple of months.

Isles MP welcomes link submission

News that Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) has submitted the Needs Case to Ofgem for the Western Isles transmission link has been broadly welcomed.

The link is vital to allow new renewable projects to progress in the islands.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus Brendan MacNeil and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar both welcomed news that (SSEN) had submitted its Needs Case for the proposed 600MW Western Isles Radial Connector to energy regulator, OFGEM.

Mr MacNeil said: 'I am very pleased the Needs Case has now been submitted for the transmission link and I am particularly pleased the proposal is for a 600MW link allowing for maximum benefit for island communities.'

'The construction of the

Townships ready to bid for contract

The four crofting townships who intend to bid in the Contracts for Difference (CfD) auction next year have welcomed SSEN's submission of the Needs Case for an interconnector cable.

Sandwick North Street, Melbost and Brananhuaie, Sandwick East Street and Aignish on the Isle of Lewis have made a group statement in response to confirmation that a 600MW cable would be sought.

The townships - which have submitted a Section 50B application to the Crofting Commission to develop community-owned wind farms on their common grazings - hope to secure the vital subsidy in the

CfD auction which opens next May. In a joint statement, they said: 'We welcome the SSEN submission and the aim of the four townships is that our turbines will constitute 105MW of the proposed 600MW interconnector. This interconnector cannot be just for the multi-nationals. It has to be for the communities too.'

'We are the only community projects in a position to participate in the CfD auction next year and the only ones with any prospect of development. Without community turbines on the interconnector, the ultimate benefit for the islands will be pitiful.'

link is still dependent on the success of island projects in the Contracts for Difference (CfD) auction and regulatory approval, but this is a welcome significant step.'

Chairman of the comhairle's Sustainable Development Committee Councillor Donald Crichton added: 'This is excellent news and represents the culmination of

many years of hard work by the comhairle and its partners to achieve network reinforcement for the Western Isles.'

'If approved, the radial connector will open the way for

the development of a transformative renewable energy industry in the Western Isles. A 600MW cable means there is room for the commercial baseload required to justify this level of investment but also room for the community, through a joint venture between the local authority and The Stornoway Trust, to buy up to 100MW of consented and connected onshore wind generation and for future community-led generation schemes to come forward.

'But we cannot be presumptuous. SSEN has made clear that, if Stornoway wind farm and Uisenis wind farm do not secure CfD in next year's price support incentive auction at present generation volumes, there will be no investment case for network reinforcement and the radial connector project will be cancelled.'

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Wifi boost for sheltered housing residents

A new wifi system designed to get older people online has been installed in a sheltered housing complex in Stornoway.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan praised the project and said: 'I was delighted to meet staff from Trust Housing at Lewis Street sheltered housing in Stornoway. I heard about the work they do there and the ongoing efforts to expand and improve the excellent services provided.'

'Of particular interest is the initiative to introduce wifi across the complex and encourage internet use by residents.'

'We live in an age where technology allows us to be more easily connected than ever and it is clear this has tremendous potential for reducing the isolation that can so often be felt by the elderly and vulnerable.'

'It is encouraging to see this potential being recognised and put to use in the islands.'



Alasdair Allan MSP with David Paterson and Trust Housing Association chief executive Rhona McLeod.

Skye airfield hosts German visitors

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Seven aircraft visiting from Germany landed on Skye earlier this month as part of a trip arranged by aviation magazine Aero International's editor-in-chief Thomas Borchert.

The civil aviation magazine is based in Germany and Mr Borchert said the trip to Skye had been a major highlight of the group's tour through Scotland.

'The scenery is spectacular, as is the friendliness of the people. For private pilots, beautiful but remote locations like Skye and other parts of the Highlands are of special interest if they can be easily accessed via an airfield,' he commented.

The aircraft types were Cessna 172, Piper Warrior, Piper Arrow, Cirrus SR22T, Cessna 210, Piper Seneca, and



The German aircrews and their aircraft at Skye Aerodrome earlier this month.

Quest Kodiak. The Quest Kodiak was the heaviest aircraft at just over three tonnes.

Arrangements for the visit followed an exchange of emails with the transport planning manager at Highland Council, Richard Gerring.

Once clarification was reached that the apron areas were capable of holding all of the aircraft without interference to the heli-pad area used for search and rescue heli-

copters, the prior permission required (PPR) was approved.

The pilots and passengers were taken to their hotel by local taxi operators. The aircraft departed the following day in mid-August.

Mr Gerring had met the visitors at Ashaig Aerodrome following his earlier meeting with representatives from Skye Flying Club.

'This visit from these European aircraft is evidence that Skye Airfield is open for

business and can handle a broad range of general aviation,' said Mr Gerring.

Chairman of the Isle of Skye and Raasay Committee Councillor John Gordon added: 'It is great to see private aircraft using the superb asset that we have on the Isle of Skye.'

'The mix of aircraft that came shows that the airfield is capable of handling general aviation users from beyond Scotland.'

Two charged after island thefts

Two people have been charged by police in connection with thefts on South Uist and Benbecula on Wednesday August 15.

They have been reported in connection with incidents at a shop in Daliburgh and at Benbecula Airport and the theft of a vehicle on South Uist.

A man, aged 49, and a woman, 56, are expected to appear at Lochmaddy Sheriff Court in September.

Inspector Jane Nicolson said: 'Our thanks go to members of the community on South Uist who helped with our inquiries. We are committed to tackling crime and urge anyone with concerns about suspicious activity to call us on 101 or 999 in an emergency.'

Scottish Gaelic Awards 2018

Nominations for the 2018 Scottish Gaelic Awards are open.

Now in their sixth year, the awards highlight the work groups and individuals do to promote Gaelic with categories including Event of the Year, Innovation in Education, Sport Award and the International Award.

Winners in 2017 included Pàdraig Morrison from Grimsay, North Uist, who won the Young Gaelic Ambassador of the Year.

There are 10 categories and the awards will be presented in Glasgow in November. For further information about the awards and to nominate go to www.scottishgaelicawards.co.uk/nominate.

The awards are supported by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Historic Environment Scotland and Thorntons Investments.

Comhairle raises air traffic concerns with UK minister

Western Isles Council representatives welcomed the chance to put their concerns over air traffic management to Baroness Sugg, UK Government Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, when she visited the area last week.

Councillor Uisdean Robertson, chairman of the comhairle's transportation and infrastructure committee, said after the meeting: 'We raised our concerns regarding Highlands and Islands Airports Limited's (HIAL) proposals for air

traffic management arrangements for the region.

'We have ongoing concerns regarding the impact its centralisation strategy will have on the local economy of the Western Isles. With 17 highly paid jobs being lost from Stornoway and Benbecula airports, this will undoubtedly have a disproportionate impact for our community compared to mainland airports.'

'We have been raising this as a major concern with the Scottish Government and HIAL since June 2017 and it

appears insufficient cognisance is being taken of the negative impact.

'While we recognise the need for HIAL to invest in the necessary assets and infrastructure to ensure compliance with current and foreseeable future legislative demands, we remain unconvinced such a centralised monitoring system can be safely delivered given the significant shortcomings in the reliability, resilience and security of existing communications infrastructure to the islands. This should be a

material consideration in the development of the preferred option and we look to the UK Government and the Civil Aviation Authority to be completely satisfied passenger safety and the resilience of these lifeline services are not at risk.'

