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OFFICERS ENFORCE ZERO TOLERANCE APPROACH AND VOW TO FLUSH OUT ORGANISED CRIMINALS

'Nowhere to hide' as police step up drugs crackdown

LOUISE GLEN
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ORGANISED criminals will be flushed out of town with the help of the public, the Oban, Lorn and the isles' area inspector told a meeting of Oban community council on Monday night.

With reports from members of the public that children as young as three are being used as lookouts for drug suppliers and drug barons from the cities beginning to build supply networks for drugs throughout Argyll, Inspector Mark Stephen, a former Glasgow drugs officer, told councillors 'there is an organised way to deal with drug dealers in the town. Tell police officers about it.

'Oban's drug users and suppliers,' he said, 'were being disrupted and were unable to go about their business.'

Saying it 'will be increasingly difficult' to supply and use drugs in the town, he wants members of the public to come forward with drug use and dealer information, and other criminal activity, in order to halt the supply of heroin, cocaine and other class A, B and C drugs to users.

One person, who has already come forward both to the police and the *Oban Times*, said police acted on information that the informant believed at the time was almost insignificant.

The person decided to speak to officers from the community investigation unit after a chance meeting in the street.

For legal reasons the individual cannot be named.

The *Oban Times* was told by the informant that a few weeks ago information was passed to the police on what was believed

“**My children live here - your children live here - they deserve to grow up in safety**”

Inspector Mark Stephen
Area inspector

to be the delivery of drugs made to particular flats in Soroba and Miller Road on the same day every week.

The informant said: 'A team of people who seem to be drug users almost instantly appear after a particular car arrives at a property.'

'Some of the people coming to the house are as young as 12.'

Last Sunday police were called to the Oban-to-Glasgow train to seize a bag of a substance believed to be cocaine worth £50, while other reports of drugs buried in the gardens of the elderly and infirm are being made on a regular basis to both Oban police station and Crimestoppers.

Inspector Stephen has called national police resources into the town to help officers stamp out the scourge of illegal use and supply of drugs.

Inspector Stephen told the community council: 'There is nowhere to hide for drug

dealers - we have people everywhere. Police across Argyll and Bute are closing in on drug dealing and the supply chain that already exists.

'My children live here - your children live here - they deserve to grow up in safety.'

He continued: 'We have officers who are collecting and building up information on what is happening in the town and the rest of the area.'

'There are officers in plain clothes working around the town. There really is nowhere for criminals to hide.'

'We have two officers heading up our community investigation unit (CIU) who are gathering intelligence all the time. Because of our work as a team, we know much more about the profile of suppliers, dealers and users in the town.'

Inspector Stephen added: 'We have several supply cases ongoing that have been reported to the area procurator fiscal for his consideration.'

'We have an excellent relationship with our communities who pass information to us through contact with officers or through Crimestoppers.'

'People tell us who they think are drug dealers. We keep all that information.'

Inspector Stephen said the use of specialist road policing units had helped to identify vehicles and people of interest who may be involved with criminal activity.

Inspector Stephen said: 'We will do everything possible to disrupt criminal activity.'

'Anyone with information in regards to illegal drug use should phone the community investigation unit in Oban by dialling 101 or speaking in confidence to Crimestoppers.'

Argyll piper hits all the right notes at gathering



Stuart Liddell of Inveraray with his haul of prizes after winning the senior piobaireachd competition at last week's Argyllshire Gathering. His winning tune Lament for the Earl of Antrim ensured him a place at the prestigious Glenfiddich championships in Blair Castle in October. See pages 14 and 15 for full coverage of the Argyllshire Gathering.

TIMESLINE

Sectarian singers sought by officers

FIVE men who shouted and sang offensive songs while drinking on a train from Glasgow to Oban are being sought by British Transport Police (BTP).

It happened on the 4.37pm service from Glasgow Queen Street on Saturday. The men are described as being in their late 30s. One had a shaved head, another was wearing a white t-shirt and one of them had a moustache.

Police constable Stephanie Crawford said: 'This sort of behaviour is not acceptable.'

Youngsters reach music semi final

THREE youngsters from the west coast have made it into the semi final of the Radio Scotland young traditional musician of the year.

Fiddle players Neil Ewart from Ardnamurchan and Hannah Macrae from Lochaber will join Lismore accordionist Murray Willis at the semi-final weekend in South Lanarkshire, on October 2-4. They will perform at a concert on Saturday October 3 in Coulter Hall, Coulter, South Lanarkshire.

From this concert, six musicians are chosen to go through to finals at Celtic Connections festival in Glasgow in January 2016.

Parking fine cash tops £177,000

PARKING fines have topped £177,000 in the first year Argyll's council has operated on-street parking charges.

Taking over the parking meters in Argyll and Bute has seen the level of income reach £177,139 from parking contravention notices alone and a further £500,000 from parking charges.



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Oban airport upgrade work starts

CONSTRUCTION work began at Oban airport on Tuesday, the first of Argyll and Bute council's Lorn Arc regeneration projects.

A £600,000 scheme will see access improvements to the airport to open up a business park opportunity.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, chairman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee, was on site and said: 'It is all about making it attractive for investors as a prime business park area, getting them to locate their premises here and bring jobs to the area.'

The work, by the council's road team, is expected to be complete by November 2015. The money has come from the Scottish government's Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) scheme, which funds council investment in infrastructure through a loan.

Road block confusion still reigns for holiday makers

CARAVANS and camper vans are still having problems with a closed road in Oban as no signs are in place, Oban community council heard on Monday.

Community councillor George Berry said confusion reigned amongst visitors trying to use the route along Glenshelach road, which was closed earlier in

the year. Mr Berry said: 'Confusion still reigns at boulders [placed on the road to stop traffic using the road] with people being forced to unhook caravans to continue their journey. The caravan park still has no proper signs.'

Mr Berry raised concerns about the alternative route identified for caravans,

via Glengallan Road, through the busy housing estate behind Oban's hospital.

Councillor Elaine Robertson confirmed signs for the new route to the caravan park were on order. The community council agreed to write to Argyll and Bute council to raise concerns about the new route.

Dalmally Agricultural Show

Saturday 5th September 2015 - The Mart Park, Dalmally

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Airline vows to get better

AIRLINE Loganair has apologised for poor services in recent months.

The flight provider, which operates the majority of services to and from the Scottish islands, sent a statement to shadow transport minister and Highlands and Islands MSP David Stewart acknowledging that services had slipped in recent months and delays had become commonplace.

A 'top to bottom' review of operations is to take place to improve practices.

Welcoming the apology, Mr Stewart said: 'Loganair has told me it appreciates the punctuality and reliability of services has not been good enough. The improvement programme is a 'top to bottom' review of its entire operation to achieve better punctuality and reliability for all Loganair passengers. I look forward to seeing improvement in the future.'

New benches for residents

A SHELTERED housing complex for the elderly in Oban has new garden benches thanks to funding from Scottish Sea Farms Heart of the Community Trust.

Dunmar Court's 36 residents are overjoyed with their new environmentally-friendly seating.

Last year the trust helped to provide seating for Ford Spence Court, Benderloch, by Oban.

Anne Ferguson, warden at Dunmar Court, said: 'We know from our friends at Ford Spence Court these new benches will be a hit. The existing wooden benches were all pretty fragile and the tenants are going to love the new outdoor seating. A seat outside in the fresh air can really brighten your day, so the Heart of the Community grant is much appreciated. Our sincere thanks go to Scottish Sea Farms.'

Day out with a difference

THE INSIDE workings of four Lochaber organisations is going on show as part of Highland Council's Doors Open programme.

Glencoe Folk museum and Nevis Radio, along with Kinlochleven and Lochaber hydro-electric powerhouses, will be welcoming visitors for guided tours and exhibitions at the end of September as part of the month-long event.

Audrey Sinclair, chairwoman of Highland Council's planning, development and infrastructure committee, said: 'There is something interesting for everyone, so why not use the programme to plan a day out with a difference?'

A full programme of events is available at www.doorsopendays.org.uk.

Minister visits town project

MARCO Biagi MSP, minister for community empowerment, recently visited the Rockfield Centre in Oban.

The minister was given a tour of the building by members of Oban Communities Trust (OCT), which is driving the Rockfield Centre forward. Mr Biagi said he was impressed by the scale of the project and asked members of OCT what he could take from this example to shape policy and legislation to similarly empower other communities.

Gordon McNab, OCT chairman, said: 'We have had the support of the community from day one. This, plus support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, gave the OCT board confidence to push ahead.'

'The purpose of this project is to see beyond the repair of the building to provide a focus for arts, culture, heritage and creativity in the centre of Oban.'

Taynuilt show awash with colour



SUCCESS: trophy winners at Taynuilt horticultural show 26_136taynuilt1

TAYNUILT horticultural show was awash with beautiful, bright colours and delightful entries in almost every class.

The small committee had asked for volunteers from the community to come along and help with setting up the hall on the day - and the volunteers came.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the wonderful day out in the village hall.

In their opening remarks both the president and the former president called for new members to come forward to support the event.

As there were only three meetings a year the task was not a big one but it would make all the difference if people did commit some time to the organisation of the village event, they said.



FINE DISPLAY: Hugh MacLeod, winner of the Mercer Cup, with his display of vegetables 26_136taynuilt7

New members needed to help organise annual village event



GREAT JOB: organising committee Lawrence Scott, Donnie McDougal and former president Graham Morse 26_136taynuilt4

Fears voiced over health and social care funding

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A FORMER leader of Argyll and Bute council claims councillors will under-fund health and social care budgets when they slash £21.3 million from the authority's spending over three years.

But a council spokeswoman said no decisions had been made on cutting the council budget.

James Robb, a Helensburgh councillor, told the *Oban Times* that it was only under questioning at a council meeting last week that 'council officers were forced to reveal the Tory LibDem coalition administration is sticking to its plan to cut around 20 per cent from the social services budget.'

The council confirmed savings would

now be spread over three years but the effect was the same. So the outlook budget gap over the next three years is £21.3m (2016-17, £7.8m; 2017-18, £7.9m; and 2018-19, £5.6m).

Mr Robb, former leader of the local authority, said: 'The cuts to social work over that period are more than £10million so equate to almost half the cuts.'

'This is an area which has the highest dependence on low paid workers and the national minimum wage is set to rise from £6.50 to £9, a 38 per cent increase.'

'Of course, all the problems associated with this will transfer to the new integrated health and social care partnership and NHS budgets are already strained with austerity and increasing demand.'

He continued: 'This is a cynical move by

the Tory LibDem coalition administration to sneakily slash social work budgets and transfer all the responsibility and problems to the new integrated health and social care board next April.'

'The message being sent out is clear, we don't care about our old and vulnerable, who are poor and rely on existing council services. Even those with savings find those soon depleted with the costs of care and find themselves reliant on public sector services and support that won't have the funding to deliver what is required.'

Responding to questions on whether or not there was a threat to the funding of the newly-formed integration board, an Argyll and Bute spokeswoman said: 'No decisions have been taken regarding social work expenditure for 2016/7 and beyond.'

Ski resort cooks up winning menu

A HIGHLAND ski resort has become the first of its kind to be recognised with a Taste Our Best award presented by VisitScotland.

Nevis Range Mountain Gondola became the first ski resort in Scotland to win the award for its high quality eating experience.

Its hospitality, quality of the food and menu variety were all commended, as well as its use of Scottish produce.

Customers can sample menus at the resort all year round at the Pinemartin cafe bar and in the Snowgoose restaurant at the top of the mountain gondola on the slopes of Aonach Mor.

Nevis Range's head chef, Will



HIGH QUALITY: chef Donald Macneil showing off the winning menu

MacDonald, was the creator of the winning menu.

Marian Austin, managing director of Nevis Range, said: 'We are absolutely delighted to have received this recognition from VisitScotland. A large number of overseas visitors, as well as many from Scotland and the UK, visit this area, known as the Outdoor Capital of the UK, for a trip on the mountain gondola, winter skiing as well as mountain biking and the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup.'

'We are committed to providing our customers with a unique mountain experience, and providing high quality and locally-sourced food is key to this effort.'

MULL lines

Island police job attracts country-wide interest

A POLICE constable's position on Mull has attracted Hamish MacBeth wannabes from all over the country.

Police Scotland said it had received 'numerous' enquiries about the island position - to be based in Craignure, the island's port.

But officers looking for a sleepy retirement job similar to the officer from the hit TV show might get a shock at the number of investigations police officers are called to on Mull and Iona.

A policing report made by constable Sharon Carr outlined 18 reports in a month to Tobermory police office including drugs, neighbour disputes and two sudden deaths. In Craignure there were three calls, five calls to Salen and 12 calls in Bunnassan and Iona.

At a recent meeting of Mull community council in An Roth, Craignure, Argyll and Bute councillor Mary-Jean Devon said the island had changed with the rising crime on Mull and Iona.

Citing a theft from a medieval shrine on Iona and 18 reported cases in a month in Tobermory alone, Mrs Devon said: 'It really saddens me, all the crimes on Mull. These are things that never happened. What changed?'

A Police Scotland spokesman said the islands were generally safe and he thanked the local community for actively working with the police to report and record crime in such a large geographical area.

Islanders refuse to accept ambulance review plans

ISLANDERS are claiming a review by the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) into services on Mull has led them up the garden path.

A meeting of Mull community council was told it only heard about SAS plans to 'do nothing' when the *Oban Times* published the outcome of the review earlier this month.

Council chairman Billy MacClymont said: 'We have been led up the garden path.'

'We absolutely, categorically refuse to accept their proposal. There is no mention of the community solution and no costings have been done of it because it seems like someone has already made up their mind. The whole thing has been a sham. At the next meeting we will be challenging the decision and demanding the community is listened to. More than 80 per cent of the community wanted a local solution that was affordable - instead we have no change.'

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'Mull and Iona health care review group confirmed that the process was carried out in a robust and objective manner. The options appraisal assessed all the options against the following four criteria: non-financial benefits, risk, affordability and value for money.'

'The outcome of the process identified that no short-listed option met all the relevant criteria to allow a preferred option to be identified.'

'As a result of the process, however, a number of elements were identified that may allow an alternative integrated model to be implemented which would provide an enhanced response.'



CHALLENGE: Mull community council is demanding islanders are listened to over ambulance services

Dervaig's ageing water mains to be replaced

CUSTOMERS in the community of Dervaig, Mull, are to benefit from Scottish Water's plans to invest around £450,000 in the area.

More than 1,000 metres of ageing water mains pipe will be replaced with new plastic piping to help reduce bursts and leaks in the system.

Bursts along sections of the existing mains pipe have resulted in the water supply being shut off to customers served by Dervaig Water Treatment Works.

Scottish Water's regional communities manager, Joanna Peebles, said the work would make a huge difference to residents: 'We fully understand the inconvenience that interruptions to water supply can cause for customers. The local community can be reassured that this new, fit-for-purpose solution will benefit them for many years to come.'

Construction work will start mid-September for around 12 weeks. The majority of the work will be carried out on Kilmore Terrace from the B8073 down to Kilmore Church junction through the village and out past Glenview.

Ulva Ferry homes project on rural awards shortlist

THE ULVA Ferry housing project on Mull is one of three projects shortlisted for a Rural Innovators Award 2015-16.

Housing project manager at Ulva, Helen MacDonald, said: 'We are delighted to be nominated for this award, which recognises all the hard work of the Ulva Ferry community in making affordable, community-owned housing a reality in this remote area. The innovative houses will be the first passive house designed buildings on the island and will be the catalyst for ensuring the long-term sustainability of Ulva Ferry.'

The Rural Innovators Awards are run by the Scottish Rural Parliament and seek to recognise and showcase some of the most innovative and effective ways in which rural challenges can be addressed.

The awards will go to projects, individuals or organisations which are improving life in rural communities by tackling one of the priority challenges.

There are 12 categories including: communication, land, community council, young people and transport.

Scottish Rural Parliament national co-ordinator Emma Cooper said: 'Some incredible projects were nominated for the awards in this category and we would encourage people to vote for the one they find most innovative and inspirational.'

The winner of each category will receive a paid-for place at the second Scottish Rural Parliament event next year and will be given the opportunity to present their project to the participants.

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Youth groups team up on alcohol alternatives

ARGYLL and Bute Council's Youth Services team got together with a group of young people from North Argyll Youth Forum to provide members of the public in Oban with an alcohol-free drinks tasting session.

The group provided members of the public with alcohol-free drinks which included beer, wine and cider, and carried out a survey to record people's views on the taste, price and availability of them.

When asked if there were enough alcohol-free options in pubs, restaurants and shops, more than 80 per cent agreed there were not enough and more than 75 per cent of people agreed they would buy them if available, especially when driving.

The majority of those questioned said they thought alcohol-free drinks should be subsidised and many believed they should

be promoted more. As a result, the group now plans to look into how other countries across the globe promote the drinks.

The council's policy lead on education and lifelong learning, councillor Rory Colville, said: 'This is a wonderful, proactive initiative which helps to highlight the other options which are available to people when they are on a night out. In today's society there is more and more pressure on people to binge drink, especially our younger generation and only too often we hear about the negative effects of alcohol misuse. We want people to have the opportunity to be as healthy and active as possible and alcohol-free drinks give people a healthier alternative.'

'This team must be congratulated on their efforts and I look forward to hearing their progress.'

No butts- smoking banned at Oban hospital

CIGARETTE butts at the door of Oban's Lorn and Islands hospital are unsightly and puffing at the front door needs to be stopped, said one visitor to the hospital last week.

NHS Highland said it promoted a healthy environment and regularly cleaned up the area - but apologised if it was a mess.

Hospital visitor Katie Boyd of Oban told the *Oban Times*: 'I have just been to



Lorn and Islands hospital is a no-smoking zone - but one visitor feels the rules are not being enforced

the hospital this morning and attempted to enter by the side door, which I think was locked.

'I was absolutely disgusted to see all the fag ends sitting in a corner beside that door.

'I spoke to a member of staff inside and said I was utterly disgusted to see them.

'I commented that I saw the nurses and staff right at the end of the hospital grounds, facing the bus stop on Glengallan Road, having their cigarette.

'They have to obey the rules on smoking so why is nothing being done to stop patients and this disgusting habit right at the door of the hospital.

'They are not even being swept up but then I would imagine the cleaners are not responsible for that.'

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'We are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for patients, visitors and staff and we have a

no-smoking policy for the hospital and its grounds. The vast majority of the public comply with this policy and if anyone is observed smoking they will be reminded of the policy by our staff.

'The main entrance is also cleaned regularly as part of the cleaning schedule for the hospital and any rubbish will be collected and disposed of and we can only apologise if that has not happened on this occasion.'

TIMESLINE

Speeding drivers caught by police

MOTORISTS have caught the attention of traffic officers this week after travelling at excessive speeds on the A82.

On August 30, a 21-year-old man was stopped after allegedly travelling at speeds of more than 100 mph in a 60 mph zone.

The same day, near Tyndrum, a 41-year-old motorist was allegedly detected travelling at more than 88mph in a 60mph zone.

Later that evening, again near Tyndrum, a 57-year-old man was detected travelling at 87mph in a 60mph zone.

Police sergeant Alan Moore said police units were on patrol in the area and anyone caught speeding would be fined or reported to the procurator fiscal.

Thieves may have been disturbed

A BREAK in at a Connel boatyard may have been disrupted before any theft took place, but officers still want to know of any information about people in the area at the time of the serious breaking and entering.

A shed at Fisherman's Wharf at Connel had been broken into and a gate had been cut open.

Conducting the enquiry, police constable Fraser Anderson wants to hear from anyone who saw anything suspicious between 7pm last Thursday, August 27, and 11am on Friday August 28.

Search on for man seen in Gallanach

POLICE are searching for a man in his 50s with a Liverpool accent who they would like to eliminate from their enquiries.

The man, believed to be a visitor to the area, is described as white with long hair tied up in a pony tail. He is believed to have been in the Gallanach area of the town between 6pm and 10pm last Friday when a theft occurred and may have vital information about the crime.

Parking blunder sees church goers fined

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PARISHIONERS at St Columba's Cathedral in Oban have been shocked to find car parking tickets pasted over more than 20 cars while they attended mass.

The town's car parking attendant targeted the cars of people who have been going to mass in the same church and parking in the same place for more than 30 years.