'We look forward to further engagement with the UK and Scottish governments and HIAL on this matter, particularly in the context of 'islands proofing' which has been incorporated in the recently enacted Islands (Scotland) Act 2018.'

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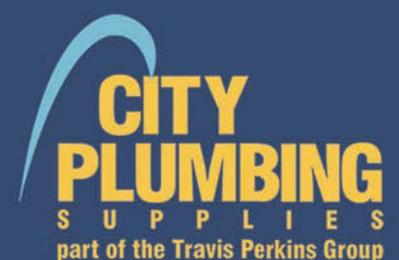
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VIEW FROM the Chamber

It's that time of year again! This week we launch Lochaber Chamber of Commerce's flagship week of events, Lochaber Ideas Week, which is back for 2018 with a fantastic programme of exciting and inspiring events for the whole community.

This year's programme, presented in partnership with Developing the Young Workforce West Highland, runs from November 12-16 in venues around Fort William.

The 2018 line-up features some fascinating people with incredible stories – former Winter Olympian Michael Edwards (Eddie 'The Eagle'); author and broadcaster Alastair Campbell, who will give this year's Charles Kennedy Lecture in memory of his good friend; performance coach to Olympians and Paralympians, Don McNaughton, who applies sports psychology to business performance; Dale Murray, tech entrepreneur and angel investor (known to many from *The Apprentice – You're Fired*) and round-the-world cyclist Josh Quigley.

With invaluable business skills training, vital business and community debates, a focus on youth entrepreneurship and life skills, a £10,000 cash prize for best business idea, great tourism events and a seminar on the crucial topic of mental health and wellbeing in business, there's so much to get involved with.

Lesley Benfield, CEO of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, said: 'Lochaber Ideas Week is all about inspiration and creativity in business. It's a week to think about the big picture and make connections as well as to learn new business skills. It's open to the entire community and we're delighted that so many people come along and get involved. We're proud to be able to bring such a unique and inspiring range of events to Lochaber.'

To find out more and book your tickets, visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk.

Whale watcher Craig takes up residence at Ardnamurchan centre

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Staff at Ardnamurchan Lighthouse and Visitor Centre have welcomed a temporary resident, whale watcher Craig Mackie, a volunteer with the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT).

His home during his month-long stay will be a keeper's cottage at the lighthouse.

Craig originally hails from Fife, but is currently based in Oban where he is studying Marine Science with the Scottish Association for Marine Science -University of Highlands and Islands.

In July this year, Craig answered an advert placed by the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take part in the month-long placement at Ardnamurchan Lighthouse. The placement is part of a trial to develop the Hebridean Whale Trail, which launches next year and will be the first of its kind in the UK.



Left, Craig Mackie; and below left, Whale watchers at Ardnamurchan Lighthouse on Sunday for the first Community Whale Watch.

whales, harbour porpoise and bottlenose dolphins are just some of the amazing marine species regularly sighted in the surrounding waters.

On Sunday August 19, Craig and colleagues from HWDT, ran a community whale watch at the lighthouse. The weather was excellent for whale watching, and members of the local community and holidaymakers were treated to visits by two Minke whales, two Bottlenosed dolphins and more than 10 common dolphins, as well as aerial displays by duelling skuas and gannets.

Craig will be on watch at the lighthouse daily between noon and 4pm until September 7, and is holding two further Community Whale Watch days on consecutive Sundays, August 26 and September 2.

He is always glad of an extra pair of eyes and will give tips and pointers for spotting the beautiful cetaceans that inhabit or visit the local waters.

If anyone does not get a chance to pop along to the lighthouse but would still like to take part in whale watching, they can visit the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust's website at hwdt.org or download its Whale Track app to get whale watching information and report sightings.

Information on how to get to the lighthouse and opening times can be found on the Ardnamurchan Lighthouse website at ardnamurchanlighthouse.com or visit its Facebook page.



The trail will be a network of around 25 world-class whale-watching and whale heritage sites, and will aim to promote Scotland as one of Europe's best destinations for spotting whales, dolphins and porpoises.

At the most westerly point on the British mainland, Ardnamurchan Lighthouse has been guiding ships safely through the waters off Scotland's west coast since 1849. The Ardnamurchan Lighthouse Trust operates a busy visitor centre and cafe, offering the chance to learn more about Scottish lighthouses, and the flora and fauna of the Ardnamurchan peninsula. Minke

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Coffee morning raises funds for Balla churches



A table groaning with tasty home baking at the fundraising coffee morning on behalf of the Parish Council for Good Shepherd and St Munds which was held in Ballachulish Village Hall last Saturday.
Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Thousands raised for charity by Fort business

The McDonald's restaurant in Fort William, owned and operated by franchisee Craig Duncan, has raised £16,070 for Ronald McDonald House Charities.

The money will go towards a new 25-bedroom Ronald McDonald House, which will sit on the top floor of the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People in Edinburgh, when it opens later this year.

The 'home away from home' will allow families of children being treated at the hospital to stay with them throughout their treatment. McDonald's restaurants across Scotland have collectively raised £2 million for the cause.

Franchisee Mr Duncan is one of the many restaurant owners and operators in Scotland who have contributed the 5p 'bag tax' money to this cause. Along with other McDonald's franchisees, he has been raising money for the House since 2014.

Mr Duncan who owns and operates eight McDonald's restaurants across the North of Scotland: 'It's important for us to tell customers where their 5p is going and allowing them to be part of the fundraising journey. Ronald McDonald Houses offer an invaluable service to families throughout the UK and we look forward to getting involved in more fundraising for the charity in the future.'

The new Ronald McDonald House, which will cost in the region of £3.5 million, is expected to look after as many as 500 families each year.

Arisaig project to unveil new first world war record

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

A new war record, which details the experiences of Arisaig and south Morar residents who served during the First World War, is set to be installed at the Arisaig Land, Sea and Islands Centre next week.

This unique illuminated scrapbook, compiled towards the end of the First World War, came to the attention of local residents years ago during the refurbishment of Arisaig's Astley Hall. The book is a moving record of the wartime experiences of local



people who served during the Great War, and contains original photographs, letters, postcards, and handwritten accounts.

The book was compiled by



Helen Nicolson, sister of Sir Arthur Nicolson, owner of the Arisaig Estate at the time of the First World War.

As part of a new Heritage Lottery-funded project run

jointly by Arisaig Community Trust and Arisaig and District Community Council, the war record will be installed at the Arisaig Land, Sea and Islands Centre, to be put on public display in a newly adapted, atmospherically-controlled cabinet.

Custom-built some years ago by local joiner Frank Baillie, the wood from which the cabinet was made was salvaged from a sycamore tree on Station Road.

Most of those men and women from Arisaig who joined the Armed Forces in the 1914-18 war would have walked passed the sycamore

tree as they made their way up to the railway station to begin their journey to an unknown future.

The cabinet is a fitting memorial in its own right, and will become an appropriate home for the war record. To ensure the safety of the document, the cabinet has been modified, under the guidance of the Highland Heritage Centre.

Members of the Astley Hall Trust committee will be present at the installation of the war record which will take place at 11am on Monday August 27. All are welcome to attend.

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MSP joins church walk

MP Ian Blackford joined two Ardnamurchan ministers and members of their congregations on a walk through Strontian as part of a new Church of Scotland Meet Your MP initiative, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

Lochaber Presbytery Clerk Reverend Donald McCorkindale of Strontian, Ardgour and Morvern extended the invitation to Mr Blackford, who was happy to accept, arranging constituency surgeries in Kilchoan and Strontian to fit in with the event. The initiative follows on from the preceding Meet Your MSP scheme with Kate Forbes and John Finnie in 2017.

This year the group, which also included Reverend Fiona Ogg of Acharacle and Ardnamurchan, gathered at the village green before setting off to walk along the riverside path to Strontian Parish Church for a brief visit.

Built in 1829 to a Telford design, they discussed its history and the changes made by the remodelling in 1924 as well as its present day role in the community.

The group then set off for afternoon tea and further discussion in the Ariundle Centre, pausing on the way to look at the successful



Lochaber MP Ian Blackford visited Strontian Parish Church on his recent constituency tour.

Community Hydro Scheme and have word with Highland Council workmen who were repairing potholes. Later they also managed to see the new community school which will welcome its first pupils next month.

Mr Blackford said: 'I would like to thank Donald McCorkindale and Lochaber Presbytery for the invitation and to everyone who came along. We all had a very enjoyable walk with interesting discussions along the way. In Parliament we are administered to by clergy from each faith and I was able to talk about their role and activities within the Westminster "congregation".

'It was also good to hear of the many positive things

taking place in the village community, which is vibrant and forward looking, driven by great enthusiasm from local people. Before the walk I held a surgery in Kilchoan where I was also able to meet with firefighters and visit the Ardnamurchan lighthouse, again being impressed by their commitment to the community.

'Parliament is currently in recess and I take full advantage of this time away from London in holding surgeries right across the constituency, which incredibly covers almost the same area as the whole of Northern Ireland. I will be back in Lochaber this week with a two-day trip to the Small Isles to ensure I am up-to-date with their needs.'

MacPhail

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The various ladders of life that we all ascend, descend and sometimes fall off are a constant part of existence.

The rises and falls and the highs and the lows are equally valuable in the building of experience and character that lead to the wisdom, fulfilment, peace and happiness that everyone on the face of the Earth in their own way is striving and searching for.

A particular aspect of human behaviour that has long fascinated me is how different people behave depending on their own perception of where they are on any particular ladder in relation to others at a given time. The music industry gives a constant stream of case studies for me to muse on in this respect.

Last week I had one of the most positive experiences in this regard for many years, given the context of the encounter where I was definitely well down the ladder from the other party involved. In the interests of confidentiality, the identity of the other person will remain untold.

Getting gigs as a band is a constant balancing act and in some ways a constant struggle. No matter what stage a band is at or what level of popularity, very roughly - except for the occasional anomaly of a golden phone call out the blue - gigs can be divided into three sections.

There is always a certain number and type of gig that is the mainstay of work at any



Will Skipinnish get a holy grail gig?

given time, which are dependable and enjoyable. There are a certain number that in some ways aren't that suitable but for various reasons you take them on.

Lastly, there are the holy grail type of gigs that you really want to do but they are difficult to get and usually involve contacting someone high up the 'gig ladder' and then waiting on their whim as to whether or not anything comes of it.

Since leaving school at 17 until now, 21 years on, I have experienced a vast range of different receptions from those up that ladder towards me at my various stages floundering around on the lower rungs. Pub landlords, hotel owners, venue managers, festival organisers, music agents, project managers, promoters of various types, TV/radio producers and musical directors all have given rich material of good and not so good behaviour to fuel a few chapters of my future memoirs.

Last week I had to make one of these phone calls on behalf

of Skipinnish to someone very high up on a particular gig ladder in relation to where we are as a band and what the result would be was very unpredictable.

I admit to having had to steel myself in order to make the call as I half expected not to get through, or not to have the call returned or be told he had never heard of us and not to be so ridiculous, presumptuous or rude to bother him etc.

I was actually taken aback by how positive the response was and how much of a total gentleman the fellow on the other end was. We may not get the gig - time will tell - but I was hugely impressed by the manner in which the call was taken in relation to what my slightly scarred expectations were.

If I am ever in a position to employ someone to book bands for an important gig, I will seek this guy out and give him the job. The impact of that short phone call - regardless of the end result - brightened the entire day.



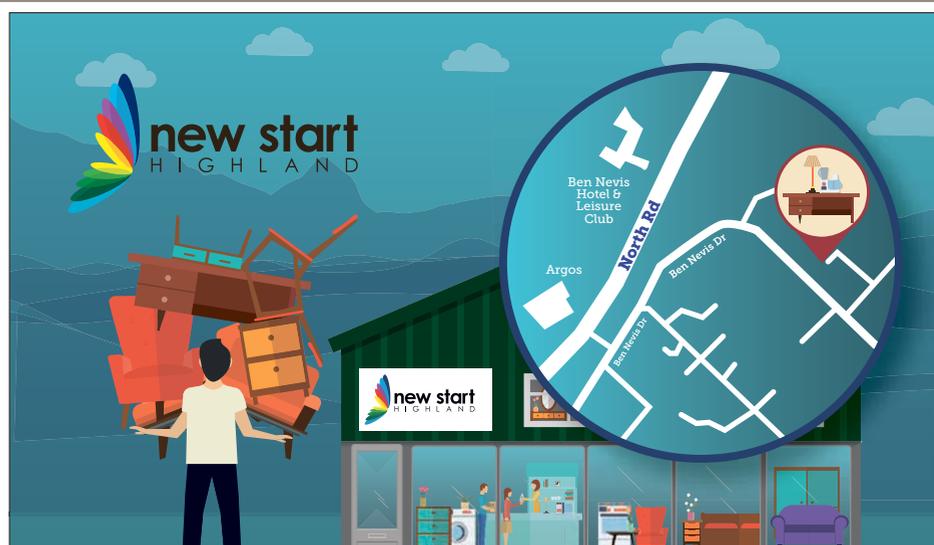
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LT

Dancers celebrate success



Annie MacNeil and Rhian Daly at the Highland and Islands Music and Dance Festival.



Kaye Halewood, Sandy Halewood and Kaya Bartoslek on test day.

Highland Dancers and Scottish Step Dancers from the Jane Douglas School of Dance in Fort William recently impressed family and friends at their awards evening in Bun Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar.

From the youngest dance stars to accomplished adults, everyone at the school performed Highland and Scottish Step Dancing and choreography and received their Medal Tests Awards and certificates, presented by special guest Rachel Walker, Mod Gold Medallist and conductor of Lochaber Gaelic choir and of Skipinnish fame.

Jane has more than 25 years of teaching experience, was a championship dancer herself and is a qualified Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing judge. She has performed in France, Spain, Sweden, Canada and Australia and regularly teaches in Switzerland.

Her dancers have performed at the Halifax International Tattoo, Canada, with Manran

at the Lorient International Festival in Brittany, Disneyland Paris, Tattoo Hebrides and at the Scottish Choreography Challenge.

She began teaching in Fort William in 1998 and produced a crop of successful dancers before running a successful dance school on Barra for 12 years.

She returned to Fort William, where she has been steadily building up the dance school for the last three years.

The dancers have competed far and wide this year and have put on an amazing show for the Vatersay Boys at the Glasgow Barrowlands for the last 12 years.