Sandy McGregor, nephew of one of the octogenarian church goers, said: 'Whilst attending St Columba's Cathedral church, as my 79-year-old uncle

does every Sunday morning, he returned to his car to find out he had a parking ticket.

'He was not the only one. Everyone who parked on the single yellow line across the road from the cathedral also got one.

'Some common sense should apply here.

'It is truly a sad day when parking attendants are targeting people at church on a Sunday.

'As far as he was aware the parking restrictions on the single yellow line only apply Monday to Saturday and in the last 30 years he has been parking on the single yellow

line across from the cathedral on a Sunday and he has never received a ticket nor has anyone else he knows. He is very upset over the matter.

'Are we so badly off for money in Argyll and Bute that an old man cannot go and say prayers on a Sunday for an hour without fear that he will be fined for doing so?

'In pursuit of attendants meeting targets are we going to be putting off people from going to worship in their community?

'I don't think £70 fines will do much for anyone's mental health never mind the pocket of a pensioner.'

Graham Fraser from art shop Alba on Albany Street said: 'It is high time the council considered the problems that parking charges are causing.

'Evidence from Wales now shows that by cancelling parking charges towns can achieve a 50 per cent rise in business.'

In response to the parking tickets given out near the cathedral, councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'We will be taking this up and apologise for the lack of consideration and the concern this has caused.'

An Argyll and Bute council spokesman said: 'There are no targets either for the number of [parking contravention notices]

PCNs a warden must issue or for income from decriminalised parking enforcement.

'The council took on the responsibility for enforcing parking regulations throughout the area to ensure effective traffic management in our towns.'

The spokesman added: 'Outside the cathedral on the seaward side of the road there are two separate parking restrictions.

'There is a single yellow line which indicates that parking or waiting at that roadside is prohibited at certain times of day, in this instance from Monday to Saturday.

'There are also sections of

double yellow lines which mean no waiting at any time.

'If cars are caught parking on the double yellow lines the issuing of a PCN is legitimate.

'If cars were parked on the single yellow line on Sunday and were issued with PCNs this was in error and we will, of course, rescind them and apologise for any confusion.

'We would encourage anyone who was in the area on Sunday and feels they may have been incorrectly issued with a PCN to make contact with us (as we do not hold their contact details) using the contact details on the back of the PCN and we will look into it.'

Benefits of road safety campaign outlined to minister during visit

JUSTICE secretary Michael Matheson visited Oban community fire station last week to hear about the 'cut-it-out' road safety campaign.

Mr Matheson was given a tour of the station and was then provided with the chance to view appliances and other operational resources.

He then met with the on-duty fire crew before being given the opportunity to observe a real-time crash simulation.

The MSP was then updated on some of the community-based initiatives the station is engaged in with its multi-agency partners. This includes the 'cut-it-out' road safety

initiative which is a programme aimed at promoting safe driving amongst young drivers and passengers of school leaver age.

Mr Matheson met some of the young people who have already taken part in the programme and he was very interested in their feedback.

He also met June Graham and Kay McGhee from Argyll and Bute council's road safety department.

June and Kay explained to Mr Matheson the rationale behind the initiative and they also spoke of the positive feedback received from the schools which have participated so far.



ROAD WATCH: MSP Michael Matheson joins Oban community fire station manager Martin Hill and watch manager Duncan Litster

Progress made in bid to secure fairer system of buying cheap train tickets

PROGRESS in securing a 'fairer' system of buying cheaper tickets on the Oban to Glasgow rail route during peak hours has been made.

The current pricing structure does not allow anyone on the early train to get a discount as it is a 'rush-hour train' but regularly leaves the town with 'only a few' passengers on board.

Duncan Martin, a community councillor in Oban, has asked the national rail authority for a 'split ticket exemption' under rules in the train operators handbook.

Mr Martin said: 'I wrote to Abellio ScotRail

and then had a long phone call with them but to date I have not received a written answer.

'But there is a feeling that there is an inconsistency by the way other rail lines work with rush hour rulings.

'In some places it is when a train arrives in Glasgow rather than when it leaves the end of the line.'

Community councillors said they believed a review on the pricing structure of the railway was already in place, but would write again to ask for a face-to-face meeting with ScotRail.

Senior officers on the move to town

TWO SENIOR police officers are coming to live in Oban.

Inspector Mark Stephen told Oban community council: 'An officer from Aberdeen and one from Fife are both moving back to the area.

'Under a national police force we can cast our net far and wide to recruit staff.

'This makes it easier to encourage people to come to Oban.'



TEAMWORK: left to right, Gordon McNab, Louise Stewart, Sorley Henderson and Kellie Cooper.

A warm welcome for winner Kellie

AN AWARD winning paralegal joined Stevenson Kennedy Solicitors in Oban earlier this month.

Kellie Cooper, 46, won paralegal of the year at both the Scottish Law Awards in September 2014 and the Scott and Co Legal Awards in March 2015.

Kellie specialises in wills, executries and powers of attorney. She is available to meet at the office in Oban or a home visit can be arranged. She said: 'It feels like I've been here for years. It's my home away from home. It's a great environment and they're lovely people to work for.'

Oban police are on the case in August

SINCE the beginning of August, Oban town centre has seen increased police activity, which the force says is normal for this time of year.

Community officer Jeremy Moore told a meeting of Oban community council on Monday night that there had been 13 crime reports.

These included disorder in the town, one Licensing Scotland Act case [where a drunk person did not leave a licensed premises when asked], six thefts, four vandalism cases, six road traffic offences and one case of wild life crime.

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Staff happy in council jobs

HIGHLAND Council employees are happier at work this year than they were in 2012, according to the results of a staff survey.

The council received responses from 3,831 staff - 36 per cent of employees.

The survey revealed a 13 per cent increase in the number of staff who felt they were being treated with respect and dignity in the workplace, taking the total of workers feeling this way up to 57 per cent.

Questions on the survey covered staff morale, interest at work and job satisfaction.

Chairman of the resources committee, councillor Bill Fernie said: 'This is a very positive report and shows considerable improvements across a range of indicators. We have some way to go, but these results demonstrate the council has been moving in the right direction over the past two years.'

Chief executive, Steve Barron, welcomed the results of the survey. He said: 'The results of the latest staff survey are excellent and managers should take great credit for substantially improving morale, satisfaction and undoubtedly performance.'

A report highlighting actions and areas for further improvement will be reported to the resources committee in November.

St Kilda joins land register

ST Kilda has become the first UNESCO World Heritage Site to be added to Scotland's land register through keeper-induced registration (KIR).

Scotland's westernmost archipelago is one of only 32 locations worldwide to be awarded 'mixed' World Heritage status for both its natural and cultural significance.

The registration includes the island of Hirta's famous Village Street, a row of 19th century cottages that remained inhabited until 1930.

Sheenagh Adams, Keeper of the Registers of Scotland (RoS), said: 'We are delighted to welcome such an important part of Scotland's heritage and natural beauty onto the land register. This ensures St Kilda is protected by a state-backed warranty, further securing the site for the people of Scotland.'

Royal Mail beats target

ROYAL Mail says it delivered a target-beating performance in the PA postcode area for the first quarter of the financial year 2015-16.

According to independent research, 94.3 per cent of first class mail was delivered on time, the next working day after posting. It also had a 99 per cent success rate in delivering second class mail.

Royal Mail is the only UK mail delivery company required to publish Quality of Service performance against delivery targets every quarter and has the highest Quality of Service specification of any major European country.

Class act after leaving school

MORE school leavers in south Lochaber find employment or further education than elsewhere in the Highlands.

Figures presented at the Lochaber area committee last week showed all of the pupils finishing at Kinlochleven high school last year had a 'positive destination', compared to 93 per cent in the Highlands.

The school also achieved better than the national average of 92 per cent.

Fraser's music will live on

STEVEN RAE
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A TRUST has been set up in memory of an Islay musician who died this year, with the aim of producing a CD and book of his work.

Piper Fraser Shaw, from Port Charlotte, was a lively presence on the island, organising music sessions until he passed away in May at the age of 34, having suffered from Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

The Fraser Shaw Trust was set up by Gráinne Brady, Fraser's partner, and his brother Greg Shaw.

The main aim of the project is to collect all of Fraser's compositions, publish them as a tune book and record a high quality CD on which his closest friends play arrangements of his tunes, and tunes and songs written for him.

Fiddle player and composer Gráinne explained she didn't realise how big the project would become. 'What started as a project to produce a tune book and CD of Fraser's tunes



UNIQUE CHARACTER: Islay musician Fraser Shaw, who died in May

has turned into something much bigger,' she said.

'Fraser was a very unique character with a wonderful personality who seemed to make fast friends at every turn.

'He was also such a talented musician and lovely to play music with. He had a vast Scottish and Irish tune repertoire and was an avid composer.

'When he was sick, all of his many friends rallied round, wanting to see him and to help in any way possible.

'His musician friends started bringing in their instruments and playing music to him, to help him relax and remember good times.

'After Fraser passed away we had a few nights in his honour. Although it was a devastating time, it was remarkable how many people were there, brought together in the wake of something tragic, to remember Fraser, his lovely personality, talent and spirit. This was also relayed at the memorial on Islay

“It's good his close friends have got together to do this”

Margaret Rice
Fraser's mum

in July, which was a very special weekend.'

The trust has already received some generous donations from the general public and from Bruichladdich distillery on the island and will continue its own fundraising activities.

Fraser's mum, Margaret Rice, said the project would help his music live on.

'It's good that his close friends have got together to do this,' she said.

'They want the book and CD produced properly and professionally, because Fraser really

was a perfectionist. To do that will cost quite a lot of money which is why they've started the fundraising.'

The CD will be songs Fraser wrote, performed by his friends. The money raised from sales will be donated to the MS Centre in Lochgilphead, where Fraser received treatment.

Margaret continued: 'It was Fraser's ambition to do something for the centre, and he had already started this idea but unfortunately never managed to see it through.

'I'm really grateful to the people who have come together to do this so Fraser is not forgotten, and his music lives on.'

The trust's next fundraising activity will be in St Peter's Hall, Partick, Glasgow, on September 12 and 13, and has been named 'Shawfest'.

The hall is booked from 4pm, with fun activities for all ages including pottery lessons, whistle lessons, face painting, jewellery, home baking stalls, and various live musical acts.

For more information, visit: www.fraserhawtrust.com

Work starts on A83 road surface upgrade

MOTORISTS using the A83 to the north of Glaschoine, near Cairndow, will benefit from an improved road surface as works with a value of £105,000 are carried out in the first two weeks of September.

Improvements to the 590m section of the A83 began on Monday and are likely to take up to two weeks to complete. The work is being carried out between 7am and 7pm each day from Monday to Friday with no works planned at weekends. Due to the restricted width of the carriageway on this section of the A83 and to ensure the safety of road users and road workers, a 10mph convoy system will be in operation while the work is undertaken.

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

Eddie Ross, of BEAR Scotland, said: 'These essential works will improve the existing road surface and address any cracks or potholes in the road, enhancing the safety of the A83 at this section. Some delays are inevitable and we would therefore encourage motorists to plan their journey ahead, where possible.'



Oban group wheels in with £1,000

WHEEL OF FORTUNE: The Inner Wheel of Oban's immediate past president Judith Small presents a £1,000 cheque to John Twort, treasurer of the town's support group for Diabetes UK Care Event. The charity raises funds to allow children with type one diabetes to attend a diabetes-themed holiday. The charity's aim is to allow children to meet, share and support each other.

Long-haired Josh takes the plunge for charity

A LONG-haired 11-year-old made a decision to trim his locks after a woman asked if he was a boy or a girl.

Dunbeg primary seven pupil Josh Brack decided to donate his hair to a charity that supports children with cancer.

His mum, Gail, explained: 'Josh has had long hair for years but last week yet another older lady asked him if he was a girl or a boy.'

'He was quite upset and decided he would get it cut. Instead of wasting his hair, we checked

through a cancer research website how to donate it for children with cancer.

'It had to be freshly washed with no products, a minimum of seven inches long and cut off in bunches.'

Hairdresser Hayley Edwards at Rutherford in Oban helped to wash and remove the hair by tying it into four plaits before cutting it off.

Gail and Josh then put the four pigtails in a clear sandwich bag and posted it off to the Little Princess Trust hair donation.



BEFORE AND AFTER: Josh Brack finally got his hair cut after being asked, yet again, if he was a boy or a girl

ISLAY letter by Hugh Smith

Music feast at Port Ellen

THE AWARD-WINNING duo of Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham will be in concert in Port Ellen's Ramsay Hall on Saturday September 6 as part of the Blas Festival 2015 which runs throughout the Highlands and Islands from September 4 to September 12.

Also on stage with the Shetland fiddler and the Edinburgh ace accordionist will be the Lochaber multi-instrumentalist and singer Ewan Henderson, a former member of the Battlefield Band and co-founder in 2010 of the increasingly popular Gaelic group Mánran.

Sharing the Port Ellen platform with the visiting musicians will be the highly-talented youngsters from the Fèis Oigridh Ile 's Dhiùra stable who are guaranteed to keep up the tempo and join with the visiting performers in the finale.



IN CONCERT: Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham

The Port Ellen gig kicks off at 7.30pm and among other islands included in the itinerary of this year's Blas Festival are Mull and Skye.



WORLD CLASS: Islay House is being converted into a luxury hotel

Work to convert mansion into luxury hotel progresses

WORK on the conversion of the island mansion Islay House into a world-class luxury hotel continues apace and the property co-owner Steven Haag reports everything is going favourably with the alterations and improvements.

These have included cosmetic upgrades to the Grade 'A' listed building as well as a number of significant structural improvements.

Among the most challenging of the undertakings has been the upgrade of the drainage system, the first to be carried out for more than a century. Proving equally challenging was the installation of a fire safety sprinkler system which was no easy task in the 17th century building.

The owners are exercising a great deal of discretion as they set about these improvements and are respectful and highly conscious of the

mansion's long history and of the regard with which it has been held in the local community.

As the renovations continue, operational staff have been engaged and the remaining staffing requirements are presently being considered.

The owners look forward to welcoming guests soon for overnight stays as well as those who wish to avail themselves of catering and bar services.

A second phase of redevelopment will take place over the winter in preparation for the planned grand official opening in 2016.

Islay House was built in 1644 by Sir Hugh Campbell of Cawdor, whose family owned the island at that time. The property remained in the hands of the island's principal landowners until it was sold to a private buyer by the Margdale family in the early 1980s. It was bought by the current owners in May of last year.

Congratulations to diamond and golden wedding couples

CONGRATULATIONS go to retired Bowmore building contractor Isla Woodrow and his Port Ellen-born wife Isobel who celebrated 60 years of marriage on August 25.

Family members ensured the diamond anniversary did not go unmarked. The previous week Port Ellen's Kenny Swan and his wife Fiona (MacDonald) marked their golden wedding

while, at the beginning of August, Gaelic singer and National Mòd silver medal winner Andrew McCowan and his wife Christine, nee Campbell, did likewise with a cruise to warmer and drier climes. Everyone wishes the celebrating couples many further happy years together.

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Show demonstrates St Conan's potential

ST CONAN'S Kirk, Lochawe, was the venue for a theatrical treat on Saturday night when Classical Musicians Scotland performed the Ivor Novello story.

Last year this production received excellent reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe festival.

In the wonderful script by John Cairney, Ivor Novello's story and songs are brought to life by an actor, two singers and a pianist.

The audience enjoyed an evening of nostalgia, romance and 1930s showbiz glamour. The cast was delighted to find that St Conan's, with its brass candelabra, atmospheric lighting and exceptional acoustics, was an ideal setting.

The story unfolded against a background of 1930s furnishings, rich velvets and period charm.

Rosie Campbell-Preston, vice chairwoman of the Friends of St Conan's, said: 'We are delighted this professional group agreed to perform here.'

'It's been a marvellous evening and has once again demonstrated the huge potential of St Conan's. We will be encouraging more acts to visit.'

Tiree festival 2015 will stay in memories forever, say organisers

TIREE Music Festival (TMF) is to be held again in 2016 - but it will be the 2015 festival which will always stand out as a special memory.

Organisers Daniel Gillespie and Stewart MacLennan, both TMF directors, told the *Oban Times*: "TMF 2015 will be a festival that stays in our memories forever."

"Where immediate thoughts turn to the extreme 'summer' weather conditions, the memories we shall treasure are the moments when our island showed a community spirit and hospitality that literally touched the hearts of people around the world."

"For us, it was both the most challenging and proudest moment since forming the festival back in 2010."

"The 'story' of TMF 2015 has literally made news around the world with one report going out in Florida, USA."

"We have received countless messages of thanks that we wish to share with our west coast community as without that support the safe and speedy evacuation of the festival site would not have been possible."

"When creating the concept of TMF, we put the main objective as 'promoting the island, culture and community of Tiree'. TMF2015 showed that Tiree's culture and community spirit was stronger than ever before."

"It was a moment that we shall never forget."

"The generous gift of tents from Tesco and Argos also ensured that people could remain on Tiree for the rest of the weekend."

"We need to thank Iain MacKinnon and the members of the LEST (Lorne Event Safety Team) for their guidance throughout the weekend."

"To our TMF team and volunteers - to get the festival site operational again on the Saturday was a superhuman effort and an incredible display of commitment to TMF."

"Thank you all for your inspirational support."

Safety group shake-up fears

WORK OF COMMUNITY FORUM WILL NOW BE DELIVERED THROUGH CENTRAL PARTNERSHIPS

COMMUNITY safety will now be managed in Kilmory, rather than at a local level, after a reorganisation of departments within Argyll and Bute council.

Fears that ground-breaking initiatives, such as water safety group LochWatch Loch Awe, will no longer be initiated at a local level were quelled by police, fire and Argyll and Bute council as officers will continue to look at problems together.

But concerns were raised that critical problems in Oban, Lorn and the isles would no longer have an official meeting to drive forward community safety.

Organisations and charities such as the widely respected LochWatch Loch Awe, home fire safety and the driving hot spots education programme were all started from members of the Lorn and isles community safety forum.

One of the biggest successes, the Lorn Event Safety group, was formed by partners who attended the community safety forum allowing events such as Hogmanay in Oban, Tiree Music Festival and the Skerryvore Decade concert to run smoothly. Argyll and Bute council's plan for community safety will see the local forum brought under the regional community planning group,

and safety will be discussed at fewer than four meetings a year, with no particular focus on specific issues in Oban.

Past discussions in the forum included walking routes to school, emergency plans and water safety.

Members of the forum included representatives from the police, fire brigade, environmental health, health and safety, housing associations, social work, mountain rescue and the RNLI, who all shared information.

The loss of the forum to Lorn area safety was lamented by police officer sergeant Alan Moore. He said: "There are concerns that we will be in a

bigger partnership and we will no longer be able to focus on the issues that are important to us here in Oban and the isles."

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Oban station commander Martin Hill added: "There still needs to be a meeting at a local level where we discuss specific concerns. This forum has been very successful at identifying the things that make our community unsafe and finding resolutions."

The council's community safety officer Robert Cowper said: "The new structure will see the work of the community safety forum delivered through regional partnerships. There is no doubt the forums have been

a success and the partnership will have a tough task in its hands to do the same level of work."

When asked how the information from the Oban area would be used, Mr Cowper said: "The new arrangements for the committee will be reviewed regularly to make sure community safety in the local areas is being addressed."

The forum was told the new structure would mean local area issues not being discussed as often, but regional partnerships would have many of the same people attending the meetings and would therefore have an opportunity to discuss concerns.

TIMESLINE

Station merger plan still on track

PLANS to merge Oban's community fire station with the town's ambulance station have stalled but have not stopped.

The Scottish Ambulance Service and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) are in discussions about bringing the two services together under one roof, Oban's community safety group heard last Friday.

SFRS Oban station manager Martin Hill said: "The proposals for us to co-share with the ambulance service are at an advanced stage."

"There are a number of protocol to be discussed which has slowed up the process at the moment. There is a desire within the fire service to see this happen."

Children's figures revealed at forum

THERE are 36 children 'looked after' by the local authority in Oban, Lorn and the isles.

The numbers were given to the area's community safety forum last week by Argyll and Bute council social workers.

In the area there are two children under a community protection order, 16 children who are looked after and accommodated by the local authority, seven children are in foster care, two children are in specialist units outside Argyll and Bute and nine under-16s are in kinship care.