Last Christmas, Jane incorporated live bagpipes, snare drum and Indian dhol drum with exciting Highland and Step Dance choreography.

The dance school has begun fund raising for team track-suits and travel expenses and welcomes the opportunity to perform at events.

Jane teaches Highland Dancing classes in Bun Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar from



Above: Dancers with their medal test awards.

Right: Lily Robertson at Mallaig and Morar Games.



beginner to championship level and a popular, fun adult Scottish step dance class.

Jane also teaches children's Scottish Step Dance classes for Feis Lochabair.

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Fun in the Fort proved a hit with youngsters.



Everyone joined in the fun and games.

Youngsters enjoy Fun in the Fort

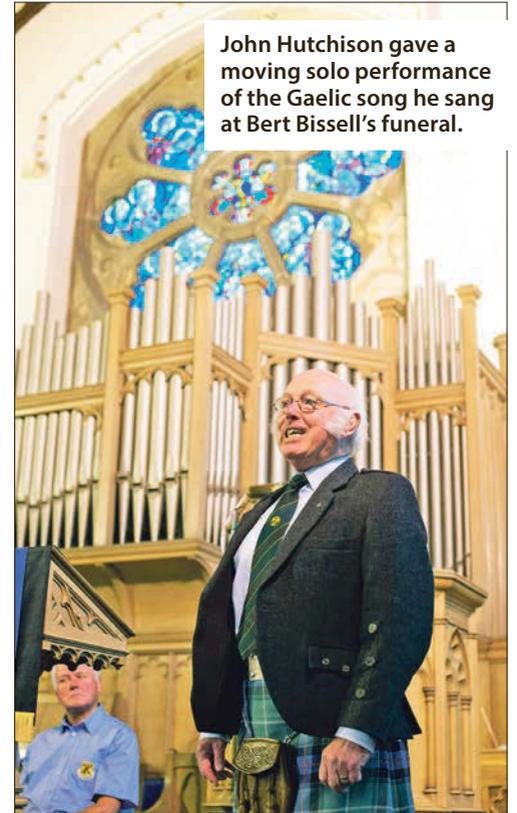
Kilmallie Free Church was abuzz with activity last week as youngsters got involved in activities as part of the church's Fun in the Fort summer holiday club.

From Monday August 13 to Friday August 17, children descended on the Caol church every day to enjoy singing, playing and dressing up with their friends.

Duncansburgh welcomes West Midlands choir



Musical director Margaret Jones and accompanist Peter Clay after the concert at the Duncansburgh Macintosh Church.



John Hutchison gave a moving solo performance of the Gaelic song he sang at Bert Bissell's funeral.

'Seventy-five fish suppers please!'

That was the somewhat challenging order that Sammy's fish and chip shop had to deal with on Saturday night (August 18).

The occasion was the annual visit of friends from Dudley in the West Midlands to Fort William.

Each year they come to climb Ben Nevis and to renew the friendships sparked many years ago by Bert Bissell, an inspirational Methodist leader and peace campaigner.

The peace cairn on Ben Nevis, the memorial on the Parade marking friendship

between Fort William, Dudley and Hiroshima, and peace messages on the highest peaks of each continent are all part of the enduring legacy this partnership has produced.

Each year Bert brought groups of boys to Fort William to enjoy the mountains.

This year a 60-strong group came from the West Midlands. On Saturday evening the Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir from Dudley, along with Fort William: Duncansburgh MacIntosh Men's Choir and Gaelic singing from John

Hutchison were at the centre of a shared evening of music and reflection.

Afterwards the singers and audience members shared fish suppers in the church hall - hence the somewhat unusual order which Sammy's had to cope with, and which they fulfilled admirably.

A collection at the concert raised £437 for Lochaber Mountain Rescue.

It is hoped that the friendship behind this event will continue strongly in future years.

Richard Baxter



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LETTERS

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Transport links are vital if communities are to thrive

It seems ridiculous in this day and age that on one hand we are doing everything we can to encourage more people to come and live and work in our rural communities – build new housing, schools, a good hospital etc to make sure they grow and thrive – yet this week we hear that because of a lack of one bus and a slight change to a timetable, people are having to give up their jobs because they now cannot get home after a shift.

These jobs will no doubt be as carers, cleaners, people working in hospitality, or in our hospitals – vital services.

There is some sympathy with the council – budgets are tight and need to be widely stretched – but Stagecoach was running this service before Shiel Buses took it on, so why is the council not funding the same service? It knew how important this service was to the community given the outcry when Stagecoach dropped it, so why would it not fund the same service? At the very least do a proper public consultation on any timetable changes before cutting buses from the route.

When it comes to the vital infrastructure that people need to live and work here, transport and our access to it plays a huge part give the rurality of where we live.

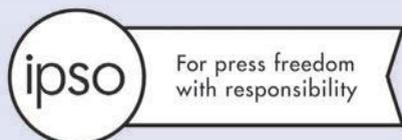
While it is welcome that Shiel Buses is planning to revert to the previous departure time from Fort William of 8.35pm, it really should not have taken people losing their livelihood. It is to be hoped that painful and needless lessons have been learned.

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 or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001.

At the Oban Times we endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

If we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephone on 01631 568000; or write the Editor at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO by calling 0300 123 2220 or email: inquiries@ipso.co.uk. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.



Appointing new GP will help patients and save money

The recent resignations of both Health Secretary Shona Robison and Christina West, chief officer of Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), may perhaps give those like myself living on the Ross of Mull and Iona cause for hope that the single GP practice serving our area will be reinstated.

But it may also result in a vacuum in which nothing happens and the close connection between the GP and his patients is lost and large sums of NHS money continue to be wasted on locums.

It seems that the HSCP has been unable to take the obvious decision to advertise the post recently filled by Dr Frank which was applauded by the residents (who also signed a petition in great numbers) and saved around £3,400 a week on the Ross of Mull and Iona alone.

It appears the NHS as an organisation has felt itself so battered that there is now a culture of fearfulness in which no one takes decisions except possibly to add further to costs and the confusion by the appointment of expensive consultants to pass on their responsibility.

We, on the Ross of Mull and Iona, are hopeful that Morven Gemmill, the newly appointed area manager, will have the courage and common sense to seize her opportunity and advertise the GP post for our area without further delay and so earn the gratitude of residents and save the NHS a great deal of money.

In the meantime, the current lull does at least provide the opportunity to explore the provision of GP services from a more philosophical point of view.

The advantage of our existing single GP practice serving only the Ross of Mull and Iona is that there is continuity of care between the GP and his patients. This system recognises that each patient is a unique human being with a soul as well as a body and that both these need nourishing by another human being, namely the GP.

As any good GP knows, the doctor is not just involved with fixing the physical problems of the patient but also deals with the patients' perception and personal reaction to their health problems.

Evidence of the importance of this approach was demonstrated at Dr Frank's leaving party when many old and frail patients, who rarely venture outside, were moved to make a special effort to attend.

In contrast, it has been argued by the HSCP that the advantage of the proposed single group practice serving the whole of Mull is that there will be more choice of GP and more variety of skills on offer. The focus of attention has been shifted from seeing patients as individuals comprising body and soul to one of body only.