Ferguson Marine tops ferry tender

CALEDONIAN Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) has announced Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd (FMEL), Port Glasgow, is the preferred tenderer for the £97million contract to build two dual fuel ferries for the Clyde and Hebrides service.

The contract will see two 100 metre ferries built at Port Glasgow. They will accommodate 127 cars or 16 HGVs or a combination of both and up to 1,000 passengers.

'Dog poo fairy' out to get foulers

STEVEN RAE
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FICTIONAL character the 'Dog Poo Fairy' was in Oban on Monday, to remind people she does not exist and they need to clean up after their dogs.

The fairy, actually Oban resident Nicola Wilson, was part of a multi-partner gathering at Atlantis Leisure centre, as the campaign group Oban Community Action on Dog Fouling launched its media campaign.

MSP for the Highlands and Islands Mike Mackenzie and Oban-based councillors Roddy McCuish, Duncan MacIntyre, Elaine Robertson and Iain Angus MacDonald were in attendance to give the group some political clout.

Oban officers Inspector Mark Stephen and Sergeant Alan Moore represented Police Scotland. Others from West Highland Housing Association (WHHA), Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), Argyll and Bute council's amenity services,



READY FOR ACTION: supporters of the Oban dog fouling campaign at the media launch at Atlantis leisure



FAIRY POWER: the 'Dog Poo Fairy' next to some spray-painted dog mess

Atlantis leisure centre, Oban community council, Park primary school and members of the public came along to give their support.

Oban community councillor Julie McKenzie, one of the dog fouling group's founding members, said: "Thank you to everyone who came along today to support what we're doing. It's absolutely fantastic to see such an overwhelming response and encourages us as a group to keep going with our campaign."

As part of its ongoing effort for working in partnership with other organisations, Julie was pleased to announce that West Highland Housing Association had offered to supply 10 new bins to the campaign. Argyll and Bute council will arrange to site the bins and will empty them.

Part of the new media launch to raise the profile of the dog fouling problem is to literally 'highlight' it, by spray painting dog mess with fluorescent paint.

The paint is biodegradable, and the actions are fully

supported by the council and Police Scotland.

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: "I'm absolutely delighted the group has got to this stage in its campaign."

"This highlights this partnership working well together and it's great to see so many representatives from the different partners here today."

"Hopefully the media launch highlights how seriously we are taking this issue."

MSP Mike McKenzie said he was very encouraged by the support the group has garnered, particularly from the council and community council and the housing associations.

Oban Community Action on Dog Fouling now plans to adopt a pro-active approach in the community, encouraging members to report online to both the group and Argyll and Bute council, when they see someone commit an offence.

To report a dog fouling issue, telephone the council's dog fouling and dog control department on 01546 605 514, or online: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/myabc/dogfouling

High number of entries at North Connel and district flower show

NORTH Connel and district horticultural show was a resounding success with a high number of entries in almost every class.

The annual event, held in the Victory hall, Benderloch, was buzzing with people of all ages taking part.

The local school competition was hotly contested with children taking centre stage in the trophy haul.

Results

Championship Cup (most points in classes 1 to 52, flowers, pot plants and vegetables) - Jessie Wormell; McLeod Shield (runner up as above) - Fiona Shaw; Les Milne Cup (best exhibit in show) - Jim MacKie for his fuschia; Oban Times Cup (most points for flowers) - Moira Newiss; Campbell Godley Quaich (most points for pot plants) - Jessie Wormell; Dundonald Vase (most points for Annuals) - Marieka Steuben; Agnes MacKay Quaich (best exhibit for violas or pansies) - Jim Mackie; Tensfeldt Cup (most point for vegetables) - Andy Newiss; Silver Baking Cup (most points for baking aged 7 years and under) - Grace Stewart; Silver Rose Bowl (most points for baking aged 8 to 14 years) - Kai MacKechnie; An Claddich Quaich (most points Baking Adults) - Eileen Hill; Best Eggs Quaich - Jessie Wormell; Achnacreebeag Cup (most points for Floral Art) - Jane Eccles; Graham Stooke Cup (most points for Photography Adults) - Elsa Bell; Photography Shield (most points Photography under 15s - Charlotte Jackson-Stark; Silver Vase (most points Children's Art aged 9 and under) - Sophie Stewart; Donald Morrison Cup (most points Children's Art aged 10 to 14) - Eilid MacPherson; Jean Campbell Cup (best exhibit in Children's Art) - Callum MacMillan; Schools Challenge Cup (best school entry in flowers and vegetables) - Barcaldine School for white potatoes.



SHOWSTOPPER: winner of the Dundonald Vase, the Best Eggs Quaich and the Achnacreebeag Cup Jessie Wormell with Maurice Watkins who presented her with her awards



PRIZE PUPILS: a happy Eva Reeves collected the challenge cup for best school entry in flowers and vegetables on behalf of Barcaldine primary school



AND THE WINNER IS...children wait patiently to find out the results of the trophy winners and the raffle

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Taynuilt

AT TAYNUILT'S final ceilidh of the summer season, 10-year-old Innes Munro started off the proceedings with a most enjoyable performance on the bagpipes.

Clearly Innes has a bright future in piping. Talented young fiddler Ross McLeish played impressively during musical duets with his dad, Derek McLeish, who played the flute. Ross also sang a beautiful Gaelic song.

Youth played a major part in the ceilidh and the Argyll Ceilidh Trailers delighted the appreciative audience with some stirring music.

Ceilidh Trailers taking part were Hannah Gillies, Anna Garvin, Mel Harbron, Morven MacFadyen, Kirsty and Rachel Campbell, Ross Christie and Ruairidh Litsier-Campbell.

Once again, Ailie Munro from the Isla Sinclair Dancers produced top-class dancing performances.

Taynuilt's singing trio, Helen Watt, Audrey Paterson and Davy Paterson, harmonised impressively with songs including Java Jive and California Dreamin'.

Taynuilt Gaelic choir, under conductor Audrey Paterson, produced excellent Gaelic singing with three mixed choir pieces and one ladies' piece.

Fear an taighe for the evening was Duncan MacDonald, who kept the ceilidh flowing smoothly.

The committee thanks everyone who took part and helped in any way during the summer ceilidhs, in particular, Moira Dunlop for all her hard work in making the events so successful.

Barra

A NEW oyster farm on Barra has received almost £500,000 support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to help expand the business.

Traigh Mhor Oysters is a joint venture between family-owned food group AP Jess and Isle of Barra Oysters Limited.

HIE has awarded the business £490,000 to help buy new equipment and add to its six staff. The farm's six million oyster capacity could also be increased by an extra four million.

A spokesman for HIE said AP Jess had acquired a 70 per cent stake in the venture. The three people behind Isle of Barra Oysters, brothers Gerard and Martin MacDonald and Donald Macleod, each retain a 10 per cent stake in the new business.

The company now employs six full-time members of staff, compared with three on a part-time basis when the firm was founded in 2009.

Traigh Mhor Oysters is investing in stock and new equipment as it gears up to meet demand from Scotland and elsewhere in the UK.

HIE highlighted plans by the company, as oyster production grew, to explore international markets such as France, Spain and countries in the Far East. The agency noted that demand for live shellfish was growing in these overseas markets.

Tiree

PUPILS on the island of Tiree has been given advice how to get the best out of school life.

Tiree high school have handed out five top tips for a good start to the school day. Teachers have asked pupils to consider having a good night's sleep, eating breakfast, organising for the day ahead, getting to school on time and being prepared when they get to school.

The school's newsletter, issued weekly, also asks parents and carers to let the school know about the 'wider achievements' of pupils. The newsletter reads: 'If there is anything your son or daughter has been awarded, taken part in, shown great improvement in please let us know as soon as possible. This can be in your child's diary or in an email to the school.'

A GOLDFISH, which was the centrepiece of a peaceful room in Tiree primary and high school, has passed away, children found out when they recently returned to school.

A report in the school's newsletter read: 'Over the summer holidays Bubbles was lucky to have been given a home in Tigh a Rudha with one of our kindly senior citizens but sadly Bubbles will not be returning to school as she died. We are pleased to have had such a lovely school pet.'

Mull

OWNERS of a dog which has a terminal illness ticked 'watching a sunset over Calgary Bay' off his 'bucket list' last week.

'Angus' lives with Dawn and Allan Birse in Motherwell but made the trip to the island to enjoy the sunset and stayed at a hotel in Dervaig.

The couple drew up a list of 15 things to do with the large Bernese mountain dog, which is suffering from liver cancer and has been given only one month to live.

The Snow Factor at Braehead, Glasgow, recently allowed the couple to bring Angus onto the snow.



CEREMONY: Rosemary Elice unveils a plaque at the upgraded Glenelg football pitch, in memory of her husband Major Elice

New Glenelg football pitch cheer

GLENELG amateur football club has unveiled its new pitch, following a £75,000 boost.

The villagers, who play in the Skye and Lochalsh league, received the funding from the Capital One 'Grounds For Improvement' campaign last year, after being selected from more than 1,000 applicants by England international Ian Wright and Britain's oldest Sunday League footballer Derek May. The money was used to install state of the art drainage and level the field at Avenue park.

Glenelg resident Erica McDonald, who submitted the application on behalf of the football club, said: 'We're delighted with our new pitch, which was in dire straits but thanks to the support from Capital One we now have a pitch to be proud of. It looks fantastic and gives fans and the wider community something extra special to look forward to in the coming season.'

Special sighting of minke whales



RARE SIGHT: One of two minke whales pictured off Kilchoan Bay last month

VOLUNTEERS had a whale of a time when they caught a rare sight off Kilchoan Bay.

Researchers from the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin trust and volunteers who support them were heading home from a 12-day survey on the Silurian vessel when they came across the Minke whales.

Dr Conor Ryan said: 'These are a fairly rare find. We would come across maybe four or five in one year through all of the work we do. It is particularly rare to see them in the water between Mull and Kilchoan, so it was very special for us.'

The two whales looked like they were adult and infant and interacted with the survey boat last month. Dr Ryan said: 'They approached us and swam under and beside the boat for some time. That inquisitive behaviour is quite rare, so it was very exciting.'

Dr Ryan's colleague Jonathan Biddle ran to the 'crow's nest' on the vessel - the highest point - where he managed to capture the exceptional photograph.

The team is keen to get more volunteers on board with them. For more information contact them on 01688 302620.

Kichoan

Western Isles

Ballot papers will be issued by September 17 and must be returned by October 1.

A BY-ELECTION to elect a councillor for the An Taobh Siar agus Nis Ward is being held.

Nomination packs are available from the council offices, Sandwick Road, Stornoway, or the comhairle website.

Completed nomination forms must be lodged with the returning officer at the above address by 4pm this Friday, September 4.

If more than one valid nomination submitted an election will be held on Wednesday October 7.

WESTERN Isles council insists it has

not changed the policy on bilingual signs after a sign in Marybank was erected without Gaelic.

A sign at the Bannadro junction on the A859 in Lewis shows Stornoway and Tarbert with both place names written in English.

A spokesperson for Comhairle nan Eilean Siar said there was no change to the authority's Gaelic policy.

A MUM-of-three has been shortlisted for a national award for setting up a support system for those affected by post-natal depression.

Rosey Wren, who lives in North Tolsta, Isle of Lewis, is in the running for the Healthy Living Digital Hero award in the TalkTalk Digital Heroes Awards 2015 for creating PND and Me, a peer support network on Twitter which has already connected with more than 3,000 people.

MORVERN lines

Cafe owner hangs up her apron

IF I WERE asked what has been the most popular place in Morvern over the past 25 years, I would bet my last pound the snack bar on the old pier at the entrance to Loch Aline, would be high on the list.

Indeed, it might be said no visit to Morvern is complete without sampling the culinary delights of the legendary Lochaline snack bar and being warmly welcomed by its owner Jean Robinson, or 'Jean', as she is affectionately known.

But don't delay as Jean has decided to switch off her oven, hang up her apron and retire, leaving others to follow in her footsteps.

Like all professional caterers, Jean never discusses her customers but it is no secret she has fed and watered most locals and many famous personalities.

The chairman of Ogilvy and Mather International - a giant American advertising agency - Jock Elliot and his wife Ely, who bought and donated the island of Staffa to the National Trust for Scotland, were regular callers before their untimely death a few years ago.

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, celebrity chef, television personality and real food campaigner, Jon Snow, Channel 4 news presenter, Charles Lawson, the Irish actor best known for playing Jim MacDonald in Coronation Street, have all eaten there.

So too have bin-men, holiday-makers, truckers, lairds, artists, ferry staff, policemen, estate factors, divers, bikers - hairy and otherwise - yachtsmen, bus parties and miners.

Jean's home-baking and locally-sourced fresh venison burgers are a popular first-choice followed by her calorific 'barge specials', renamed by a well-known journalist a few years ago as 'heart attacks in a bun'.

If that were the sum total of Jean's daily life there would be little more to say, but her interest in the community is such that there is a problem in knowing how many of them can be mentioned here.

For almost a quarter of a century Jean has been the area's unofficial and unpaid voluntary tourist information officer, agony-aunt, trip-advisor, pier mistress and litter gatherer.

Above all she has been the front counter and a terrific ambassador for Morvern. Lang may her lum reek and her garden flourish in her well-deserved retirement.



RETIRING: Jean Robinson of Lochaline snack bar



LONG LASTING: Drimnatorran Bridge built in the early 1800s for £100

Moving to enjoy a drier climate

THERE is an old Morvern saying: 'if you can't see Mull it is raining and if you can see Mull it is going to rain'.

This year was a fine example. So much so I hear quite a number of folk are selling up and heading south, if not to the sun at least to a drier climate. And who could blame them?

I often wonder if some of the 19th century voluntary emigrations to Australia and New Zealand were due in part to the weather.

In 1837, a ship called the 'Brilliant' sailed from Tobermory with a large number of emigrants for New South Wales. Most of the passengers were from Argyll and many of them were Camerons.

The story was told of how an observer, reading of the arrival of the vessel, said to some friends: 'Look here, the Camerons will soon be filling the country, over 200 of them have arrived in one ship.'

One of them was a Donald Cameron, who was more than 60 years old when he left his native Ardnarmurchan. He had been married twice and was the father of 15 children, 11 of whom went with him to Australia.

Donald left behind a daughter in Scotland who married a Duncan Macpherson, Strontian, who also emigrated to Australia. He was a skilled road and bridge builder employed by Sir James Miles Riddell on his Ardnarmurchan and Sunart estate.

Shortly before he emigrated, Duncan was presented with a gold medal by Sir James as a token of his outstanding work.

Drimnatorran Bridge, leading to the public graveyard of the same name, is one of Duncan Macpherson's constructions. It cost £100 and is as sound as the day it was built.

A novel birthday present

WHAT do you give a 90-year-old relative for her birthday?

Vanessa Hammond, whose family have been coming to Morvern since the early 1960s, had the novel idea of swimming across the Sound of Mull for her great aunt Marg Gaskell.

Accompanied by rib owner John Cameron, Lochaline, Vanessa swam without a wet suit, from Scallastle Bay to Ardnornish Bay, a distance of two and a half miles in one hour 16 minutes.

Vanessa, whose great uncle Dr Philip Gaskell wrote 'Morvern Transformed', said that although the tide was strong and there were some red stinging jellyfish around, she had not encountered any basking sharks and had enjoyed the crossing despite the low water temperature. Well done Vanessa, that must be a first.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com



GOOD USE: the bike rack made from locally-sourced wood

Wooden bike rack just the job

AN ISLAND shop has a new bike rack thanks to some handy local lads who took the time to collect and cut down materials from a forest.

As part of a community vow to re-use leftover wood from the forest and put it to good use throughout Raasay, the shop has installed a new bike rack.

David Carslaw, manager of Raasay community stores, said: 'It is something that as a community we are trying to do; re-use the wood rather than let it go to rot.'

'It also fits in with the location of our village and theme.'

'This was just one of the ideas for projects that we have had. As a community we are hoping to create resting places throughout the village, particularly with members of the older generation in mind.'

'It means they can walk knowing there are plenty of seating areas where they can take a break. It will also prevent us or the council from having to buy in benches or seating areas.'

'People who can collect large pieces of wood or can saw and re-style wood are welcome to get involved.'

Raasay

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Cloud hangs over care home as staff conduct probe continues

EMMA CRICHTON
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MORE than a year after the closure of Mallaig's Mackintosh Centre, enquiries into staff conduct are still ongoing. The care home re-opened in August, after 13 months of closure amid allegations of poor practise, but is still being run under interim managers as investigations of staff continue. NHS Highland announced on Monday that the centre's temporary manager Jackie Hodges will soon return to her permanent role as service improvement lead for social care, handing over the reins to a new interim manager Nancy Campbell. She will take on the role as a six-month secondment from her current job as a Lochaber public health nurse.

A spokesman for the health service said it was 'more suitable' to appoint another interim than a permanent manager for the Mack as enquiries into management continue.

He added: 'These investigations are necessarily extremely thorough, given that they can involve witnesses and a very detailed examination of the facts, and are therefore time-consuming.'

This comes after residents had to be housed 45 miles away in Fort William's Invernevis

House while an investigation was underway and new care staff were recruited.

But a family friend of Mackintosh residents, who fought to have the five pensioners returned to their home for the last year but asked not to be named, said there is 'still a cloud' over the care home as a result of these ongoing issues.

He said: 'I can understand why they can't permanently replace staff while enquiries are ongoing because that would break employment law. What I don't understand is why the enquiries still aren't finished after all this time. It's shocking that this still isn't finished. A disciplinary shouldn't take this long, they can be dealt with in a matter of days.'

'While it's really good that the home is finally open again and everyone seems really

happy with it, there's still a cloud hanging over the Mack and it will stay until this issue is resolved.'

But Ms Hodges, who has been the interim manager since mid-July, said the care home continues to improve: 'It really does feel like the Mackintosh Centre is starting afresh. We improved the level of staffing, training and future planning before the home re-opened and our staff have been working above and beyond the call of duty. We are also working hard at developing the 'My Home Life' initiative, which improves the way people are supported in a care home setting. My Home Life is an evidence-based approach to supporting and enabling care home managers to create homely environments in care homes.'

All dressed up for dinner

STAFF and volunteers at the Mackintosh served up a special treat to residents last night (Wednesday) to celebrate the home re-opening.

The event saw the pensioners and their guests dressing up and enjoying a special meal.

Jackie Hodges, the Mackintosh centre's interim manager, said: 'It was the

residents themselves who came up with the dinner idea. They told us that one of the things they missed about living in a care home was dressing up and going out for dinner, so we thought we'd turn our dining room into a posh restaurant for the evening, and lay on something a bit special for residents and invited guests from the local community.'



SHOW GIRLS: from left, Nicola Muir, Margaret MacIntyre and Louise Pescod with some entries at last weekend's event 21_196colour01

All change at the helm of Corpach in Colour show

A POPULAR gardening show bid farewell to its lead organisers at the weekend, making way for two new masterminds.

Organisers of Corpach in Colour, Margaret MacIntyre and Margaret Simpson, known affectionately as the two Margarets, have handed over the reins to Nicola Muir, secretary, and Louise Pescod, treasurer.

At the event held in Kilmallie Village Hall on Saturday, Louise said: 'Nicola and I have not taken over just yet, but we have been shadowing the Margarets as they've

organised this year's event. This is the first year we have been involved. Next year will be our first show on our own.'

The two Margarets will continue to volunteer on the committee and will be on hand for support. Nicola said: 'There is a lot of work involved in the planning of Corpach in Colour, but with the support of the community, schools and nurseries we can keep going with this ever-growing event.'

It was apparent on Saturday that the poor weather of this summer had had an effect on the honey produce and vegetable growth,

and organisers found the categories low in entries. However, flower entries were strong and varied.

Holiday maker Margaret Simpson was said to be disappointed she could not attend the event due to a mix up with holiday dates.

Judges of five years Linda and Isobel Campbell also announced that it would be their last year on the job as the time had come for them to move on. Margaret MacIntyre received a special gift and kind words from both judges and new organisers ahead of the prizegiving.

Hoax caller jailed for four months

A HOAXER who made calls to the coastguard pretending a yacht was lost in remote waters has been jailed for four months.

Alasdair Munro, from Kyleakin on Skye, appeared in Portree sheriff court on Friday and denied making multiple calls claiming the boat had gone missing on Loch Hourn, north of Knoydart, on October 30 2013.

But sheriff James Scott found the 55-year-old guilty under the Communications Act, calling the crime an 'extremely serious offence' as Mallaig RNLI lifeboat and Kyle Coastguard rescue teams were sent to search for the vessel.

Jackie Mackenzie of HM Coastguard welcomed the sentence: 'Those who risk their own safety to rescue others

should also not be put at needless risk in responding to hoax distress calls.'

'The important thing is that the hoax caller was found and punished. HM Coastguard fully supports the action of the police and the court in dealing with this offence. Hoax calls can, and in this case did, tie up a valuable maritime search and rescue resource.'

Winter gritting plan condemned

A LOCHABER councillor has condemned the Highland authority's winter gritting policy, despite being a member of the administration which wrote it.

Ben Thompson blasted amended route plans at Lochaber area committee last week after four roads in the area were given lower priority than last year, as part of policy changes.

The Caol and Mallaig Independent councillor complained that roads in Glengarry, Spean Bridge, Ardgor and Polloch had been demoted from 'secondary' to 'other', meaning they will no longer be classed as a priority for gritting following policy changes by his party's minority administration. This is due to a reduction in the size of school buses using the roads.

According to the new guidelines, a bus must ferry nine or



UNHAPPY AT GRITTING PLANS: Ben Thompson

more pupils for the road to be considered a school bus route.

At the Lochaber meeting last Tuesday Mr Thompson called the amendments 'a farce': 'This changing of routes every year and dumping them into another category appears that we're doing that just so we can say that we are meeting the policy.'

'From the public's perspective, that stinks. We shouldn't be doing that. I think this is a farce and what greatly concerns me is the point about - are we achieving the policy? Every year the number of secondary roads is getting smaller and smaller. What we're setting out to cover changes from year to year. It looks to the public that what we're effectively doing is changing the area that we want to cover to fit the budget.'

Fellow Lochaber councillors agreed the policy should be re-examined and referred it

back to the administration.

Council leader Margaret Davidson said the policy would be examined with the help of the community services committee. She said: 'We inherited a budget from the last administration that the Independent group disagreed with and voted against. I agree with

Ben because no-one wants to do these things but we have been left with a very difficult budget. I'm going to look at exactly what we can do about this alongside Allan Henderson [chairman of community services] who is a Lochaber man so knows the issues with rural roads in winter.'

Lochaber pavement clearing concern

LOCHABER pavements could be left icy and covered in snow this winter, as it was revealed that just half the equipment required to grit walkways was available.

Cameron Kemp, one of Highland council's community services managers, told Lochaber area committee there were currently just two pavement tractors available for the whole area, compared to the usual four or five.

Brian Murphy, councillor for Fort William and Ardnarmurchan, raised his concerns about the issue and asked if more would be made available in time for winter.

There are currently 48 pavement tractors in the Highland council area.

Mr Kemp replied: 'We will need to query that and investigate if we can get that for an even distribution.'

Big entry for Dalmally's big show day

THE AGRICULTURAL show season is coming to an end, but it goes out with more of a bang than a whimper this Saturday, September 5, at Dalmally.

Traditionally one of the most prestigious days in the calendar for the Blackface sheep and Highland cattle breeds, this year's Dalmally agricultural show also has all sorts of attractions for every member of the family.

The Dalmally dog show grows bigger year-on-year, while local farmers have defied the dreadful summer weather by producing more livestock entries than last year across sheep, cattle and poultry sections.

The skills on show in the home industries section are always amazing to behold, with a big entry in both the adult and children's sections. Floral displays, home baking and preserves, horticultural produce and much more besides will stimulate the senses.

Primary school six-a-side shinty teams from across Argyll will be battling it out for the Pat

Chrystal Memorial Trophy, and this is sure to offer an entertaining spectacle for spectators.

The terrier race is always great fun, while the Daltote horse display team will entertain the crowds with remarkable horsemanship. Nostalgia will be to the fore as the vintage tractors make their appearance, while the Clan Colquhoun Pipe Band from Helensburgh will offer musical entertainment throughout the day.

There will be plenty of trade stands and rides for children of all ages to enjoy - but the main event at Dalmally is the competition, and livestock judging begins at 10am.

Show secretary Rhona Crawford said: 'Everything is a bit behind this year with the weather, but people have still entered in big numbers. We're up on livestock entries, and this year there is double the number of entries in the Highland cattle.'

She added: 'Dalmally is always a good day out, whatever the weather, so come and enjoy it with us.'



Laila checks in with church cash

A three-year-old from Taynuilt raised £1,222.55 by climbing a 368-metre peak to raise money for St Conan's Kirk, Loch Awe, after lead was stolen from the church roof in July. Laila Lopez, who gave £11.50 from her own piggy bank, climbed Beinn Lora in two hours. Laila decided to do the sponsored climb after her mum told her about the £35,000-worth of lead that was stripped by thieves in July. Laila was made an honorary member of Friends of St Conan's Kirk and at three, she is the charity's youngest advocate 07_136conansl

TIMESLINE

Police gear up for cyclist onslaught

POLICE will be scouring the A82 on motorbikes to ensure safety as 800 cyclists descend on Lochaber's trunk road next week.

Lochaber chief inspector Colin Gough assured councillors there will be a strong presence when the pedal bikers travel north from Crianlarich next Friday (September 11) as part of the second annual Deloitte cycle event.

Fort William and Ardnarmurchan councillor Brian Murphy, who also chairs road improvement campaign group the A82 Partnership, raised concerns about the safety and traffic impact of the cycle at the Lochaber area committee meeting last week.

During last year's ride from Land's End to John O'Groats mother of two, Sally Preece, died when her bike collided with a car on the A85 near Loch Earn.

Mr Murphy said: 'It's going to cause chaos on the A82. I know it's too late for this year but next year we should try to persuade them to go via the A9. It's a much wider road with a much better road surface.'

Inspector Gough said as it was a 'non-competitive event' there was little police could do to prevent or change the route.

Ben Nevis open night reveals all

OUTDOOR enthusiasts can find out more about Ben Nevis at a free event next week.

Friends of Nevis and Nevis Landscape Partnership will host an open evening featuring guest speakers and volunteering opportunities.

Mountaineers, countryside rangers, archaeologists and ecologists will also be on hand in the Nevis centre to answer questions. The event will run from 6pm until 9pm on Thursday September 10.

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Free support sessions to help carers

CARERS in and around Oban who look after a friend or family member living with a serious illness can access free 'Caring with Confidence' support sessions.

The free group sessions, which must be pre-booked, take place between 1-3pm every Monday at The Undercroft, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.

They are open to anyone who cares for someone who has a serious illness. This might be one of a range of illnesses such as terminal cancer, heart failure, dementia or lung disease.

Sessions will cover a range of topics including practical advice, managing symptoms and how carers can care for themselves. Carers can also take part in a range of relaxation activities.

For anyone who is unable to leave the person they are caring for unattended, a carer can be arranged and transport to and from The Undercroft can be provided.

The sessions are run in part-

nership between Marie Curie and North Argyll Carers Centre as part of the Argyll and Bute Delivering Choice Programme, a partnership between Marie Curie, Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership and local partners to improve access and quality of palliative and end of life care.

For more information or to book a place contact Mairi or Lisa at North Argyll Carers Centre on 01631 564422 or email mairi@northargyllcarers.org.uk

Jennifer Dryden, from Marie Curie said: 'We know that friends and relatives can find themselves overwhelmed with different emotions and the practical side of caring.'

'Although you might not be the main carer or think that you have a caring role, we can offer you support and advice that can help.'

'Talking through any worries with others in similar circumstances can be hugely beneficial to both you and the person you are caring for.'

Spotlight pulls out all the stops for The Rockfield Centre

A STUNNING performance from the Spotlight Musical Theatre Group was enthusiastically received at Oban's Phoenix Cinema last Saturday with The Rockfield Review - a special concert to raise funds for The Rockfield Centre.

A first act of performances from the Broadway shows and silver screen was followed by a re-worked concert of Spotlight's recent sell-out show - Cole Porter's Anything Goes. And the same magic that had made the first performance so popular was again re-kindled with a spectacular show of music, song and dance.

Narrator Stephen Glen-Lee told the story of the last voyage of the SS American in fine style

and excellent performances from everyone in Spotlight had the audience spell-bound with their professional performance.

In thanking Spotlight, Gordon McNab, chairman of Oban Communities Trust, said: 'It is really appropriate that less than a year ago, in this very cinema, a public meeting was held to gauge community support for buying the Rockfield Centre and we are here now to celebrate not only getting the keys but fund-raising to realise this exciting project. Spotlight Theatre has been a supporter from the start and we want to thank it for both its financial help and also for putting on this fantastic performance tonight to raise funds.'



Spotlight gave a superb performance to raise cash for Rockfield.



OBAN Pipe Band was riding high at the Cowal Highland Gathering last Saturday. The band took second place in Grade One, winning the Sutherland trophy, second place in Grade, winning the Graham Moffat Trophy and the William Black Trophy. Oban high school pipe band continued its amazing winning streak gaining first place in the Crosher Challenge trophy and the Porchetta memorial cup for the highest placed school band.

Edna sounds amazing

AN OBAN student is top of the grade after being named as the 2015 sound production student of the year.

Edna Price of Oban had initially enrolled on the NC Sound Production course at Argyll College UHI in 2013, progressing to the HNC level course the following year.

Curriculum manager Don Mitchell said: 'She impressed us from the very start, showing dedication, a willingness to learn, creative thinking and a fantastic sense of humour.'

'Edna confidently achieved an overall 'A' grade whilst creating a portfolio of work to be extremely proud of.'

Before embarking on her studies, Edna's passion for music had taken her to perform in venues as far afield as New York.

And not one to rest on her laurels, Edna is currently involved in the Music Makes Me recording project with the excellent singer songwriter Joe McAlinden, where she will no doubt be putting her new studio skills to good use.



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Oban Times Newsdesk 01631 568000

Best of the West Festival 2015

ARGYLL'S biggest names in music, food and drink will be showcased during the annual Best of the West Festival on September 12 and 13 at one of Scotland's most idyllic venues, Inveraray Castle.

The Peatbog Faeries, Skerryvore and Skippinish are set to headline the festival's most exciting line-up yet, with more than 120 acts on the bill over the two days. The musical focus is on young talent, as well as well-established favourites, and there will be performances in both English and Gaelic.

The Peatbog Faeries, hailed as the Celtic Kings of supercharged Scottish folk, will headline the main stage on Saturday with their electrifying, dance-floor filling act. Argyll favourites Skerryvore and Skippinish headline Sunday in a

much-anticipated performance. Other artists on the programme include Camans, Acoustic Butterfly, Shiverin' Sheils and Dr Hip and the Blues Operation.

A highlight of the festival is the culinary aspect. 'Best of the West celebrates all things great about the west of Scotland, with a huge focus on food and drink,' said festival host, The Duchess of Argyll. 'The fresh, local produce available at the festival brings people from all over the country to Inveraray, so we make sure only the finest fare from local producers is available.'

A feast of food samples, cookery demonstrations and appetising master classes will be on offer throughout the castle grounds, with seven of Argyll's favourite celebrity chefs on hand, including Mike Knowles, Jamie Nicholson and Sujitra Scott, who will be showing off their skills as they prepare dishes using local produce live on stage. The audience can get into the act as well, as the chefs will be offering advice and tips to recreate those perfect dishes at home.

Festival visitors can sample a selection of more than 20 west coast malt whiskies in the award winning Loch Fyne Whisky marquee. The Food from Argyll Team will be on hand proffering local food to sample and take home.

Best of the West truly is one of Argyll's top family days out. The grounds of the castle will be filled with fun for the whole family. Argyll and Bute council are sponsoring a

Main Stage Line Up Saturday

Coisir Og Dalriada /Gaelic Choir
Barluath /Scottish Folk
Joni Fuller /Multi Instrumentalist
Heron Valley /Celtic Music
Camans /Rock Trad
Skipinnish /Celtic Music
Peatbog Faeries /Celtic Music

Whisky Stage Line Up Saturday

Kantrio
Michael McGarry
Have Mercy Las Vegas
Joe Johnson
The Anderson Sisters
Jacob and Rory Green

Main Stage Line Up Sunday

Cara and Holly /Trad
Huradal /Trad Music & Dance
Little Fire /Calmac Winner
Acoustic Butterfly /Folk and Blues
Shiverin' Sheils /Rockabilly
Dr Hip and the Blues Operation
Skerryvore /Celtic Rock

Whisky Stage Line Up Sunday

Freya Giles
Joni Fuller
Joe Johnson
Huradal
Woodwife
Colin Train & Cat Calton

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The Real MacKay Stovie Co was founded 7 years ago by Rhuaridh & Alison MacKay who are tenant farmers on Stronmagachan Farm, Inveraray where they produce Scottish Blackface Lambs and pedigree Shorthorn Cattle. They are part of the award winning Food from Argyll Group that has taken real home cooking to many events and festivals throughout the country.

For enquiries please contact
Alison on 01499 302829
or follow us on Facebook

WIN! tickets to

Wyvex Media has teamed up with Best of the West Festival to give away three pairs of weekend tickets, worth £24.50 each. The two day celebration of local food, drink and music takes place on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September at Inveraray Castle.

To enter, simply answer this easy question, complete the form and send to Wyvex Media, BOWfest Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be received by midnight, September 8, 2015.

Question: Which one of the following bands will headline the event on Sunday 13th September? a) Skerryvore b) Proclaimers c) Runrig

Answer.....
Name.....
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Postcode.....
Telephone.....Email.....

Terms and conditions: OVER 18s ONLY. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. Digital subscribers can enter by printing this page and submitting their entry along with a letter explaining you are a digital subscriber (please provide your email address). Closing date for entries is midnight Tuesday September 8, 2015. Winners will be notified by telephone.

The Oban Times would like to wish BOWfest 2015 every success

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The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLANDS TIMES

Lucky climber thanks rescue team

ADVENTURER SAVED BY LOCHABER GROUP PLEADS WITH FELLOW MOUNTAINEERS TO TAKE CARE ON THE HILLS

AMANDA CRAWFORD
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A MAN who narrowly survived a 200ft fall from a mountain range said if it was not for a Lochaber rescue service he would not be here today and has urged people to take care on the hills.

Matt Dawson, from Glossop in North Derbyshire, was ice climbing at Aonach Mor in February last year with a friend when disaster struck, leaving him with a broken neck and brain damage.

The 34-year-old outdoor business owner said: 'As far as I can remember, I was climbing ahead of my friend and we had completed a pitch [section] of the climb. I got to the last step and flatter ground and I must have slipped in my crampons whilst building a belay to make myself safe and I fell around 200 feet over the ice cliff.'

Mr Dawson's friend tied ropes together at the bottom



OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST: Matt on a run up Ben Nevis

of the climb and ran to get help, leaving his fellow walker unconscious and attached to a cliff for 40 minutes.

The lucky adventurer shared his story with the *Oban Times* as Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team (LMRT) reached its

100th rescue of the year last week, meaning it has already had its busiest year ever, with four months still left of 2015.

The accident left Mr Dawson - who runs Trekking Skills in England, which provides guided trails, navigation coaching and Duke of Edinburgh training - suffering from a brain haemorrhage, bruising of the brain, severe brain damage, a broken neck, nerve damage and fractures in his foot and arm.

The outdoor enthusiast, who also works part time for the Royal Bank of Scotland in Manchester, said: 'I didn't think this would ever happen to me. I work in the outdoor business. My life is the outdoors and all my friends are mostly outdoor instructors or guides.'

'I teach climbing at outdoor centres in the Peak District. This just shows you the consequences of a big fall whilst climbing, especially in

winter. Thank god for Lochaber mountain rescue or else I would not be here.'

According to Mr Dawson's friend the rescue team gave him just a 10 per cent chance of survival on their way to Belford hospital in Fort William, where he was treated before being transferred to Glasgow.

Miraculously, Mr Dawson has managed to return to the outdoors with support from his family and friends, including his sister Amanda and fiancée Louise Broadstock.

To show his gratitude, the climber presented LMRT with a cheque for £600 in a special visit to Lochaber following his recovery. Determined Mr Dawson has even taken to rock climbing again as he attempts to rebuild his strength.

LMRT's 100th call-out took place on Friday when a woman was rescued on the West Highland Way. Since then, three more people have been rescued and the team are



GRATEFUL: Matt and fiancée Louise presented a cheque to LMRT's Dave Austin, right, and Donald Paterson, left

searching for a missing person now bringing the number of deployments to 105 for the year. Mr Dawson said the unseasonably cold weather had surprised walkers: 'I feel that the summer weather is being

misjudged in Lochaber. As a qualified guide, I've never known this amount of snow to last this long on the mountain summits in Lochaber. Footwear and prior planning of your day out is essential.'



Five new teachers take up posts at Lochaber high

Five new teachers started at Lochaber high school this term. Head teacher, Jim Sutherland, said: 'We're fully staffed for the session ahead and I'm delighted to welcome these new members of staff to Lochaber high. I wish them all the best for their time in the school.'

From left: Allan Newton, history; Kim Boa, physical education; Flora Keppie, chemistry and science; Christine MacMaster, modern studies and Vikki MacKinnon, English

Final summer show then the prizes

LOCHABER schools pipe band played its final high street show of the season ahead of an awards presentation.

The band plays throughout the summer season on the High Street of Fort William to the public and Friday was its last of 2015.

The band also carried out its annual award ceremony in the town.

Piper Sean MacDonald received the June Standen Memorial Shield, which is a prestigious award presented only to the best-turned-out piper or drummer of the season.

Brothers Ewen and Iain MacQueen received special prizes from Jim Sutherland, head teacher of Lochaber high school, and instructor Margaret MacMaster, because they have both reached the age to leave the band.

Ewen is the most senior piper with the band. He joined as a primary school pupil and has been performing with the band for seven years. Ewen will leave to begin work as an apprentice mechanic. Iain has been drumming with the band for five years and will leave Fort William to study maths at Glasgow University.



WINNERS: members of Lochaber schools pipe band received awards at the final show on Fort William High Street on Friday

Council rejects school teacher plea

CALLS to permanently increase the number of teachers at a Gaelic school on Skye have been rejected by Highland council.

Parents of Bun-Sgoil Shlèite (Sleat primary school) pupils, the first Gaelic school with an English unit in Scotland, asked the local authority to retain a teacher who has been covering maternity leave, despite the original employee returning to work, to maintain a higher standard of education. This extra teacher would allow primary four pupils, who are introduced to English language, to

be taught in a separate class from primary one to three children, who are still educated through 'total immersion' in Gaelic. A 700-strong petition campaign against the cut was provided to Highland council's education, children and adult services committee, ahead of a meeting last Thursday (August 27). It said: 'Total immersion is vital in Gaelic medium education and this would be lost as English is introduced in primary four. Furthermore, Bun-sgoil Shlèite has a teaching head teacher, a role which in a Gaelic school with an English unit comes with a

number of very specific duties and extra pressures. The loss of a teacher would add significantly to those pressures.'

But members of the education committee endorsed the current teacher to pupil ratio. Bill Alexander, director of care and learning, said no member of staff had been 'removed' as the probationer wasn't a permanent role. He added: 'The area care and learning manager has been in touch with the school and is confident we can deliver Gaelic medium education at Sleat primary school within the existing policy.'

Campaign boosts pothole repairs

MORE than 1,000 potholes in the Highlands were repaired in the first six months of this year.

A spokesman for Highland council said a campaign to encourage reporting of uneven roads aided the repair of 1,437 potholes between January and June, following 2,538 reports in the same period.

The average time to carry out emergency repairs, from roads to housing, has also dropped from 14 hours last year to six in the first quarter of this year.

Councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of Highland council's community services committee, said: 'The campaign to encourage members of the public to report potholes and other problems online has been very successful, as demonstrated by the large increase in the number of reports received. This is very helpful as it helps our community services staff to quickly identify and prioritise the problem areas and target resources at urgent repairs.'

'It is also very encouraging to see that the time taken to complete emergency repairs has been significantly reduced and staff are to be congratulated for this achievement.'