In addition, the GP is now increasingly valued only for his specialist skills in fixing patients' bodies as if they were just standardised mechanisms, which can then be measured and organised as statistics.

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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, 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, Fort

The underlying pattern is one of dehumanisation through the temptations of a purely materialistic view of life.

Who or what is responsible for this fall into pure materialism? Many people, with a more materialist view, would argue that there is nothing fundamentally wrong – that the human being is solely or mainly a physical entity and that it is only necessary to study the statistics and invent new systems which work more efficiently.

Others with a more humanist view might argue that the human being does have an inner life as well as an outer life of physical needs and that this needs to be taken into account when planning the provision of GP services.

There are others, however, including myself, with a more spiritual view who believe there also exist forces which are not visible to the human eye but which are constantly at play in our thoughts and in society as a whole, including those working for the good of mankind but also those with less benign intentions.

Such spiritual forces are the agents behind our changing world and have existed since before our physical world came into existence. Among these spiritual forces are those which are intent on dragging us down into pure

materialism and so denying us those special qualities which make us human beings.

Jonathan Knight,
Ross of Mull.

Miserly hillwalkers should shut up and pay for parking

Hillwalkers are angry that there are proposals from Argyll and Bute Council to raise the cost of parking from £1 to £9 for the day at the two council car parks at Arrochar.

Do they expect those who pay council tax to subsidise their hobby? Locals paid for these car parks.

These outdoors enthusiasts who have travelled by car, often long distances, to experience the rugged countryside think nothing of filling their tank with £50 of fuel for the journey. If there are three in a car that is only £3 each for parking. Their equipment and boots are expensive yet they are complaining of a proper charge being imposed. On their home territory, they will pay well over £9 for a day's parking. They will spend very little if anything at all in local shops bringing their food with them.

DISTRICT NEWS

SPEAN BRIDGE, ROY BRIDGE AND ACNACARRY

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council met on Tuesday August 7 in Kilmonivaig Church Hall.

Among the items discussed were: BEAR and Transport Scotland: Plans for resurfacing the A82 between the Aonach Mor junction and Spean Bridge and at Letterfinlay in September have been published.

BEAR has inspected the damage caused by the turbine lorry on Telford Bridge and will repair it. SSE will foot the bill.

Two residents have written to the community council about safety at Aonachan crossroads and a blocked culvert at the Bridge Café on the A82. Tommy Deans will look into what can be done to resolve these.

Bus Users Transport Forum: Shiel Buses has been appointed to run the 41 service and schools services from Roy Bridge and Clunes to Lochaber High School and Roy Bridge to Spean Bridge Primary School. The community council's request for a replacement bus shelter at Roy Bridge has been unsuccessful. Other ways to fund its purchase will be sought if necessary.

Community benefit: Community councils are not permitted to own assets. When community benefit was first mooted, on advice the community council set up an arms length charity to collect and distribute community benefit throughout the area. The community council believed it had negotiated a binding agreement with the ABC Group.

From discussions with developers, they would be happier negotiating with the community council which would then work with the charities involved.

Accordingly, the community council is in negotiation with SSE to benefit from the Stronelairg Windfarm Fund and, if constructed, Coir Glas Pumped Storage Scheme. Preliminary discussions have been held with Glen Hydro, Vento Ludens and Glen Devon Hydro and the community council expects to hold negotiations with Green Highland Renewables and NES.

The community council's only insistence is that any money secured is used for the benefit of all residents.

Duncan Mackison of Jahama Highland Estates has confirmed it will continue to pay community benefit to the ABC Group following its acquisition of Green Highland Renewables.

Killiechonate Woodlands: The community



The team tasked with protecting the prizes at the popular whisky raffle.

Strawberry tea and family fun

Lochaber Rural Education Trust held its annual Strawberry Tea and Family Fun Day on Saturday August 11 at Lochaber Rural Complex.

There was plenty to keep adults and children entertained, from stalls laden with home-baking and handicrafts to puppet shows and duck races.



Bryan Rowsell, Alison Payne and Helen Fleming at the puppet show.



Zoe MacKenzie tucks into a strawberry cake.

council chairman met with Rik Eppens to discuss Green Highland Renewables' plans for up to six micro hydro schemes on Jahama Highland Estate land and their possible impact on Killiechonate Woodlands. The community council values Rik's family's contribution to the area and will respect any decision it takes in relation to these developments.

The forest path renovation project is proceeding using stone from an estate borrow pit. Regular walkers could help by avoiding these paths during the renovation.

CAOL

Sammy's Fish and Chip Shop in Caol is celebrating after being recognised by the prestigious National Federation of Fish Friers (NFFF).

The award identifies fish and chip shops that serve the highest quality fish and chips following a thorough assessment of the premises, equipment, working practises, hygiene standards and management controls, along

with the quality and taste of the fish and chips. Chip shop owner Sammy Cameron said: 'We are delighted to maintain this prestigious award. To be recognised as one of the top fish and chip shops by the NFFF is an honour and a credit to our hard-working staff who I thank for their continued hard work and efforts to maintain our excellent reputation.'

'The award doesn't just represent the fish and chips we produce, but also the hard work and high quality produce our local suppliers provide us to work with.'



Sammy's Fish and Chip Shop in Caol.

ARDNAMURCHAN

The future of Ardnamurchan Church is a step nearer to being secured after grants were received from the National Churches Trust and Scotland's Churches Trust.

The grants will fund design and feasibility work ahead of a major building project to repair and restore the listed building and re-design of its interior to provide new community services.

Consultation with the community about the future use of the building is on-going and new activities are already taking place or are planned including a community singing group, music events, an exhibition of local arts and crafts and a local heritage exhibition.

The church building, centrally located in Kilchoan, has been at the heart of the community for the past 200 years and is the only church remaining in the area.

Lynne McLuckie of the project working group said: 'It has given us a huge boost to know these two national charitable trusts recognise and support what we are trying to do to restore the historic fabric of the building while developing it as a new community facility. The community has been hugely supportive and we are excited to see ideas coming forward for its future use.'



Ardnamurchan Church.

STROME FERRY

Light vehicles travelling on the A890 will be able to use a road to rail bypass during construction work on the Strome Ferry Bypass next month.

From Monday September 3, the A890 will be closed overnight between Ardnarff and west of Attadale from 10pm to 7am. Traffic lights will be in operation during the day between 7am and 10pm while a road to rail bypass road is installed. The contractor has been allowed up to two weeks for the installation of the bypass road but may complete this sooner.

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Stromeferry bypass was closed for four months in 2011 after a landslide.

Once the road to rail bypass is installed, a timetable of opening slots between trains will come into operation. It will be available for use between 7am and 10pm by traffic which is less than 7.5 tonnes, box vans which are less than eight metres and mini buses and cars towing caravans which are less than 10.8 metres. Traffic over these limits will not be permitted to use the bypass and will have to divert using the A87, A82, A832 and A890. The road to rail bypass will be closed to all traffic between 10pm and 7am. The rock works are expected to take up to 10 weeks.

Once the rock works are completed, the road to rail bypass will be removed. During this time, the A890 will be closed overnight between Ardnarff and west of Attadale between 10pm and 7am. The road will have traffic control in operation during the day between 7am and 10pm. The road will be fully re-opened by Saturday November 24.