Police hunt snack bar vandals

POLICE are appealing for witnesses or information regarding the following incidents:

A mobile snack bar was vandalised while situated on a Lochaber building site.

The incident happened between Saturday and Sunday August 23 and 24 at the site in Corroul. The damage was caused at around the same time alcohol was stolen from Corroul Youth Hostel.

On Saturday August 29 someone reportedly lost a quantity of medication on a busy Fort William street.

It is believed the medication was lost on the town's High Street.

People are being urged to call the local police office on 101 or confidentially on 01397 702000.

Crimestoppers may also be contacted anonymously on 0800555111.

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THIS WEEK **Mike MacKenzie** looks to become the first person to win the Macaulay Cup match report and photos from the 2015 final

Agenda: the people, the issues, the back story

Nicola's a class act say pupils as school visit leaves them on a high

TIMESLINE Annual review on the cards for 2015

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TIMESLINE

Indoor centre to remain closed

AN INDOOR climbing centre in Kinlochleven will remain closed following a fire.

The Ice Factor climbing centre has been under refurbishment since the fire on July 29 and costs are set to exceed £250,000.

Hopes to open the centre early this month were dashed when the smoke damage was discovered to be more extensive than initially thought.

Jamie Smith, owner of Ice Factor International which includes Ice Factor Kinlochleven, said: 'It became clear the smoke damage to the 119-year-old building was far more extensive than initially assumed.'

The damage covers the rock and ice-climbing walls, the retail area, cafe bar and restaurant.

Make your way to 'Barradise' please

TEACHERS have been promised 'polite pupils with no discipline problems', in a desperate plea by parents on Barra for a maths post to be filled.

The position at Castlebay community school has been vacant since December last year and the parent council has called for teachers to move to 'Barradise' to take on the role. A statement posted on Facebook by parents said: 'Just imagine what it would be like to teach in small classes, with polite pupils, no discipline problems, and children willing to learn. What could be more perfect?'

First history talk of new session

THE FIRST talk of Lochaber Local History Society's new session will take place tonight (Thursday).

Retired teacher, Iain Rose, will lead the first event from 8pm in Fort William's Ben Nevis hotel, discussing the lead up to the arrival of the West Highland railway in the 1890s.

Viewpoint

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8216

MANY will have read Brighton Rock, Graham Green's novel on the dark underworld of organised crime in a beautiful holiday town.

It has a strange resonance with Oban, at the moment, if we are to believe criminals are working in the area and destroying lives - through drugs.

It will be hard for anyone to believe while they drive down the Bealach an Rìgh that somewhere quite as beautiful as Oban would suffer the same devastating

hardships that organised crime and drug-use brings to an area.

Oban is striking in its positive response to problems - the list is long: Atlantis, Oban Phoenix Cinema, Oban play park and the Rockfield Centre are indicators of the community's response to hardship.

Why then is it easier to turn our backs on drug use? As a community we should do what we have always done - keep people out of harm's way.



Days gone by - Skye's 'Tiller Girls' - 1986

This week's flashback photograph comes from the files of the *Oban Times* and features Skye's 'Tiller Girls' - a talented group of Portree high school pupils who raise cash for charity through shows presented at various island venues. Their repertoire included all kinds of routines, including jazz and disco. Digital versions of the flashback photos for the *Oban Times* can be sent to 'editor@obantimes.co.uk' or prints sent to the editor, the *Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped-addressed envelope.

Glasgow Letter

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

Shawfest

SHAWFEST is a new festival based in Partick.

Named in honour of Fraser Shaw, the piper from Islay who died of MS earlier this year, the festival boasts a range of activities for people of all ages.

Proceeds will go towards The Fraser Shaw Trust - www.fraser-shaw-trust.com - which was set up to raise funds for a book and CD of Fraser's work and to help develop new talent and arrange traditional music sessions.

All the trust's profits will go to MS charities.

Shawfest opens on Saturday September 12 in St Peter's Hall, Chancellor Street, Partick, with what looks to be a fantastic night of music.

Taking to the stage that night will be Talisk, Mohsen Amini, concertina, Hayley Keenan, fiddle, and Craig Irving, guitar, who are inspired by a blend of Scottish and Irish folk music.

Since its formation in August last year, Talisk has won the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award, performed live in session on BBC Radio 2 and won a coveted Danny Kyle Award at Celtic Connections 2015.

The band has also performed live at some of Britain's biggest festivals including Cambridge Folk Festival, Celtic Connections and Fairport Convention's Cropredy Festival.

Also on the bill that night is Hannah Beaton, providing Gaelic songs, accompanied by Innes Watson on guitar.

Gráinne Brady and Tina Jordan

Rees, originally from Cavan and Lancashire, will be performing their unique compositions on fiddle and piano.

Gráinne and Tina - or G and T as they are sometimes called - are in the process of releasing a highly-anticipated new album.

On 'High Spirits' they are joined by guest musicians on guitar, double bass, bodhrán and accordion.

With such a great line up, the first night of Shawfest is sure to be a cracker.

There will also be a raffle and a silent auction.

The night is bring-your-own-bottle and free until 7pm, after which tickets are £10, £8 for concessions, and £5 for children.

Afterwards, Jenn Butterworth, LB Slater and friends will play for a ceilidh.

The following day, Sunday September 13, Jamie Smith will host an informal, free entry, tunes session in The Sparkle Horse, Dowanhill Street, Partick, from 4pm.

Quiz night

GOVAN Gaelic Choir will hold its quiz night on Friday September 11 in the Crawford Halls, Beith Street, Partick, at 8pm.

To enter a team costs £12 and, if an individual wishes to enter, they will be allocated to a team and be charged £3. There will be a prize for the winning team.

To sign up for the quiz, email eila.handyside@btinternet.com, leave a message on the choir's facebook

page or text Calum Angus on 07582 963741.

Clydebank cèilidhs

CLYDEBANK cèilidhs are starting again for the winter.

This season they kick off with a cèilidh on Friday September 11 in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, at 7.30pm.

What's on

Saturday September 12: Glasgow Skye Association, opening concert, Crawford Hall, Beith Street, 7.30pm.

Tuesday September 15: Ceol 's Craic AGM, Glasgow Gaelic School.

Thursday September 17: Comunn an Taobh an Iar, opening cèilidh, Ellangowan social club, Milngavie.

Friday September 18: Donald Black Band live in concert, the Piping Centre, Otago Street.

Saturday September 19: Gaol 's Gaire (Love and Laughter) - Seasaidh Lexy in the Mitchell Theatre, 7.30pm.

Saturday September 19: Ceòl 's Craic Oidheche Americana 2015 in the Centre for Contemporary Arts.

Pub scene

Park Bar: Thursday September 3: Session. Friday September 4: Heron Valley. Saturday September 5: Dodgy Ground.

Sunday September 6: Nicky Mcmichan and Martin Pottinger. **Islay Inn:** Friday September 4: The Keelies. Saturday September 5: Gunna Sound. Wednesday September 9: quiz night.

No consideration for other road users

Sir, There are numerous signs beside our roads saying 'frustration causes accidents' and 'slow vehicles, use lay-bys to allow queues to clear'.

Earlier this summer there was a mass cycle event along a stretch of the A82. Six groups of cyclists, followed and proceeded by vans with flashing orange lights, crawled at about 15mph and were extremely difficult to pass safely.

Having passed one group I pulled in behind its lead van and was then encouraged by the driver to pass him on double white lines.

As far as I could see this group showed no consideration for other road users and made no effort to alleviate frustration or use the lay-bys.

If we are to endure another mass cycling event, the police should make it clear to participants they need to obey the instructions on these excellent signs, especially in the more dangerous and difficult stretches, including the road between Ballachulish and Fort William.

Ronald Cameron, Banavie.

Concise analysis of wind farm benefits

Sir, Congratulations to Mike Mackenzie and to the *Oban Times* for writing and publishing a clear and concise analysis of the benefits of wind farms.

The article also pointed out the questionable morality of a country 'awash with energy' inhabited by people who cannot afford to heat their houses.

Future generations will look back on that with horror and disbelief - as most of us do now.

Jennifer Baker, Lismore.

Air movement - in plain English 'noise'

Sir, I write in response to MSP Mike MacKenzie's comments on wind

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

CHA TÈID DUINE le tuigse às àicheadh nach e foghlam tron chànan bunait leasachaidh na Gàidhlig, agus tha fios againn nach eil dòchas air tèarainteachd aig a' chànan às aonais seirbheis foghlaim choileanta tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Gun teagamh, tha iomadh seirbheis a dh'fheumas luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig gus cothrom a bhith aca am beacha làitheil a' leigeil air adhart tron chànan seo, ach às aonais an fhoghlaim tha a h-uile coitas gum bheil Gàidhlig dol a sheargadh às. Leis nach eil Gàidhlig anns a' bhitheantas ga h-ionnsachadh dha clann mar chànan-màthaireil tha foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig deatamach gus àireamhan luchd-labhairt fhàs. Sin prìomh amas Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig agus tha còir aig a h-uile Plana Gàidhlig a bhith mothachail air seo agus a' cuideachadh a dh'ionnsaigh a' chinn-uidhe sin.

Cuiridh mòran taic ri pàrantan Bhun-sgoil Shlèite san Eilean Sgitheanach nan iomairt gus tòirt air ùghdarrasan foghlaim a bhith nas sùbailte le riaghailtean a thaobh àireamhan chloinne ann an clasaichean foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Ged nach eil eadar-dhealachadh mòr eadar cogaisean foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig agus foghlam tron Bheurla, feumar aithneachadh gum bheil sistam na Gàidhlig fhathast a' fàs agus nach eil àireamhan cho làidir. 'S e sin a dh'fhàg gun robh an Riaghaltas a' toirt taic thabhartasan sònraichte gus cuideachadh leis a' chosgais a bharrachd a bha an lùib chlasaichean beaga fhad 's a bha aonad Gàidhlig a' fàs.

Bha, agus saoilidh mi gum bheil fhathast, taic airgid leasachaidh foghlam Gàidhlig ga chuimseachadh air an ìre às fhearr de theagasg a thoirt seachad, agus ged a thuingas mi carson a bhiodh Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd airson na h-aon riaghailtean a thaobh meud chlasaichean a chur an sàs feadh an cuid sgoiltean, saoilidh mi nach eil toradh an fheallsanachd seo idir gu bhith a rèir nan amasan nàiseanta airson na Gàidhlig ris am bheil a' Chomhairle a' cur taic.

turbines, the *Oban Times*, August 27:

Mr MacKenzie's full-page 'advertisement' is a somewhat one-sided view of wind turbine energy.

He loves the turbines; they relax and calm him. He obviously has never been subjected to the constant hum-thump-hum that nearby residents have to endure, all day, all night, 365 days of the year. That is what upsets people. Although I don't live near a wind turbine, I personally have experienced this noise at a house in Mid Wales. A house you would not purchase. Not loud and you might not gather much evidence with a sound level meter. It isn't so much a noise as a sensation. A sort of movement of the air - whoosh, thump - which humans can detect.

In plain English, we call this 'noise'. The best way I can describe it is when you know someone has slammed a car door some distance away. It can get to you after a while - in your head. Every few seconds, every minute of every day, year in year out.

However, you will be alright in the Western Isles. You may never experience this phenomenon as the constant noise of wind will drown it out. On quieter days you might just notice it but hopefully it won't drive you potty.

Geoffrey Tyson, north Wales.

Show more respect for human life

Sir, 'I am a human being'. Words heard repeatedly on news reports from refugees, beaten by border guards, abused by frightened locals and left to huddle by the side of the road on the frontiers of Europe.

Last week the bodies of 70 asphyxiated men, women and children were found in an abandoned meat lorry in Austria.

We are all horrified by this greed-driven, mass murder of folk escaping from the hell of barrel bombing in Syria.

Yet the idea of offering sanctuary to those who have survived the terrors of the journey to arrive in Europe seems to contradict any sympathy we feel for the corpses found in the lorry, or the thousands who have

drowned in the Mediterranean. I understand that places such as Fair Isle have been known to advertise for families to relocate to the island; depopulation in some areas of the Highlands is a major problem. We have vacancies. There are plenty of hardworking families sleeping on pavements in Hungary, Turkey and Greece. It is high time we made our respect for human life, no matter what faith it follows, stand the test.

J C Hanlon, Inverinan, by Taynuilt.

Council set to achieve parking fee target

Sir, Councillor Duncan MacIntyre need not worry about having to cut back council workforce jobs to save money as I hear Argyll and Bute council is well on its way to achieving its new yearly target of £750,000 parking charges out of Oban.

And yes the timid talk from councillors about improving the parking in Oban is only talk, for in the current times of austerity it cannot afford to lose a cash cow like parking tickets at the moment.

Robbie Evans, Glenshellach Terrace, Oban.

One small change can have a huge impact

Sir, Dementia research recently published in *The Lancet* suggests that 'attention to optimum health early in life might benefit cognitive health late in life'.

Inactivity is a risk factor for dementia, yet walking to school or work is a simple way to build more activity into every-day routines.

Walking is good for mental health as well as physical health and making one small change to our day can have a huge impact on our lives. Living Streets organises the nationwide Walk to School and Walk to Work Weeks, as well as the well-established National Walking Month. More advice and information can be found at www.livingstreets.org.uk.

Tom Platt, head of research and policy, Living Streets, London.

Ailean Caimbeul

Le taic bho

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

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

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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More social farms planned

USING farms to improve the health of vulnerable children and adults will soon become more common in the Highlands. 'Social farms' are used to provide rehabilitation, therapy and education through rearing livestock, crop production and rural crafts and NHS Highland is working to increase their availability in the region. It is thought these farms and crofts improve the lives of mental health patients, autism sufferers and children with learning disabilities. John Ross, chairman of Care Farming Scotland, said he is looking forward to working with NHS Highland: 'I hope to see increasing numbers of social farms and crofts developing in the near future. It would be great to see social farming as a mainstream social service in Scotland, just as it is in countries such as Norway and the Netherlands.' Caroline Matheson runs a social farm and encourages others to do the same. She said: 'Social farming helps make a difference to disadvantaged people's lives by giving them an opportunity to work on the land and land-based activities. It combines care of the land with care of people by helping them to become fitter, gain confidence, learn new skills and be part of a team.'

New website for walkers

A NEW website has been launched to give walkers more information about deer stalking. The revamped Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Heading for the Scottish Hills site provides details on munros, corbetts and popular routes to prevent walkers disturbing stag stalking. Fiona Cuninghame of SNH said: 'The web service is a quick way to check you won't disturb deer stalking when heading to participating hills between July and October.' See www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/hftsh.

A82 drivers pull out the stops to rescue road dash poodle Mungo

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A LOCHABER pensioner has thanked road users for a 'miracle' rescue when her dog ran on to the A82. Elsa Rossetter from Onich was horrified when her standard poodle escaped her garden and began a life-threatening dash around the trunk road during busy lunchtime traffic last Tuesday. The 72-year-old said kind-hearted travellers saved eight-year-old Mungo from being run over when they stopped in their tracks to help. Retired teacher Elsa said: 'It was at half past one so the road



Elsa Rossetter, left, and Gay Eggington thanked road users for saving their poodle, Mungo 16_93poodle01

“ I didn't get a chance to thank them properly ”

Elsa Rossetter

was heaving with traffic. There was a biker just outside who tried to catch him then another woman managed to grab him by the collar but he slipped out of it so she was struggling with him.' Adventurous Mungo brought

traffic on the busy Glasgow to Inverness road to a standstill as drivers stopped to help but Elsa and her housemate, Gay Eggington, said a camper van driver arrived on the scene with a dog lead to secure Mungo and bring him home. Elsa, who, with Gay, owns four other dogs, said: 'It was a miracle that the camper van man arrived with a lead. I don't know what would have happened otherwise. It was so nice of everyone to help but I didn't even get a chance to thank them properly and I couldn't let it go unnoticed.' Gay, 71, added: 'It was great of everyone to stop and help and it's unusual to see such patience and good news on the A82.'

Marine Harvest accolade for youth training



ONE OF Lochaber's biggest employers has won a national accolade for its commitment to training young people. Fish farming company, Marine Harvest Scotland, was awarded the Investors in Young People accreditation, for recruitment and retention, becoming one of the first in Lochaber to receive the award. Vicky Ferguson, human resource manager at Marine Harvest, said the recognition adds to the company's 50th anniversary celebrations. She added: 'The skills required now are a world away

from the early days of the industry. There are a wide range of jobs available for young people in aquaculture and we firmly believe in developing the skills of our young people and encouraging them to pursue successful careers within the industry.' Peter Russian, chief executive of Investors in People Scotland, congratulated Marine Harvest: 'The Investors in Young People framework not only recognises and supports organisations in the employment of young people, but marks them out as an employer of choice. I envisage that many more organisations will wish to follow in Marine Harvest's footsteps and demonstrate their commitment to young people by working with the Investors in Young People framework.'

ACCOLADE: Marine Harvest human resource manager Vicky Ferguson with, from left, David Forbes, Gillian Dempster, Jennifer Colston, Kelly Cameron and Diana Voitehovicva

John Angus celebrates a lifetime achievement

ANOTHER successful Argyllshire Gathering concluded last week, writes Robert Wallace, and plans are already underway for next year's gathering. The weather was particularly unkind on games day, although it brightened up later, but it could not lessen the light in the eye of new gold medallist John Angus Smith. He said: 'It feels fantastic to have won the gold medal. It has been the achievement of a lifetime for me. I still can't believe it. I won the Silver Medal in 1994 with Corriennesan's Salute, so for 21 years I have been trying for the gold. I've had prizes in it before, a third and two fifths. At times I thought it was going to pass me by. I was getting to that stage where I was wondering whether I was ever going to get it, and when you have been playing and competing all your life and you start to think about it in that way it means a great deal to actually finally get it. I am just over the moon. As to the performance, the pipes were great. Some years I've come here and the pipes have let me down, other years I've played well and it's not been quite there. This year I felt I played very, very well. I was just delighted and the pipe held. I felt good; I felt the tune

was at a nice tempo [Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay] and I was singing away in my head as I went through trying to get the music out.' John Angus is based in London, though his family hails from South Uist. He has always been involved with the Scottish Piping Society of London, is piping convener of the Uist and Barra Association Professional Piping Competition and is a past president of the Competing Pipers' Association. His tutors include Pipe Major Alex MacDonald, London, Ronald Morrison and Robert Wallace. His other piping awards include the Silver Medal and the Gillies Cup, London, and many other important trophies and medals. These awards accepted, the greatest day in his piping life came when he led 25 pipers in the march to the games as pipe major and new Argyllshire Gathering gold medallist. New silver medallist is Sandy Cameron. Judges in that event reported his performance as 'absolutely outstanding' for such a young piper. 'Full of maturity of expression, complemented with technical excellence and a superb bagpipe,' said one. Sandy's win completed a marvellous summer for him. In his final year at Dollar Academy, his school pipe band was proclaimed juvenile world



Above: John Angus Smith of London and South Uist, winner of the gold medal at the Argyllshire Gathering piping competitions 26_136argyll47



Left: Roy Bridge's Sandy Cameron, winner of the silver medal 26_136argyll42

champions. He is now going on to study at university. The senior piobaireachd was won by Stuart Liddell. The judges there reported a lot of safe playing, though the prize-winners all played well. The contest was longer than usual, with all the big MacCrimmon tunes on offer. This was a real feast for the piobaireachd lover - a feast that will be repeated in the Clasp competition at Inverness next week. The junior piobaireachd event, the MacGregor Memorial, was won by Charles MacDonald from Inverness. Charles showed a lot of maturity in putting together two first class tunes in the End of the Great Bridge and the Old Men of the Shells. In the latter he was rather snappy with variation two, but otherwise this was attractive ceol mor. Second went to John Dew with a good Lachlan MacNeill Campbell of Kintarbert. He lacked the colour and shading Charles brought to his tune, but this is a very promising piper indeed; technically able and capable of producing a nicely set pipe on the big occasion. Third went to Callum Watson with Hector Maclean's Warning: good bold playing with the ground just lacking a little poise, and fourth to Ross Miller with MacLeod of Raasay straight, safe playing on a good pipe.