A rock fall in December 2011 resulted in the closure of the A890 at the Stromeferry Bypass for several months. The closure led to major disruption with motorists facing a 130-mile diversion.

Cards detailing the roadworks timetable will be available from local shops and businesses or by contacting garry.smith@highland.gov.uk or 01408 635313.

MORVERN

A new electric car hire scheme is to be launched in Morvern.

Morvern Eco Wheels, part of Morvern Community Development Company, has acquired an electric Nissan LEAF to promote cleaner transport thanks to funding from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund.

Morvern Eco Wheels will be signing up members to the new community scheme on Saturday September 1 at Lochaline village

hall from 11am to 4pm. Coffee, soup, cake and sandwiches will be available on the day.

Morvern Eco Wheels is encouraging as many people as possible to sign up to use the car.

Rates, membership details and a booking system are available on the Morvern Eco Wheels website morvernecowheels.org.



A new electric car hire scheme is being launched on Morvern.

STORNOWAY

The Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery (WILL) is celebrating its first year after raising £45,000 for community projects and more than £17,000 handed out in prize money.

The project is celebrating this weekend with a packed weekend of Disney-themed events in Stornoway on August 24 and 25.

A spokesperson for WILL said: 'We are so pleased with the success of the local lottery in its first year and we hope everyone will come out and join us in the celebrations next weekend.'

Friday night will see a Disney-themed quiz in the Cabarfeidh Hotel hosted by and raising funds for Alzheimer Scotland-Western Isles.

A Teddy Bear's Picnic will take place in the Bridge Centre at 10.30am run by Laxdale Playgroup and An Lanntair are showing Alice in Wonderland also at 10.30am. Sammy's Princess and Super Hero Parlour on Church Street will run from 9am with photographs by Sandie from 9am-noon.

The main parade of mascots leaves Bayhead Park at 12.30pm heading for the town centre.

Artizan will have Disney-themed surprises and happy food boxes, available in the Lido.

Princess/Pirate workshops will be held in Stornoway Town Hall from 12.30pm. Gordy's Safari will run Pirate Trips from 1.30pm.

There will also be stalls and facepainting in the town hall from 1-5pm.

If you've any energy left, An Lanntair will show Disney classic Mary Poppins at 4.30pm.

Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

Roamer items from August 1991 covering aspects of the royal visit to Fort William to mark the town's tercentenary.

The local view was the visit by HM The Queen and HRH Prince Philip was a tremendous occasion. Happy - even if the Fort William weather wasn't exactly glorious. They certainly received a right royal welcome, with lots of greetings from 'towrists' and visitors to the town. Amazingly, the royals dodged the August showers - more or less - though their hosts, Lochaber District Council, had provided two dozen golf umbrellas, courtesy of local banks, just in case. In fact, the crowds assembled at the Pierhead happily folded their own brollies just as the Royal Barge sailed in.

And the tercentenary bannered arch which spanned the High Street from the Grand Hotel to the Top Shop didn't get wet either. Mind you, Fort William has always been known for the high quality of its ceremonial arches.

It was great good humour all the way by and for the royals. For example, Her Majesty found plenty to smile about when she was being shown round West Highland Museum. In the Jacobite Room she was intrigued by the world famous 'Secret Portrait of Bonnie Prince Charlie'. Having examined 'the lock of the Prince's hair' and 'the piece of the tartan which he wore at Culloden', the Queen had everyone laughing when she said: 'If every lock of Bonnie Prince Charlie's hair and every piece of the tartan that he wore at Culloden I have been shown on my travels were authentic, Bonnie Prince Charlie would have been bald and bare by the time he got to exile in France!'

Later, in Fort William Parade, after the Queen had cautiously set light to a symbolic torch prior to it being carried by relay to the top of Ben Nevis, she asked 'Now, what do we do?' The torch-bearing Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team member 'Wills' Anderson replied: 'We panic, Ma'am!' before running off with the torch, to complete the first leg of the journey at the Nevis Bank, adding 'Have a nice day, Ma'am.' Next day, the Aberdeen daily set Wills Anderson on his way to the Honours List, describing him as 'a member of Fort William Round Table'.

At the Lochaber Experience exhibition at An Aird, Queen met King - Councillor Charlie King. And the honorary member for Seagull City extolled the virtues of Mallaig to Her

Majesty. 'Yes, I do know where Mallaig is,' the Queen assured King. Later she was sympathetic towards the young local Highland Dancers on their Parade platform. 'It's not a very nice day for dancing,' the Queen observed, while thanking them for their performance. 'I hope the rain didn't make your stage too slippery.'

Many locals I spoke to reckoned the Queen should visit Fort William every year. Laudable, but why? Because we've never seen our town look so neat and tidy! Indeed the Parade walkway was newly surfaced and the High Street bins were emptied at 6am. But some security aspects upset a lot of people who live and work in and around the High Street. They were asked to fill in what many of them considered to be overbearing and offensive Home Office questionnaires.

Apparently no-one asked for the Belford Hospital - opened by Princess Margaret in 1965 - to be included in the Royal route. That exclusion wouldn't have arisen for Inverness or Nairn or anywhere else in Highland.

Roamer had it that some more notable worthies who frequent the east end of the High Street had each been quietly handed a sizeable sum to have an 'away day' during the royal visit. So let me quote from one of the next day's national newspapers: 'It was said they had been taken by minibus to Spean Bridge for the day. Others claimed Kinlochleven was the destination. And some were certain Mallaig had been their port of call. The amount varied between £30 and £50.'

Meanwhile, during the Royal drive around, the Queen had taken the precaution of leaving the open-topped Rolls Royce at the Royal Mews. She preferred to travel in a hard top 'roller'. 'I know the Fort William weather,' she is reputed to have said prior to leaving London.

Canal staff at Corpach and Banavie received their invitations to be present at the final royal engagement of the visit. Prince Philip made sure he had a chat with the personnel. 'I expect you get quite a lot of idiots making their way up and down the canal,' he opined. Senior waterways officer Peter responded deftly: 'No, sir, only customers.'

As the royal party was about to board the barge to take them out to Britannia, the Duke spotted Peter once again, this time wearing a lifejacket and standing with his canal colleagues. Prince buttonholed Peter: 'I see you've got your lifejacket on now,' he said. 'Is that in case you fall in?' Peter smiled and replied: 'No, sir. In case you fall in.'

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BOWLS



Winning rink, left to right: Agnes Boyle, Eddie Downs, Allan MacDonald, Ian Rodger.

Photo: Anthony MacMillan Photography

Balloted rinks competition

The only Balloted Rinks competition in the Fort William Railway Club season which has been going for six years and this year a shield for the winners has been introduced.

The competition is sponsored by club member Allan MacDonald who was in the winning rink.

LOTTERY RESULTS

Lochaber club lotteries

This week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 2, 11 and 15. There was one winner this week, A Stewart. The jackpot for the draw today (Thursday August 23) will be £100.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 2, 7 and 18. There were no winners this week. The prize for next week will be £300.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 12, 16 and 17. There were no winners this week. Next week's draw will have a prize of £600.

Caol Community Centre's bingo lotto numbers for this week were 3, 10 and 11. There were no winners this week so next week's jackpot will be £800.

GOLF

Isle of Skye results

Gents' section: Friday August 10 and Sunday August 12, Ian Fullarton Trophy: 1 Kyle Pirie 41pts bih; 2 Stephen Coull 41pts; 3 Ryan Macaskill 40pts bih; 4 David Maclean 40pts bih; 5 John Marshall 40pts.