New bid to help children stay safe around strangers

A LEAFLET is being issued to parents and carers in the Highlands explaining how children can stay safe when approached by strangers. 'Stranger Smart', a joint initiative by Highland council and Police Scotland, sets out a protocol for how schools and police will deal with reports of youngsters being approached. The leaflet will also include information about how to keep safe and what to do if a stranger appears. Julian Innes, Police Scotland's chief superintendent for the Highlands and Islands, said: 'Keeping children and

young people safe is at the heart of what we do in the Highlands. Stranger Smart sends out three key messages: that while incidents involving suspicious people are rare, it is important we all work together and quickly to make sure that we get it right, that Police Scotland are notified at the earliest opportunity when an incident occurs and that it's everyone's responsibility to keep children and young people safe.' A YouTube video, highlighting the key points for children, is also available at https://youtu.be/HFCOEv_4m4



Territorial leaders commissioners Clive and Marianne Adams with retired major Lilian Wylie, middle, from Kinlochleven

Pipers hit the high notes at Lochaber festival

MORE than 50 musicians celebrated the Lochaber Gathering Festival of Piping last weekend. The annual event took place at The Nevis Centre, Fort William, with prizes presented by Lochaber councillor Allan Henderson. Councillor Henderson paid tribute to the event's organisers Allan MacColl and daughter Kirsteen. He also commended lead sponsors of the event and said a special thanks to stewards Colin MacBeath, Betty and Ewen Campbell, Morag Melville and Sandy MacKenzie. The afternoon was broken up by the annual piping lecture, presented by Robert Wallace, editor of Piping Press and vice president of the Piobaireachd society. Junior competition results: 18 and under Piobaireachd: 1 Brighde Chaimbeul, An Caol; 2 Harris MacLennan, Lesswade; 3 Connor Jardine, Airdrie; 18 and under, Hornpipe and Jig Clansman Garage shield: 1 Brighde Chaimbeul, An Caol; 2 Harris MacLennan, Lesswade;



IN TUNE: junior winners of this year's Lochaber Gathering festival of piping, from left, Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge; Calum Craib, South Uist; Angus MacPhee, Inverness; Harris MacLennan, Lesswade; and Connor Jardine, Airdrie

18 and under, MSR Lochaber Gathering Salver and McCallum Ch: 1 Connor Jardine, Airdrie; 2 Brighde Chaimbeul, An Caol; 3 Harris MacLennan, Lesswade; 18 and under, Hornpipe and Jig Clansman Garage shield: 1 Brighde Chaimbeul, An Caol; 2 Harris MacLennan, Lesswade;

2 Connor Jardine, Airdrie; 3 Brighde Chaimbeul, An Caol. 15 and under Piobaireachd, The Dugald MacColl Memorial trophy and McCallum Pipe case: 1 Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge; 2 Angus MacPhee, Inverness; 3 Calum Craib, South Uist. 15 and under, MSR McCallum chanter and music book: 1 Calum Craib, South Uist; 2 Angus MacPhee, Inverness; 3 Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge. 15 and under, Hornpipe and Jig Lochaber Gathering medal and music book: 1 Calum Craib, South Uist; 2 Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge; 3 Eòsaph Caimbeul, An Caol. Youngest competitor, Neil Johnstone Memorial trophy and McCallum practise chanter: Eòsaph Caimbeul, Kyle of Lochalsh. Senior competition results: P/A Grade Piobaireachd, An Tuagh Oir: 1 Michael Fitzhenry, Paisley; 2 William McCallum, Glasgow; 3 Callum Beaumont, Linlithgow; 4 Ewen MacCrimmon, Inverness. P/A March, The Lochaber Gathering gold medal: 1 William McCallum, Glasgow; 2 Derek Midgley, USA; 3 Colin Campbell, Inverness; 4 Jenny Hazzard, Edinburgh P/A Grade Strathspey and Reel; Leek's Taxis trophy: 1 William McCallum, Glasgow; 2 Michael Fitzhenry, Paisley; 3 Derek Midgley, USA; 4 Callum Beaumont, Linlithgow. B/C Grade Piobaireachd, An Tuagh Airgead: 1 Colin Campbell, Inverness; 2 Andrew Wright, Dundee; 3 Nick Hudson, USA; 4 Andrew Hall, Upminste. B/C March, Strathspey and Reel, Clydesdale Bank trophy: 1 Ursa Beckford, USA; 2 J Ross Cowan, Motherwell; 3 Nick Hudson, USA; 4 Charles MacDonald, Inverness. Open Hornpipe and Jig the Lochaber Gathering shield: 1 William McCallum, Glasgow; 2 Derek Midgley, USA; 3 John Angus Smith, London; 4 Jamie Forrester, London.

Leaders celebrate 150th anniversary with tour

MEMBERS and friends of the Salvation Army in Fort William, Kinlochleven and Oban came together to welcome two territorial leaders when they visited the West Highlands. Commissioners Clive and

Marianne Adams are responsible for overseeing the work of all Salvation Army branches in the UK and Ireland. They visited Fort William on August 22 as part of a celebration marking 150 years of the organisation.

Weekend RNLI fundraiser

KYLE OF Lochalsh will be a hub of maritime fun this weekend for the annual RNLI fundraiser. Starting at 12pm, Saturday's events will feature demonstrations from Kyle and Mallaig lifeboats and Kyle fire brigade. British Underwater Testing and Evaluation Centre (BUTEC) will also be present and are once again allowing the public access on to some of its boats.

The coastguard, police, mountain rescue team, British Red Cross and the vintage 'Watson' class lifeboat will also be there on the afternoon, with Lochalsh junior pipe band entertaining the crowds. Depending on weather conditions at the weekend the local kayaking club will put on games and demonstrations before the day is rounded off with the Kyleakin to Kyle swim at 5.45pm.

TIMESLINE

College workers get living wage

EMPLOYEES of West Highland college UHI are to be paid a 'living wage'. The decision by the college's board of management will see around eight per cent of the 150-strong workforce receive a pay rise to the living wage of £7.85 an hour. Lydia Rohmer, principal and chief executive of West Highland college, said: 'Despite the very difficult economic times we face, we want to act fairly and responsibly to ensure no member of staff earns less than the living wage, as annually set by the Living Wage Foundation. We believe this is the right thing to do as one of the larger employers in the West Highlands to ensure that we are contributing to creating a fair and equal society.'

First time voters urged to register

A CAMPAIGN to encourage all first-time voters to register has been launched. Highland council is reminding anyone who will be 16 or 17 before the Scottish parliament elections in May 2016 that they are now eligible to vote following a change in legislation. Bill Gillies, electoral registration officer for Highland and Western Isles, said: 'Not everyone may know about this change which is why we are working with the electoral commission to raise awareness and to encourage registration. It's important those who will be 16 or 17 by next May don't miss out on having their say because they didn't know they could register or because they don't know how to register.' Voters can register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

your guide to independent schools

Welcome to Dollar
We are one of the UK's leading independent schools.

OPEN DAY
Saturday 12th September, 10:00am - 1:00pm.

For more information:
registrar@dollaracademy.org.uk
01259 742 511

DOLLAR ACADEMY
Excellence and opportunity
Dollar, Clackmannanshire, FK14 7DU

The Governors of Dollar Academy Trust is a charity registered in Scotland, no SC00988

LATHALLAN SCHOOL, JOHNSHAVEN

OPEN MORNINGS
9TH AND 23RD OCTOBER, 9.30AM

INDEPENDENT, CO-EDUCATIONAL NURSERY, JUNIOR AND SENIOR SCHOOL SET IN 62 ACRES OF STUNNING GROUNDS

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LATHALLAN SCHOOL, JOHNSHAVEN

AT Lathallan School, our focus is, of course, on educational excellence. Our overall size of more than 220 pupils, class sizes averaged at 16 pupils, high quality academic staff and unique environment are all contributors to fulfilling the claim that every child has the opportunity to develop to their own full potential. Small class sizes and confidence from a varied curriculum outside the classroom really do make a difference. Lathallan School does not have entrance exams; we assess each child on his or her own merit. It is a place in which challenge, industriousness and maximising individual potential is pivotal in our pupils' educational development. Every individual is made to feel an integral and special part of the school. The diversity of pupil achievements underpin the Lathallan School ethos that we strongly believe that every child deserves to enjoy the success of their individual abilities in whatever field they lie - on the sports field, in the classroom, in the arts, in personal achievement. Boarding facilities - full and weekly, are available to allow your child to fully immerse themselves in life at Lathallan School. We also have a wide catchment area with a daily bus from Aberdeen and Banchory. A daily Finavon return bus service starts in September. www.lathallan.org.uk

ST MARY'S MUSIC SCHOOL

ST MARY'S Music School in Edinburgh is Scotland's specialist music school, providing world-class education for talented young musicians. It is independent, non-denominational, day and boarding, an inclusive, inspiring and supportive community of 83 boys and girls, aged nine-19, who enjoy a high level of individual work and rigorous training, complemented by group performing opportunities - classical, jazz, Scottish traditional - alongside an impressive academic education. Entry is by audition at any stage, classes are small and parents are reassured by the school's long tradition of high attainment levels and excellent academic track record. An open afternoon on October 3 gives the chance to drop in on musical performances, take a guided tour and ask questions of our staff and pupils, who come from all over Scotland and beyond. Find out about auditioning for a place, with Scottish Government and bursary funding, up to 100 per cent, for tuition and boarding fees.

We look forward to welcoming you.
www.st-marys-music-school.co.uk

ST MARY'S MUSIC SCHOOL
Full-time specialist music and academic education for talented musicians, aged 9-19

We welcome audition applications throughout the year from talented instrumentalists, composers and singers. Entry at any stage.

Scottish Government funding (up to 100%) for tuition and boarding fees

OPEN AFTERNOON - Saturday 3 October

Coates Hall, 25 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EL
Tel: 0131 538 7766 Email: info@st-marys-music-school.co.uk
www.st-marys-music-school.co.uk



independent schools average in many instances

Independent school candidates garnered top grades in this year's GCSEs and A-levels, surpassing the national average in many instances, this according to the Independent Schools Council.

INDEPENDENT Schools Council (ISC) schools' candidates have achieved the very top grades in this year's Year 13 results. One in 14 independent school candidates have been awarded three A* grades or equivalent. That's a total of 2,607 pupils or seven per cent of pupils. There are rises in the number of students taking IB, Pre-U and EPQ qualifications. For example there are 11 per cent more pupils completing EPQ than last year. Half of entries at ISC independent schools achieve A* and A grades, nearly double the national figure. 19 per cent of entries at ISC independent schools achieve an A* grade, compared to 8 per cent nationally. Half

(49.3 per cent) of all entries at A-level at ISC independent schools have achieved A* or A grade. There are now more than 3,200 pupils taking the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and there are rises in the numbers of pupils taking Pre-U and the International Baccalaureate (IB) this year. ISC schools include a wide diversity of schools, some selective, many non-selective. They are strong at the traditional facilitating subjects that Russell Group universities require, including modern foreign languages, maths, further maths, physics, chemistry and biology, as well as history and geography. As independent schools, they have the freedom to choose the best curriculum and qualification for

GLENALMOND COLLEGE

OPEN DAY 2015
Saturday 3 October 2015

Glenalmond College is a leading boarding and day school for boys and girls aged 12-18, located on a stunning 300-acre campus just outside Perth. Come along to the free Open Day to find out more about life at Glenalmond College.

T: 01738 842000
E: registrar@glenalmondcollege.co.uk
www.glenalmondcollege.co.uk/OpenDay

Glenalmond College | inspiring learning

GLENALMOND College provides an inspiring environment for learning. As one of Scotland's leading boarding and day schools, the long-standing tradition of excellence and achievement continues. The academic focus of the school is clear. All pupils study for GCSEs and A levels, with a curriculum spanning 25 subjects in the Sixth Form. Every year a good number of pupils



DOLLAR ACADEMY

DOLLAR Academy is recognised as one of the UK's leading schools; distinguished by its excellence in pastoral care, co-curricular provision and classroom teaching. It is a day and boarding school for boys and girls aged five to 18. Pupils study the Scottish curriculum and work towards Highers and Advanced Highers. The academic expectations here are high and pupils benefit from the excellent resources available. Dollar Academy has a single, 70-acre campus with extensive indoor and outdoor sports facilities, which include acres upon acres of sports fields, pitches and courts; a well-equipped fitness suite; a full-length swimming pool, with allocated pool-time available for pupils; and a rifle range.

The main school building is a striking neo-classical design by the eminent Scottish architect William Henry Playfair and the numerous other buildings on campus are a mixture of period and modern design, including specialised teaching areas for languages, science, music and art, large performance venues and first-class accommodation for boarders. The 200-year-old school is famous for its world championship-winning pipe band. More than 160 pupils practise the instrument and tuition is available at all levels, with the opportunity to participate in national competitions. The sight and sound of the pipes are synonymous with Dollar Academy; each day during the summer term begins with the massed pipes and drums

performing on the school lawns. Dollar Academy is a very popular option for Scottish families. Entry can be arranged at any stage in a child's education, with many children opting to join before their senior school examination years. Whether you are considering a possible change in school for your child now or at some point in the future, this school is worth your consideration. A limited number of boarding scholarships are available. Open Day: Saturday 12 September 2015. 10am - 1pm
Email registrar@dollaracademy.org.uk for more information

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SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2015
10AM - 1PM

The Mary Erskine School
Stewart's Melville College
The Junior School

www.esms.org.uk
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ERSKINE STEWART'S MELVILLE SCHOOLS

A family education with ESMS is a unique family of independent schools for boys and girls in Edinburgh. At ESMS, we believe we have developed a community that gives children the best of all educational approaches, and this variety ensures our children are able to make the best social, emotional and academic progress possible. Our children are taught together from nursery to primary 7, where they then receive the benefits of single-sex senior education before joining together again for a co-educational sixth form. At senior school,

the girls attend The Mary Erskine School and the boys Stewart's Melville College. Taught separately, our girls and boys have more freedom to be themselves, gain confidence and achieve their potential. Stewart's Melville College was named Scottish Independent Secondary of the Year in 2013 and The Mary Erskine School in 2012, both for the education received and the extra-curricular opportunities available. From nursery to senior school we help our children to learn our nine key values including kindness, appreciation and respect and this creates a

happy school community where each child feels valued. For children whose parents work overseas, or live too far from Edinburgh to commute daily, our boarding houses provide a comfortable, close-knit and happy home from home for children from primary 6 to sixth form. Visit us on our open day on Saturday September 26 2015, 10am to 1pm, to find out more, or please contact: Admissions Secretary, Tel: 0131 311 1111 admissions@esms.org.uk



entschools

outperform national
in many categories



their pupils and have pioneered the IB, Pre-U and Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) in this country. Schools expect hard work and commitment from pupils and have high aspirations for them. Teachers are often highly qualified specialists in their subject who can impart their enthusiasm to pupils. ISC schools offer an excellent academic education combined with a rich co-curricular life of sport, CCF, debating, music and drama and many other activities. ISC schools focus on building character and skills such as teamwork and leadership. They foster good self-esteem and self-confidence. Barnaby Lenon, chairman, Independent Schools Council (ISC) said: 'Independ-

ent schools can be very proud of their pupils' excellent exam results, with half of their A-levels being graded A* or A, nearly double the national figure. 'What is remarkable is the number of candidates achieving three or more A* grades, one in 14 pupils,' he said. 'A high proportion of the independent schools A-levels are in the traditional subjects such as maths, physics, chemistry, biology and modern foreign languages, some of which are in decline nationally. Many top university departments offering these subjects are dependent on independent school pupils for the quality of applicants they seek.'

The William Bright Society at Glenalmond identifies, promotes and develops academic excellence. The school has a programme of visiting lecturers, and there are regular cultural and academic trips outside the school. As well as developing academic potential, Glenalmond encourages its pupils in other areas too. More than 145 sports, activities, clubs and societies are on

offer to the 400 girls and boys aged 12 to 18 years. The school's newly-refurbished theatre is the perfect setting for large-scale drama productions, and Glenalmond's many talented musicians perform across the country. On the sporting front, Glenalmond pupils benefit from the best coaching available. The partnership with Perthshire RFC provides excellent opportu-

nities for the school's rugby players, led by director of rugby Huw Thomas; swimmers are trained by Olympic swimming coach Gary Vandermeulen; young coach of the year James Ross coaches cricket; and renowned Scottish youth coach David Stott is the school's director of hockey. The school is located just eight miles from Perth, on a stunning 300-acre rural campus. Free day pupil

transport is available and day pupils participate fully in the life of the school. Scholarships and bursaries (up to 100 per cent) are available. Parents and pupils are invited to the Glenalmond College open day on Saturday October 3 - full details are available on the website www.glenalmond-college.co.uk/OpenDay Telephone: 01738 842144 www.glenalmondcollege.co.uk



Lomond School
Helensburgh

Open Morning

Nursery, Junior and Senior School
Saturday 3rd October 2015, 10am - 1pm

Join us at our Open Morning to discover life at Lomond. Register attendance by email or phone.

To find out more please call **01136 672 176** or email admissions@lomondschool.com

LOMOND SCHOOL

LOMOND offers an education that allows every student to explore their potential with the support and encouragement of teachers, peers and the wider Lomond community. We impart traditional values in our students while delivering access to the most up-to-date and effective methods of learning and teaching, supported by considerable investment in ICT. We were one of the first schools in the UK to integrate an iPad strategy which has provided every student from P6 to S6 with their own personal iPad. It is this mix of old and new that has created our unique character and al-

lows us to produce dynamic individuals who face their future with confidence, resilience and determination. Our boarding provision adds a distinctive dimension to the school; the mix of cultures and backgrounds enriches our curriculum and co-curriculum, supporting all of our pupils to develop their global awareness and understanding. Like many independent schools we provide small class sizes, an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities, attention to the individual and a strong record of academic achievement. Whether they have lived locally all their

lives or have joined us as boarders, Lomond students know how lucky they are to live in a small, safe coastal town only 10 minutes from Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. Our location makes us different and our students thrive in this environment which opens the door to new experiences, skills and talents to be explored. Join us at our open morning on Saturday October 3 2015 at 10 am. www.lomondschool.com



In the art department at Lomond School

MERCHISTON CASTLE SCHOOL

FROM Merchiston's youngest boarder, aged seven, to the young men in the Sixth Form, Merchiston provides a full boarding programme seven days a week and is an extremely nurturing School. 'Think about a boys' world in which boys can be boys, but also boys, who in time, will be ambitious, aspirational, and sensitive, yet gentle, men. Envisage a wonderfully caring and nurturing family environment. What happens here is that boys learn to like learning more, whilst simultaneously having the time of their lives on our co-curricular programme,' said Andrew Hunter, headmaster. The 2015 A Level results were again outstanding, with many pupils successfully

combating stiffer marking and tougher exams. With a provisional 100 per cent pass rate and 39 per cent of boys achieving A* and A grades, Merchiston really does turn the 'C' into a 'B' and the 'B' into an 'A student'. Merchiston has a long tradition of sporting excellence, fostering the pursuit of excellence in a sport-for-all environment. More than 20 sports and 30 co-curricular activities are on offer to all, as well as specialist tennis and golf academies. The Tennis Academy has been the Scottish Schools Tennis Champions for the last six out of eight years, and is ranked second in the UK (LTA Team Tennis Schools rankings). Our successful Golf Academy

represented Scotland at this year's ISGA Home Internationals in Wales in March, coming second to England. Merchiston is also Top Scottish School in the National Junior League, holding the title Joint National ISGA Junior League Champions. Pupils also benefit from strong links with girls' schools for cultural activities, events and social gatherings. The warmth with which Merchiston parents speak of the school is rather special: 'In every respect - academic, sporting and pastoral - the school has exceeded our expectations, and continues to do so.' Current Parent



Merchiston School welcomes boys between the ages of 7 and 18.