Wednesday August 15, medal: 1 Robert Macaskill 79(14) 65; 2 Archie Macaskill 81(13) 68.

Ladies' section: Sunday August 12, monthly medal: 1 Donalda Johnston 83 (19) 64; 2 Jill Mackinnon 85 (20) 65.

Tuesday August 14, Dun Caan Stableford: 1 Donalda Johnston 28pts bih; 2 Jill Mackinnon 28pts.

Disappointment for Bob

After his recent superb second place finish in Finland, Oban's Robert MacIntyre failed to make the cut in the Calgrom Resort and Spa Northern Ireland Open in Ballymena last week.

The Glencruitten golfer carded rounds of 76 and 68 to finish two over par.

The competition was won by another Scot, Calum Hill who finished 19 under par with fellow countryman Scott Henry one shot behind.

Robert will be hoping to get back to winning ways as the Challenge Tour moves to Geneva in Switzerland for the Rolex Trophy starting on August 22.



Robert MacIntyre.
Photo: Bounce Sports

Lochaber lose out to Mull in Bowl

Isle of Mull	24
Lochaber	10
Regional Bowl	

Lochaber travelled to Mull for their first game of the season for the preliminary round of the Tennent's West Regional Bowl.

With several players unavailable for this game Lochaber had a bare 15 including two new players and Christopher Morrison making his first senior appearance after coming through the youth ranks.

The game started at a frantic pace with Lochaber getting the first points within a couple of minutes when Conor Taylor went over in the corner.

Mull hit back almost immediately to bring the score to five points each. Lochaber were dominating the scrums but were not awarded any penalties despite the continuous collapse of Mull's scrum under pressure.

Twenty minutes into the match Lochaber suffered a big set back when second row Dale Monk dislocated his shoulder, reducing Lochaber to 14 men.

Lochaber were still able to compete with seven men in the scrum but it was in open play that the lack of numbers gave Mull the advantage. Soon after Monk's injury the island side were able to score two tries before half time to widen the gap to 17-5.

However, it was Lochaber



Lochaber got their season off to a losing start.

who got the final try of the half with Taylor scoring his second from a line-out move to reduce the gap to 17-10 at half time.

Mull responded straight after half time to extend their lead to 24-10 and that was how the game finished.

Lochaber's Jonathan McCook did cross the line from a quick tap penalty but the referee ruled it out for a forward pass. The last 20 minutes Lochaber were camped in Mull's 22 but were unable to find a way through Mull's defence.

RUGBY

The league season starts on Saturday September 1 when Lochaber will travel to Moffat before hosting Mull at Banavie on September 8 where they will look to make amends for Saturday's result.

SLT off to a winning start



South Lochaber's match against Rannoch was sponsored by Marine Harvest Scotland.

FOOTBALL

South Lochaber Thistle got off to a winning start to the season as they beat Rannoch 5-2 in the President's Cup at Anniesland, Glasgow.

The Kinlochleven-based side put in an impressive performance with man-of-the-match Erik Tot having a particularly strong game.

The match was sponsored by Marine Harvest Scotland which allowed the club to take a mini-bus to the opening game.

Marine Harvest's very own Cameron Grant (Linnhe), Darren Kennedy (Linnhe), Shaun Hendrie (Gorsten) and Dave Forbes (Finance) took part in the match.

The club would like to thank the company for all its support.



Lochaber Phoenix boxers get down to some hard pre-season training in the gym.

Cameron gets ready for the European champs

Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club started pre-season training in earnest this month.

From complete novices to seasoned internationals, along with members of the fitness classes, there are now more than three dozen people training multiple times each week.

The club is open four nights per week with additional sessions held as each boxer prepares for upcoming bouts.

At the moment 16-year-old Scottish champion Cameron

Whyte is hard at work hoping to gain a place in the elite Scottish team travelling to Russia for the European Junior Championships in October.

This involves travelling to Glasgow every weekend, and occasionally midweek, to take part in training with the Scotland squad at the national High Performance Centre in Bridgeton.

These sessions are extremely taxing as, in addition to the many hours of travelling, Cameron has to take part in

at least two training sessions per day.

The sessions involve sparring with the cream of the crop in the age and weight groups above his own.

As an average week consists of training six days per week with more than one session per day the toll on not only his body but his equipment is extensive and the Spean youngster is very lucky to have had help from local company Ferguson Transport which has proved an invaluable help to his quest for success.

Things have proved more problematic for Cameron, who has been Scottish champion for the last six years, than any previous year as injury and illness have sidelined him for large chunks of the season forcing him to miss the GB Championships, a competition he was favoured to win.

He now faces a race in time to be fit to represent his country at the European Championships for the fourth consecutive year.

Another of the club's Scottish champions, Josh Dieguno, 11, has also started

BOXING

attending Scottish Schoolboy squad training intermittently as his development progresses. Josh is a rare breed for a youngster as he possesses a fine work ethic which has helped him develop into one of the country's leading boxers for his age.

A welcome surprise for the club is the apparent re-emergence of former champions 20-year-old James Aitchison and 36-year-old Aidan Donnelly into the boxing gym having not boxed for five and six years respectively.

The club hopes both these boxers could feature back in the ring this coming season together with the current crop of established boxers and raw novices looking to make their debut.

The club, helped hugely by its main sponsor Caley Timber, is located at Unit 20 Ben Nevis Industrial Estate and is open Monday to Thursday from 5.15pm to 6.45pm for under 16s and 6.30pm to 8pm for over 16. Anyone is welcome to attend.



The boxing club is back open for training.



Cameron Whyte.

LT

YOUTH FOOTBALL



Oban Saints under-13s played their first competitive match in the Glasgow and District YFL last Sunday defeating Renton Craigandro 3-1 at Glencruitten. The team is coached by Alex Craik and Allan MacDonald.

Youth results and fixture

Oban Saints youth teams kicked off the new season in a new league last Sunday. The club's youth teams have joined the Glasgow and District YFL with League Cup games taking centre stage last weekend.

Results - Under 13s 3, Renton Craigandro 1. Scoring for Saints were Gabriel Tidser, Cody McCulloch and Aidan MacDonald. Kirkshaw Colts 5, Under 14s 0; Under 16s no game.

This Sunday's fixtures - Under 13s v Helensburgh; Under 14s v Glasgow BC; Dumbarton Riverside v Under 16s.

Inverurie go loco with goal fest against Fort

Young Lochaber side no match for in-form Locos

Inverurie Locos	10
Fort William	0
Highland League	

Fort William were on the wrong end of a double-figure scoreline again on Saturday as Inverurie Locos made light work of the youthful visiting side.

For the fourth time in five games this season the Fort conceded 10 or more goals in what was a difficult game for the Lochaber side who had a number of key absences including captain Farquhar MacRae.

Jordan Leyden opened the

scoring after 18 minutes with a 25-yard left-footed strike into the top corner. Leyden then turned provider as he laid off Chris Angus who slotted the ball past Fort 'keeper Mateusz Kulbacki.

Greg Mitchell rifled an angled shot into the top right corner of the Fort goal to make it 3-0 after 25 minutes.