MERCHISTON STORY
IN THE MAKING

Listen to some of our pupils talk about their Merchiston journey www.merchiston.co.uk

A Boarding and Day School for Boys aged 7-18

INFORMATION MORNING: SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2015, 10am

Merchiston Castle School, Colinton Road, Edinburgh, EH13 0PU, Scotland Tel. 0131 312 2200. Recognised by the Inland Revenue as a Charity, number SC01 6580 www.merchiston.co.uk

MERCHISTON
EDINBURGH | Boys first



The Argylshire Gathering

OBAN GAMES



The Duke of Argyll presents Katie MacPherson with the Kitchen Garden trophy 26_t36argyll52



The Duke of Argyll with the dancing trophy winners from the morning dances 26_t36argyll53



Tom Smith of Connel will raised eyebrows in Scottish athletics by claiming the scalp of Andrew Butchart, Scotland's leading distance runner, national cross country champion and rising Great Britain star at the Argylshire Gathering hill race. Butchart had a clear run when at the top of the hill, but Tom, a hill running specialist, overtook him with superior descending skills on a steep embankment. Tom is a gardener and at the age of 41 has recently become a dad for the first time. He is often to be found out running with the pram. 26_t36argyll13



Commentator Craig Dunbar kept everyone in order during the day 26_t36argyll68



Sheltering from the rain, pupils get close to teachers under a brolly 26_t36argyll12



Norman Bissell of the Atlantic Islands Centre, Luining, speaking to interested parties about the activities at the new island centre 26_t36argyll6



Craig Nicholson from Oban throws the weight for distance 26_t36argyll16

Jamie Mellor, who kept a tight rein on the pipers and the photographers during the whole of the games day - despite having put in 19 hours the previous day at the international piping competitions 26_t36argyll27

The Highland Society of London's Gold Medal winner John Angus Smith, of London, with family connections in Skye, enjoyed a dram and received the medal from the Duke of Argyll 26_t36argyll54



End of season athletics youth champions Eilidh Shearer, 14, from Oban high school and Paddy Dunn, 15, also Oban high school 26_t36argyll23



THE ARGYLLSHIRE Gathering was again a hugely positive day for the town with spectators and competitors coming from across the world to take part in the town's grandest annual event.

The day was slightly marred at the start with torrential rain - but it cleared up for the awesome march through the town.

World-class pipers played some wonderful tunes and led a healthy crowd onto the games pitch at Mossfield.

The Duke and Duchess of Argyll and their three children attended, as did many other members of the Argylshire Gathering.

No one seemed to be deterred by unseasonable dreich weather with good numbers in all events - particularly the piping and a good number in the heavy weight events.

The tug o' war was one of the best seen for years with a well-matched competitive team from Moffat competing against a team from Perthshire.

Argylshire Gathering 2015 results

SHINTY: 1 Fingal, 2 Ossian.
PIPING: Highland Society of London Gold Medal: 1 John Angus Smith, London, 2 James Troy, Canada, 3 James Machattie, Canada; Senior Piobaireachd: 1 Stuart Liddell, Inveraray, 2 Iain Speirs, Edinburgh, 3 Andrew Hayes, Canada; Argylshire Gathering Silver Medal: 1 Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge, 2 Sean Mckeown, Canada, 3 Ed Bush, Johnstone; Junior March, Strathspey & Reel (Local): 1 Ross Connor, 2 Gregor MacDonald, 3 Kate MacPherson; March (Local): 1 Ronald Telfer, 2 Donald MacDougall, 3 Alan Hussein; Strathspey & Reel (Local): 1 Donald MacDougall, 2 Alastair MacLean, 3 Jamie Baxter; March, Strathspey & Reel (Former Winners): 1 Angus MacColl, Benderloch, 2 Stuart Liddell, Inveraray, 3 William McCallum, Bearsden; March Grade 'A': 1 Alasdair Henderson, Dunoon, 2 Callum Beaumont, Linnlithgow, 3 James Troy, Canada; March Grade 'B': 1 Angus MacColl, Benderloch, 2 Andrew Lee, Port Coquitlam, 3 Liam Kernaghan, Dunedin; Strathspey & Reel Grade 'A': 1 Alasdair Henderson, Dunoon, 2 Iain Speirs, Edinburgh, 3 Michael Fitzhenry, Paisley; Strathspey & Reel Grade 'B': 1 Sarah Muir, Campbelltown, 2 Ben Duncan, Edinburgh, 3 James McHattie, Summerside; Jigs: 1 Fred Morrison, Bishopstoun, 2 Alasdair Henderson, Dunoon, 3 Jenny Hazard, Edinburgh; MacGregor Memorial Competition: 1 Charles Macdonald, Inverness, 2 John Dew, Crieff, 3 Callum Watson, Lasswade; Brigadier Lom Campbell of Airds VC Trophy: John Angus Smith, London; College of Piping Silver Salver: Charles Macdonald, Inverness; McCallum Memorial Trophy: Angus MacColl, Benderloch; MacNeil of Barra Memorial Cup: Alasdair Henderson, Dunoon; Kilberry Cup: Stuart Liddell Inveraray; Donald Ramsey Trophy: Fred Morrison, Bishopstoun; Major George Melville Duncan cup: Donald MacDougall; Royal Celtic Society Prize: Stuart Liddell, Inveraray.
DANCING: 7 yrs to 13 yrs (Local): Highland Flings: 1 Zoe Brown, 2 Sophie MacPherson, 3 Lisa MacKellar; Sean Triubhas: 1 Lisa MacKellar, 2 Sophie MacPherson, 3 Zoe Brown; Hullachan: 1 Zoe Brown, 2 Lisa MacKellar, 3 Sophie MacPherson; Webster of Oban Trophy: Zoe Brown; 13 yrs to 16 yrs (Local): Highland Flings: 1 Katie MacPherson, 2 Iona MacKinlay, 3 Ashley Taylor; Sean Triubhas: 1 Katie MacPherson, 2 Iona MacKinlay, 3 Aillie Munro; Hullachan: 1 Katie MacPherson, 2 Nicola Macaulay, 3 Iona MacKinlay; Kitchen Garden Trophy: Katie MacPherson; 16 yrs and over (Local): Highland Flings: 1 Robyn Horsburgh, 2 Lauren MacKellar, 3 Nicola MacKinlay; Sean Triubhas: 1 Nicola MacKinlay, 2 Lauren MacKellar, 3 Robyn Horsburgh; Hullachan: 1 Nicola MacKinlay, 2 Robyn Horsburgh, 3 Lauren MacKellar; Farquhar Martin Memorial Trophy: Nicola MacKinlay; William MacLennan Trophy: Katie MacPherson; 12 years and under Open: Highland Flings: 1 Aileen Tolley, Canada, 2 Hannah Colquhoun, Canada, 3 Annika Murray, Canada; Sword Dance: 1 Annika Murray, Canada, 2 Hannah Colquhoun, Canada, 3 Kyla McGill, Canada; Sean Triubhas: 1 Annika Murray, Canada, 2 Aileen Tolley, Canada, 3 Kyla McGill, Canada; Strathspey & Hullachan: 1 Annika Murray, Canada, 2 Aileen Tolley, Canada, 3 Hannah Colquhoun, Canada; Stewart Family Trophy: Annika Murray, Canada; Best overseas juvenile dancer: Annika Murray, Canada; 13 years and under 16 Highland Flings: 1 Fiona Tolley, Canada, 2 Steffany Treadwell, Australia, 3 Katy MacPherson, Oban; Sword Dance: 1 Steffany Treadwell, Australia, 2 Fiona Tolley, Canada, 3 Olivia Kyle, Canada; Sean Triubhas: 1 Fiona Tolley, Canada, 2 Olivia Kyle, Canada, 3 Steffany Treadwell, Australia; Strathspey & Tullach: 1 Fiona Tolley, Canada, 2 Olivia Kyle, Canada, 3 Carmyn Wilson, Canada; Calley Fisheries Trophy: Fiona Tolley, Canada; Best overseas junior dancer: Fiona Tolley, Canada; Argylshire Gathering Shield: Fiona Tolley, Canada; 16 yrs and over (Open): Highland Flings: 1 Ashley Carlomusto, USA, 2 Kaitlin Radford, Leven, 3 Word Dance: 1 Kaitlin Radford, Sean Triubhas: 1 Ashley Carlomusto, USA, 2 Kaitlin Radford; Highland Laddie: 1 Ashley Carlomusto, USA, 2 Kaitlin Radford; Challenge medal: Kaitlin Radford; Championship: Ashley Carlomusto; Bruno Schroder Shield: Ashley Carlomusto.
TRACK & FIELD: Argylshire 3200m handicap: Open: 1 Andrew Butchart, Central, 2 Dean Whiteford, Inneilthen, 3 Matthew Turner, Campbelltown; Argylshire 100m scratch final: Open 1 David Martin, Victoria Park, 2 Ben Coates, Oban, 3 Connor Henderson, Kilbarhan; Women: 1 Erin Laggate, East Kilbride, 2 Chloe Mason, 3 Laura McCracken, East Kilbride; Local men: 1 Ben Coates, Oban, 2 Paddy Dunne, Oban, 3 Finbar Murray, Oban; Argylshire 800 Metres scratch: Open: 1 Rory



Former Mull police officer Neil Walker, now from Perth, Australia blows with the best of them in the piping competitions 26_t36argyll10



Oban high school pupils were selling tickets for a grand raffle. Tickets, costing £1, can be purchased throughout the town and at Oban Phoenix Cinema 26_t36argyll57



Oban High School pipe band brave the rain. Many of the school's



AMES

A classic Summer Highland Spectacular



an Times

HLAND TIMES

The Central Belt men won - but only after 12 minutes of a stand-off in the first round.

Their skill was something to be admired.

Poland had the edge in the heavy weight events with brothers Sebastian and Lucas Wenta showing off great skills in all the competitions.

Special mention should be made of Craig Nichol, Oban, who has been a regular attendee at all events throughout

Argyll in spite of an early season injury and his wedding.

Oban high school had a good presence at the games including head teacher Peter Bain, members of the senior school leadership team and principal teacher of PE Murray Hamilton who supported pupils taking part in the day.

Organisers could be proud of the event that shone, despite the weather, and showed what can be done to attract an international audience to the town.

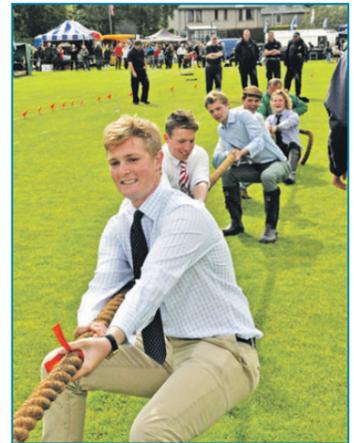
Muir, Dundee, 2 Andrew Butchart, Central, 3 Matthew Turner Campbeltown; 800m Handicap: 1 Willie Bates, Menzies, 2 Wallace MacGowan, Sauchie, 3 Dean Whiteford, Innerleithen; Argyllshire Hill Race: Open: 1 Tom Smith, Oban, 2 Andrew Butchart, Central, 3 Andrew Barrington, Oban; Women: 1 Madeline Robinson, Helensburgh, 2 Laura Teigner, 3 Roanne Lilley, Oban; Local: 1 Tom Smith, 2 Andrew Barrington, Oban, 3 Mark Shaw, Oban; Oban Boys: 1 Cameron Campbell, Glenbar, 2 Dan Brooking, Windsoor, 3 Gregor Campbell, Glenbar; Girls: 1 Roanne Lilley, Oban, 2 Eilidh Shearer, Oban, 3 Mary Anne Whyte, Campbeltown; Argyllshire 200m Handicap: Open: 1 Wallace MacGowan, Sauchie, 2 Ben Coates, Oban, 3 Lee Goodfellow, Earlstown; Argyllshire 400 Metres Handicap: 1 David Martin, Glasgow, 2 Erin Leggate, East Kilbride, 3 Connor Henderson, Kilbarchan; Local: 1 Rebekka Bryan, Oban, 2 Matthew Turner, Campbeltown, 3 Gary Turner, Campbeltown; Argyllshire 1600 Metres Handicap: Open: 1 Dean Whitford, Innerleithen, 2 Sam Bates, Menzies, 3 Rory Muir, Dundee; Local: 1 Matthew Turner, Campbeltown, 2 Gary Turner, Campbeltown, 3 Stuart MacGeachy, Campbeltown; Argyllshire 100m Handicap: Open: 1 Ben Coates, Oban, 2 David Martin, Glasgow, 3 Lee Goodfellow, Earlstown; Argyllshire Long Jump: Open: 1 David Martin, Glasgow, 2 Cameron Clark, Glasgow, 3 Ben Coates, Oban; Local: 1 Ben Coates, Oban, 2 Matthew Turner, Campbeltown, 3 Stuart Inglis, Oban; Argyllshire Triple Jump: Open: 1

Cameron Clark, Glasgow, 2 Matthew Turner, Campbeltown, 3 Rory Muir, Dundee; Local: 1 Matthew Turner, Campbeltown, 2 Ben Coates, Oban, 3 Gary Turner, Campbeltown; Argyllshire High Jump: Open: 1 Connor Henderson, Kilbarchan, Cameron Clark, Glasgow and Ben Coates, Oban; Women: 1 Erin Leggate, East Kilbride, 2 Chloe Mason and Grace Thompson, Oban; Local: 1 Ben Coates, Oban, 2 Gary Turner, Campbeltown, 3 Matthew Turner, Campbeltown; Argyllshire Light Stone (16lbs): Open: 1 Lucas Wenta, East Kilbride, 2 Lorne Coulthart, Blair Atholl, 3 Sebastian Wenta, Poland; Local: 1 Craig Nichol, Oban, 2 Murdoch Masterton, Oban; SHGA British Light Hammer Championship (16lbs): Open: 1 Lorne Coulthart, Blair Atholl, 2 Kyle Randalls, Grangemouth, 3 Sebastian Wenta, Poland; Local: 1 Craig Nichol, Oban, 2 Murdoch Masterton, Oban; SHGA British Heavy Hammer Championship (22lbs): Open: 1 Sebastian Wenta, Poland, 2 Kyle Randalls, Grangemouth, 3 Lorne Coulthart, Blair Atholl; Argyllshire 28lb weight for distance: 1 Sebastian Wenta, Poland, 2 Lorne Coulthart, Blair Atholl, 3 Sinclair Patience, Tain; Local: 1 Craig Nichol, Oban, 2 Murdoch Masterton, Oban; Highlander Caber: Local & novice: 1 Craig Nichol, Oban, 2 Murdoch Masterton, Oban; Argyllshire Caber: 1 Lucas Wenta, East Kilbride, 2 Sebastian Wenta, Poland, 3 Lorne Coulthart, Blair Atholl; Highlander Clachd (22lbs): Open: 1 Lucas Wenta, East Kilbride, 2 Sebastian Wenta, Poland, 3 Lorne Coulthart, Blair Atholl; SHGA British 56lb weight for distance: 1 Sebastian

Wenta, Poland, 2 Lucas Wenta, East Kilbride, 3 Sinclair Patience, Tain; Highlander 56lb weight over the bar: Open: 1 Sebastian Wenta, Poland, 2 Lucas Wenta, East Kilbride, Lorne Coulthart, Blair Atholl and Sinclair Patience, Tain; Highlander Tug of War: 1 Moffat, 2 Strathardle; Argyllshire Youth and Girls 100m: Boys: 1 Paddy Dunne, Oban, 2 Stuart Inglis, Oban, 3 Cameron Campbell, Glenbar; Girls: 1 Kelsey Whitlow, Oban, 2 Eilidh Shearer, Oban, 3 Roanne Lilley, Oban; Argyllshire Youths 600 metres: Youths: 1 Cameron Campbell, Glenbar, 2 Dan Brooking, Windsoor, 3 Coll Houston, Campbeltown; Girls: 1 Eilidh Shearer, Oban, 2 Abi Coto, Bunnasin, 3 Isla Head, Oban; Argyllshire Youths High Jump: Boys: 1 Cameron Campbell, Glenbar, 2 Stuart Inglis, Oban, 3 Andrew Ritchie, Oban; Girls: 1 Grace Thompson, Oban, 2 Aira Diamond; Argyll Youths Long Jump: Boys: 1 Cameron Campbell, Glenbar, 2 Finbar Dunne, Oban, 3 Coll Houston, Campbeltown; Girls: 1 Roanne Lilley, Oban, 2 Isla Head, Oban, 3 Kelsey Whitlow, Oban; Argyllshire Youth Shot Put: Boys: 1 Paddy Dunne, Oban, 2 Finbar Dunne, Oban, 3 Campbell Cameron, Glenbar; Girls: 1 Roanne Lilley, Oban, 2 Grace Thompson, Oban, 3 Isla Head, Oban. CHAMPIONS: Argyllshire Heavyweight Championship: Open: 1 Sebastian Wenta, Poland, 2 Lucas Wenta, East Kilbride, 3 Lorne Coulthart, Blair Atholl; Local track and field champions: 1 - Matthew Turner, Campbeltown and Ben Coates, Oban, 3 Gary Turner Campbeltown.



Dancers receiving awards from games steward (centre) Matthew Anderson and (front) Sherry Peter, dancing steward 26_t36argyll40



The Argyllshire challengers tried hard - but failed after only a few seconds in the tug o' war competition 26_t36argyll20



Moffat Builders on the ropes 26_t36argyll22



Jamie McCormack of Pencaitland, 56, won the grandfathers' race before taking part in the tug o'war with his team from Moffat Builders 26_t36argyll19



Taking the long jump 26_t36argyll18



Sandy Cameron of Roy Bridge won the Silver Medal. He was presented with this accolade by John Campbell of Kilberry 26_t36argyll55



Matthew Anderson, games steward, presents piper Donald MacDougall, Seil, with his first place for the Strathspey and Reel 26_t36argyll33



Piping prizes in the youth challenges: with games steward Matthew Anderson is Ross Connor, Campbeltown, who was the junior local champion. 26_t36argyll31



St John's Cathedral treasurer Peter Kemp and provost Nicki McNelly raise awareness of some poor conditions within the building that need urgent attention. The duo were also in good spirits meeting with many of their parishioners who are interested in supporting the continued use of the atmospheric building 26_t36argyll17



Enjoying a dram: Stuart Liddell and Alastair Dewar 26_t36argyll48

Youngsters also took part in the piping band competitions 26_t36argyll11

food and drink

As part of the Year of Food and Drink Scotland, the *Oban Times* has teamed up with local businesses to celebrate the wealth of variety, quality and talent in this booming industry.

Over the coming months, the paper will be promoting a selection of events, stories, restaurants, pubs and producers from the west coast.

Each week, one business from the sector will be the focus of this exciting new column, along with a delicious recipe, so keep an eye out and allow the *Oban Times* to provide a taste of the fantastic food and drink available in the area.

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



This week...

Who is it? **Slimming World**

What do they do and where can I find them? **Starting in Oban, Wednesday 9th September classes are Wednesday 10am & Thursday 5.30pm both in Glencruitten Church Hall.**

Call Gillian 07796 040 803
You can find out more online at www.slimmingworld.com



Our generous eating plan makes slimming easier than you ever thought possible! Instead of telling you what you can and can't eat, Food Optimising puts you in control. You don't need to worry about weighing all your food, counting points or monitoring every mouthful.

Slimming World's highly effective approach to weight loss is empowering and enabling. Our support - online and in group - is based on a deep understanding of how you feel and a passionate desire to help you achieve your personal weight loss goals - and maintain them for life!

Success isn't achieved by setting impossible standards, or through humiliation, it's achieved through caring, compassion and respect. You decide what size you want to be and we'll help you get there. At Slimming World we work together to help you look and feel great - body, mind and soul.



Slimming World original recipe Macaroni Cheese

Serves: 4
Prep time: 15 minutes
Ready in: 30-60 mins
Syns per serving: FREE on Extra Easy
Healthy Extras: Add 6 Syns if not using Reduced fat Cheddar as a Healthy Extra on Extra Easy.

- INGREDIENTS**
- 300g dried macaroni
 - Low calorie cooking spray
 - 1 red onion, finely chopped
 - 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
 - 1 roasted red pepper in brine from a jar, finely chopped
 - 1 courgette, coarsely grated
 - 400ml vegetable stock
 - 4 tbsp tomato purée
 - 200g low-fat natural cottage cheese
 - 1 tsp English mustard powder mixed with 1 tsp water
 - 2 eggs, lightly beaten
 - 160g reduced-fat Cheddar coarsely grated
 - Salt and freshly ground black pepper
 - A salad of mixed leaves and thinly sliced yellow peppers, to serve

Tip: Any combination of vegetables works well - experiment with your favourites.

When cooked this dish can be frozen for up to one month.