Neil Gauld got his first of the match, tapping in after a spillage from the goalkeeper.

Fort continued to play and defended well for the remainder of the half until the 44th minute when Leyden finished low past Kulbacki after a slick passing move from the Locos

through the Fort midfield.

The Fort were looking to stop the slide with the scores at 5-0 at halftime. However, it took just six minutes for Inverurie to add to their tally after Mitchell got his second of the match with a curled finish from inside the box. Shortly after, Gauld got his second with a close range finish.

Inverurie were awarded a penalty after Iain MacIntyre was judged to have pulled back Mitchell who was through on goal.

However, the Fort goalkeeper managed to pull off a great save down low to deny striker

FOOTBALL

Gauld from 12 yards.

The Fort were then reduced to 10 men after Glen Donoghue was sent off.

In the 74th minute, Angus got his second before Gauld and Leyden rounded off their hat-tricks to take the Loco's scoring to 10 for the afternoon.

Fort William sit bottom of the Highland League on zero points along with Lossiemouth and Strathspey Thistle.

Formartine visit Claggan park next Saturday, August 25, to take on the Fort.

An Evening with Susie Wolff and Friends



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Friday 28th of September
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7pm for 7.30pm
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Lochaber Hockey to play in West Coast Mixed League

Lochaber Hockey Club is back in training this week ahead of the first fixtures of the new season which kick starts in the coming weeks.

This year the club is taking part in the newly established West Coast Mixed Hockey League, which will see regular games throughout the winter months both home and away.

Ruth MacCallum, chairwoman of Lochaber Hockey Club, said: 'There is no

pressure on anyone to play in these games. It is an all-inclusive league so everyone gets to play no matter your ability - only if you want to, of course.

'If you just want to come along to training that is absolutely fine.

'All abilities are welcome - even if you haven't played in 20 years it's a great way to keep fit and meet new people. We are a very friendly bunch.'

Training resumes on Friday

HOCKEY

August 24 from 6pm to 7pm at Lochaber High School.

The first session will be 'come and try' at no cost and sticks will be supplied. Thereafter it will be £3 per session.

'If you're not sure if it's for you or you have any questions please get in touch,' Ruth added.

Oban rugby star is back in training

Oban pro rugby star Magnus Bradbury is back in training for the new rugby season, which begins later this month.

The Edinburgh back-row will also be hoping to resume his international career when Scotland compete in the autumn international series.

Magnus's mother, Dee, the new president of Scottish Rugby, said: 'He is in training and looking forward to getting back into it. He is hoping to be involved in the autumn tests but time will tell on that front.'

Edinburgh's new season kicks off on Friday August 31 with a trip to Ospreys. The autumn internationals begin on Saturday November 10 against Fiji and continue on the following two Saturdays

against South Africa and Argentina.

Magnus joined Edinburgh Rugby on an Academy contract in summer 2014 after impressing as part of the Scotland age-grade set-up.

He made his senior debut in the starting XV against Leinster at the RDS Arena in the Guinness PRO12 in October 2014, and scored his first try for the club in the European Challenge Cup defeat of Agen at BT Murrayfield.

After coming through the national age-grade and sevens systems, Magnus made his full Scotland debut in the 2016 November test victory over Argentina and BT Murrayfield.

He committed to Edinburgh on a three-year deal ahead of

RUGBY



Magnus Bradbury

the 2017/18 season and made his 50th appearance for the club in the Guinness PRO14 clash with Ulster.



The final stage is a mile-long kayak at Glencoe.

Entries still open for coast to coast 105-mile challenge

Entries are still open for the Coast to Coast 2018 adventure challenge which takes place through the Great Glen on Saturday September 8 and Sunday 9.

Two thousand athletes are set to run, bike and kayak 105 miles on a point-to-point, east-to-west journey along the Great Glen from Nairn Links to The Isles of Glencoe Hotel.

Coast to Coast is a fully supported and way-marked multisport adventure challenge, a wild endurance event in unforgiving terrain.

The route, which includes a total ascent of 10,840 feet,

takes in stunning lochs, brooding glens, enchanting forests, rugged mountains and the most fantastic views imaginable.

It also features many evocative landmarks and locations that are steeped in generations of history. These include The Great Glen, Fort William, Glen Coe and Loch Leven.

Since it was first staged in 2007, more than 10,000 intrepid adventurers have taken on this magnificent challenge.

As many as 8,000 of those participants have travelled from outwith Scotland, from as far a field as New Zealand,

the USA and Europe, to experience the true beauty (and sometimes brutality) of the Highland terrain and its ever-changing weather.

The athletes, taking part as solos or in pairs, start with a seven-mile run to Cawdor Castle, followed by a 48-mile road cycle along the edge of Loch Ness and a half mile run (that includes a 500-metre kayak on Loch Ness).

They then transition again into a 21-mile off road cycle and a 13.5-mile road cycle through the Great Glen to Fort William, where the bike is replaced by running shoes and they take on a 14-mile

COAST TO COAST

trail run to Loch Leven.

The adventure challenge finishes with a one-mile flat water kayak at Glencoe.

The Coast to Coast is definitely not for the faint hearted and participants will need to be prepared physically and mentally with an element of self sufficiency in remote locations. This epic journey can be taken over two days as a challenger (an average time of 14 hours) or in just one day as an expert (an average of 12 hours), a mammoth undertaking.



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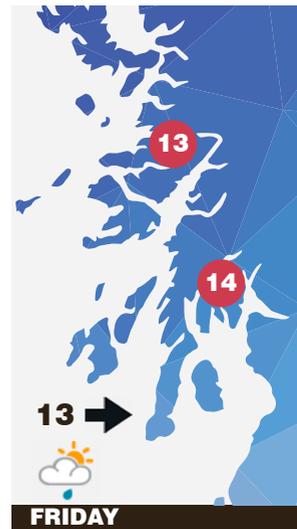


WEATHER

Thursday
Sunshine and showers
Moderate breeze from the west south west
Temperatures 10°C to 14°C.

Friday
Sunshine and showers
Moderate breeze from the west
Temperatures 9°C to 14°C.

Weekend Outlook
Sunny on Saturday
Cloudy on Sunday
Gentle breeze from the south
Temperatures 9°C to 15°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday August 23, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	04.06	3.1	10.24	1.4
	16.13	3.4	22.39	1.5
Fri	04.34	3.3	11.01	1.2
	16.51	3.6	23.15	1.4
Sat	05.08	3.5	11.34	1.1
	17.27	3.8	23.48	1.2
Sun	05.43	3.7	12.06	1.0
	18.02	4.0	****	**
Mon	00.21	1.1	06.16	3.8
	12.37	0.9	18.35	4.5
Tues	00.54	1.0	06.47	3.8
	13.06	0.9	19.06	4.0
Wed	01.26	1.0	07.12	3.8
	13.32	0.9	19.34	3.9

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



INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Cameron gets ready for the European champs
Inverurie go loco with goal fest against Fort



Kinlochshiel's John Macrae gets the champagne flowing as his team gather for a photograph after they defeated Kyle's Athletic 3-2 in an enthralling Macaulay Cup final at Oban's Mossfield Stadium last Saturday. Inset: 'Shiel captain Paul Macrae with the cup. More photographs and match report on the shinty pages. Photos: Neil Paterson

Kinlochshiel win Macaulay Cup



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