METHOD

Preheat your oven to 200°C/180°C Fan/Gas 6. Cook the macaroni according to the packet instructions, then drain well and tip into a wide mixing bowl. Meanwhile, place a large frying pan sprayed with low cooking spray over a high heat. Add the onion, garlic, red pepper and courgette, and cook, stirring for two-three minutes. Add to the macaroni. Put the stock, tomato purée, cottage cheese, mustard and eggs in a jug and whisk until smooth. Pour this over the macaroni mixture, then stir in three-quarters of the Cheddar. Season and toss well. Transfer to a shallow, ovenproof dish. Sprinkle over the remaining Cheddar and bake for 15-20 minutes, or until bubbling and golden. Allow to rest for five minutes, then serve with the salad.

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

Arena

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

Argyll Ceilidh Trailers deliver 'outs



ARGYLL Ceilidh Trailers hit all the right notes on their mammoth three-week tour of the west coast - enjoying playing to crowds large and small.

The ceilidh trail is an annual project that brings together young elite musicians who are still finding their feet as performers.

Now in its sixth year, Fèis Latharna's Argyll Ceilidh Trail has just finished its summer tour.

The tour consisted of 17 gigs all over Argyll and the islands and provided nine young musicians with the opportunity to experience work as professional musicians.

St Conan's hosts superb weekend

THE FRIENDS of St Conan's Kirk celebrated a second open day at the end of last month, with the aim of increasing awareness of St Conan's, demonstrating its value in the community, raising some funds, letting people know about the Friends of Saint Conan's and encouraging new members to join.

By promoting the kirk as a centre for education, heritage and culture, the friends are helping to maintain this valuable resource.

Following last year's success the committee had decided to follow broadly the same format: an arts and crafts exhibition and sale, local primary schools' art competition, live theatre, floral displays, live piping, tours

of St Conan's, information about the friends and home baking available in the Kirk Café. However there were developments in each of these areas.

The number of arts and crafts exhibits was increased and the team was once again delighted to have some wonderful sculptures on loan for the weekend from Lucy Campbell-Gray. There was a larger entry of paintings for the school competition. So impressed by the high standard this year, the friends introduced runners-up prizes. The St Conan's Cup itself was won by Taynuilt primary.

The floral displays looked good last year but there were more this year and they were even lovelier. The interior of the kirk really seemed to have come alive with all the artwork and flowers.

Added to this was some wonderful music: three sessions of solo piping by local pipers, Lucy, Selina and Kimberly.

Separately, visitors were treated to some truly magical clarsach (harp) playing by Chris Beveridge. This music suited the wonderful acoustics in St Conan's so well.

The sound seemed to ripple out and fill the building: it was both uplifting and relaxing. The Three Wee Crows provided

great entertainment with two pieces not previously performed in the Kirk: one was the mediaeval tale of the 'The Return of the Ring', based on Kilchurn Castle.

The other piece was based on a book called The Bailie Macphee which Walter Douglas Campbell, who designed and built the kirk, had written.

It was illustrated by his great friend the poet Violet Kennedy Erskine. These both drew an appreciative response from the audiences.

In between performances, kirk tours included personalised tours for smaller groups.

Also on offer were large laminated guides for those who preferred to go round on their own.

Another introduction was a film showing a wedding, which had taken place in the Kirk in 1936.

This was shown with permission of the Service family from Taynuilt.

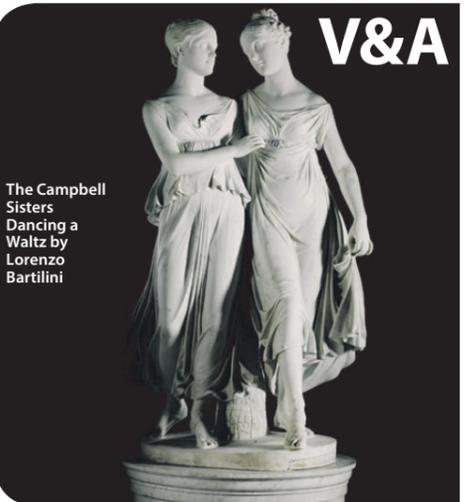
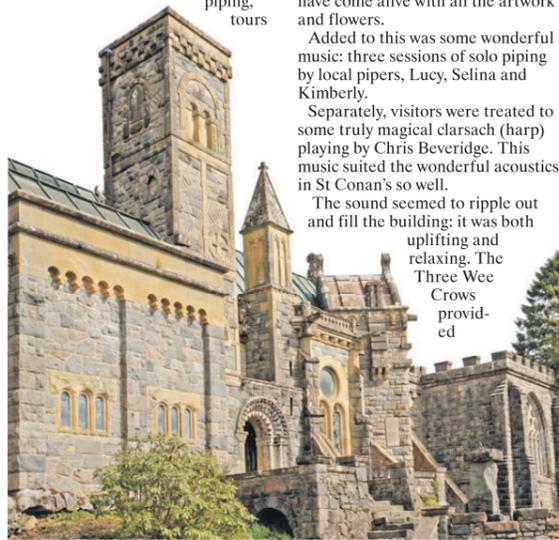
It was fascinating to see the fashions of the day - so many furs. Another visual was provided by a loop of photos of events organised or facilitated by the friends, which have taken place in the kirk over the last year.

Meanwhile over in the Café, the tearoom team was hard at work providing warming teas and coffees, delicious scones and traybakes and the popular sponge-cakes.

With another strong year in terms of visitor numbers, there were also good sales of some of the artists' work, raffle tickets were purchased for the friends big summer raffle, and donations were given by most visitors.

More people have seen how fabulous St Conan's can be and what a wonderful centre for education, heritage and culture it is.

This is most definitely a building which should be saved.



The Campbell Sisters Dancing a Waltz by Lorenzo Bartolini

Free Ben Nevis information event

OUTDOOR enthusiasts can find out more about Ben Nevis and the surrounding area at a free event to be held next week.

Friends of Nevis and Nevis Landscape Partnership will host the open evening, which will feature guest speakers and volunteering opportunities.

Mountaineers, countryside rangers, archaeologists and ecologists will all be on hand in the Nevis centre to answer any questions.

The event will run from 6pm until 9pm next Thursday, September 10.



An unlikely pair swimming in Loch Fyne

LOCH FYNE amateur cetacean hunters have filmed, for the first time, a porpoise and a dolphin swimming together.

Greig, Murdo and Jane MacLeod, from Lochgilphead, shared photographs and footage from their amazing discovery, recorded using a GoPro from their boat, with sealife experts, the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT).

A spokeswoman for the HWDT said: 'One of the most asked questions is 'what is the difference between a porpoise and a dolphin?'

'In appearance, the main difference is in the dorsal fin and the 'beak'.

'Most dolphins have a back-swept dorsal fin and a long beak whereas a porpoise has a relatively blunt head and a triangular

dorsal fin with little or no curve on the trailing edge.

'This incredibly unusual footage shows a harbour porpoise swimming alongside a common dolphin. The harbour porpoise is generally a shy and retiring species, common in inshore waters of Scotland, but rarely (if ever) associating with other marine mammals.

'In fact, underwater footage of

wild harbour porpoises is incredibly rare in itself, so to see such great footage of one exhibiting such unusual behaviour has got us stumped.

'This particular common dolphin is unusual in that it is solitary and resides in a relatively confined body of water in Loch Fyne.

'HWDT has been monitoring its movements with the help of

locals from the Otter Ferry. 'Common dolphins usually inhabit deeper waters around headlands and open bays, are not typically seen inside lochs.

'If you see any cetaceans in your area, please report them on our website. Or if you are interested in seeing cetaceans and contributing to important research, do check out our

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'Outstanding' summer tour



Following the fantastic response from audiences during their tour, the group has been fortunate enough to secure a number of other bookings and are set to be kept busy right through to the end of the summer. Playing castles, halls and public houses the band described as 'outstanding' travelled to

Iona, Mull, Inveraray, Connel, Tayvallich, Luing, Appin, Lismore, Easdale Island, Crianlarich, Port Charlotte, Gigha, Campbeltown, Carradale and Taynuilt. The Argyll Ceilidh Trailers 2015 are Oban high school pupils Anna Garvin, Kirsty Campbell, Merle Harbron, Hannah Gillies, Morven

Macfadyen-Donald, Rachel Campbell, Ross Christie, Kimberley Campbell and Ruaridh Litster-Campbell from Ardferr. Application forms for next year's Argyll Ceilidh Trail will be made available in early 2016 with auditions set to be held around the time of the Easter Fèis.



saves duke's sculpture

A CLASSICAL sculpture once owned by the sixth Duke of Argyll has been saved from leaving the country by the National Galleries of Scotland and London's V&A museum. The Campbell Sisters Dancing a Waltz by Lorenzo Bartolini depicts the lives of fashionable and wealthy Britons in Florence in the early 19th century. The marble statue was sold to a foreign bidder at auction but was prevented from leaving the country in case the sale price could be matched in the UK. A group of arts charities

helped to raise the required £500,000. The statue in white carrara marble shows Emma and Julia Campbell dancing in flowing dresses and sandals. Their uncle, George William Campbell, who was the sixth Duke of Argyll, is thought to have commissioned the piece from Bartolini in 1821 for about £500. Born in 1768, George William Campbell held the dukedom from 1806 until his death in 1839, and is an ancestor of the current holder of the title, Torquhil Campbell, the 13th Duke of

Argyll. The statue had been on loan to the National Galleries of Scotland until the Campbell family decided to sell it at Sotheby's last year. It was deemed to be of outstanding importance as one of the leading commissions showing the British presence in Florence in the early 19th Century by arguably the then greatest living Italian sculptor. The money was jointly raised by the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the Art Fund Charity, National Galleries of Scotland and the V&A, where it can be seen.

SpectreTown

INSPIRED by the bothy ballads of the north east, SpectreTown is a haunting new drama from StoirmÒg which spans the past, the present and everything in between as the haars roll in on the residents of the town. As the memories of Old Doddie crackle on cassette tape, the lives of three inner-city charity shop workers attempting to create order from the jumbled chaos that surrounds them become intertwined with the budding relationship of young farm workers Doddie and Meg. Weaving past and present, Doric and song, the play wrestles with tradition, power, gender, and the loneliness of modern life as the timeless refrain of the bothy ballads unites characters across the centuries. Playwright Elspeth Turner took inspiration from the great recorder of



everyday rural life, interviewer Hamish Henderson, who founded the School of Scottish Studies and legendary bothy balladeer Scott Gardiner. Showing at Mull Theatre tonight, Thursday September 3.

The Gang hits town for Blas 2015

POWERFUL, emotive and critically acclaimed traditional Irish band, The Alan Kelly Gang, will be reuniting with Scotland's mesmerising songstress Eddi Reader and John Douglas to perform at a number of venues during the Blas Festival 2015. Joining them at various stages of the festival programme will be the supremely talented Gaelic singer Margaret Stewart as well as, on their final appearance, Canada's J P Cormier. The Alan Kelly Gang have established themselves as one of Ireland's leading contemporary traditional acts. Alan Kelly has long been declared Ireland's innovative piano accordion maestro described by New York's 'Irish Voice' as

'in league with the best piano accordionists in the world'. The Gang's arrangements are acclaimed as world class, as are the musicians, and though firmly rooted in the Irish tradition, the Alan Kelly Gang seamlessly introduce Galician, Breton, Scottish and Americana influences. In September 2011, they released their first official band album entitled Small Towns and Famous Nights and this year has seen the release of their second album, The Last Bell, to wide critical acclaim. First up for the Alan Kelly Gang at Blas 2015 is Nairn on Thursday, September 10 with the festival in full swing, then on to Strathpeffer on the Friday evening, September 11.

At both those venues sharing the bill will be Gaelic singer Margaret Stewart, from Lewis, together with two renowned Highland musicians; piper Angus Nicolson from Skye and harpist Ingrid Henderson from Lochaber. They all have their individual reputations of being amongst the finest exponents of Gaelic music and song in Scotland today. J P Cormier will then join the Gang along with Eddi Reader and John Douglas for a spell-binding finish with a barn-stormer at Portree on the final night of the festival, Saturday, September 12. Blas 2015 will take place at venues across the Highlands and Argyll between September 4 and 12.

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Travel by ferry from Oban or Islay

in next week's

WIN!

one of six cases of McGuigan sparkling wine

IT'S ALL IN THE NOSE: The differences in the porpoise and the dolphin are shown in footage taken by a Lochgilphead family.

participate in our Cetacean Research Surveys. A link to the YouTube footage can be found on the Oban Times website.

Entertainment Guide

Cinema

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

04 SEPTEMBER 2015 - 10 SEPTEMBER 2015

- AMY (15)**
Fri: 21:20, Sat: 20:20, Sun: 18:50
- HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD (U)**
Wed: 20:00
- INSIDE OUT (U)**
Sat, Sun: 11:00
- PAPER TOWNS (12A)**
Daily Except Sat, Sun: 16:15, Sat: 12:30, 15:20, Sun: 13:45, 16:00
- THE BAD EDUCATION MOVIE (15)**
Fri: 18:45, Sat: 18:00, Mon, Tue, Thu: 18:45, 21:20, Wed: 21:20
- THE LEGEND OF BARNEY THOMSON (15)**
Fri, Mon, Tue, Thu: 21:15, Sat: 13:15, 20:30, Sun: 13:20
- THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E. (12A)**
Fri, Mon, Tue, Thu: 16:00, 18:50, Sat: 15:15, 17:50, Sun: 11:10, 16:15, 18:45, Wed: 16:30, 18:50
- KIDS CLUB: WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (PG)**
Sat: 10:00
- COMING SOON: AIDA LIVE**
15/09/2015
- COMING SOON: THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW LIVE**
17/09/2015

FILM SYNOPSIS

HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD: 155MINS
How to Change the World is a new insightful and moving documentary by Director Jerry Rothwell that tells the story of the Greenpeace movement's earliest years using rare, hitherto unseen footage, private journals and interviews. The pioneers of Greenpeace captured their gripping actions on a range of film cameras and Greenpeace granted Rothwell access to this vivid archive to make his thrilling, sometimes terrifying film. Followed by live Q&A

THE BAD EDUCATION MOVIE - 111MINS
Jack Whitehall's hit sitcom makes the leap to the big screen as the pupils of Abbey Grove School head to Cornwall! When it debuted on BBC3 two years ago, Jack Whitehall comedy Bad Education broke records for the channel. Since then, this sitcom about a posh young secondary school history teacher and his class of wayward students has gone on to become one of the BBC's most cherished sitcoms, and now, nearly a year after its final TV series, comes the big screen version, where Alfie Wickers (Whitehall) and his class go on one final school trip after they finish their GCSEs. Whitehall and the TV cast return for this hilarious big screen version of the hit TV show, alongside newbies Jeremy Irvine (The Railway Man), Joanna Scanlan (The Thick of It), Talulah Riley (St Trinian's), Iain Glen (Game of Thrones) and Clarke Peters (The Wire).

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE: 101MINS
Yearning for escape and adventure, a young boy runs away from home and sails to an island filled with creatures that take him in as their king.

AIDA LIVE
Following the success of last year's event - MADAMA BUTTERFLY - Cinematix are presenting OPERA AUSTRALIA LIVE ON SYDNEY HARBOUR with VERDI'S AIDA. In Aida, Verdi masterfully pits the intimate affairs of the heart against the grandeur of the universe: where kingdoms rise and fall and the sands of time grind onwards. There could be no grander setting for such an opera than Sydney Harbour itself, awash with the light of the city and the Sydney Opera House silhouetted against the setting sun.

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW
Ready to thrill you with its frothy, fun and naughty moments, this the boldest bash of them all, so sharpen those stilettos for the rockiest side of your life! Follow squeaky-clean sweethearts Brad and Janet on an adventure they'll never forget, with the scandalous Frank 'n' Furdie, rippling Rocky and vivacious Magenta. Get ready for a night of fun, frolics and frivolity in this thrilling production of Richard O'Brien's classic original script. Bursting at the seams with timeless classics, including Sweet Transvestite, Damin It Janet, and of course, the pelvis-thrusting Time Warp, Richard O'Brien joins us in the form of Narrator plus surprise special guests including: Stephen Fry, Mel Giedroyc and Emma Burton to bring this classic to your screens for one night only.

Radio

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For requests, competitions or questions please email: studio@obanfm.org.uk or call us on 01631 570057

THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

- MONDAY:**
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Jim Edge, 1700 Drivetime With Danni Hay, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen, 2200 American Jukebox with Michelle
- TUESDAY:**
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show with Maggie May, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1330 The Quiz with Danni Hay, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey
- WEDNESDAY:**
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell and Coll, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves
- THURSDAY:**
0800 Maggie May's Carousel, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with DJ Taz, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight
- FRIDAY:**
0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lawn
- SATURDAY:**
0900 Maggie's Swingin' Sixties, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowscher, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis
- SUNDAY:**
0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Allan, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott

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Farming, past and present

A WELL KNOWN ARGYLL FARM
BARGUILLEAN, TAYNUILT
17-8-40

Considerable interest is attached to an announcement that Barguilean Home Farm, Taynuilt, is to let. With the name of the owner, Mr. T. M. Macdonald, is associated some of the finest traditions of Highland farming.

Barguilean, which is among the best grazing farms in Argyll, has been under Mr. Macdonald's personal supervision, with the additional benefit of capable management. Its sheep and cattle stocks, noted for their high standard and thriving qualities, have commanded attention in the market and have also figured prominently in the show ring.

The farm lends itself to obtaining the best results through its convenient situation to rail and road transport facilities. The extent of the ground is about 4,400 acres. Stocked with blackface sheep its grazing capacity is 1400 and there is wintering for 50 head of cattle. The Barguilean Highland cattle fold was originally founded on one of the oldest and best known Skye strains.

The residential accommodation on the farm offers many attractions. Attached to the manager's house is a well-appointed residence which has on many occasions been occupied by the owner, especially during the shooting season.

The let is being negotiated through Messrs. D. M. MacKinnon & Co. Ltd., solicitors, Oban.

THIS week we feature a clipping from the *Oban Times* dating from 75 years ago.

The clipping has been kept in an album by the family of Inveraray woman, Rae MacGregor.

The article, dating from August 1940, tells of a unit for let near Taynuilt, Barguilean Farm. A close look at the report from last Saturday's Dalmally sale reveals that the same farm is still producing top quality sheep.

Mrs MacGregor believes her father kept the clippings, featuring stories about the war effort, the wool clip, agricultural wages, bracken control and many other subjects of interest to him.

Look out for more examples from this fascinating collection in future editions of the *Oban Times*.

Left: An original clipping, taken from a 1941 album

Young Farmers at the Lorn show



RAISING THE PROFILE: young farmers who attended the Lorn show

NORTH Argyll Young Farmers Club (YFC) attended the Lorn show earlier this month to help raise the profile of the group and gain new members.

There was something for everyone in the

various competitions run by the club, such as wellie throwing, bale pushing and guessing the weight of the lambs.

Anyone between 14 and 30 years old can join the club, regardless of previous experience.

Firm trade at Dalmally

AT United Auctions' sale of all classes of lambs and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart on Saturday August 29, an increased entry of more than 800 head saw 3,126 lambs and sheep sold.

Trade for all classes was firm, with a strong contingent of farming buyers in attendance. Averages compared favourably to last year, levelling out at £42.33 against £44.64 at the corresponding sale last year. Again, lambs were forward from throughout mainland Argyll, Perthshire, Lochaber and the islands of Lismore, Colonsay, Bute and Barra.

Principal lots and prices

Top prices per head
Suffolk cross: £57.00 - Kiloran Farmers, Colonsay: £57.00 and £54.00 - Glenshellach: £53.50 - Kiloran Farmers: £52.00 - Couston Farm: £51.00 - Blarmafoldach. Texel cross: £57.00 - Succoth Ardeonaig: £56.00 - Ormsary Farmers: £55.00 - Homefield Croft, Colonsay and Barbreck Farm (Ardfern): £53.50 - Bailuacraich, Lismore, Barguilean, Glenshellach, Ardmaleish, Bute and Ormsary Farmers: £53.00 - Ledcharrie: £52.00 - Shelling, Barra: £51.50 - Succoth Ardeonaig: £51.00 - Barguilean: £50.00 - Clachan Farms, Kilniver. Cheviot cross: £54.50 and £51.50 - 83 Borve, Barra: £50.50 - Barguilean: £49.00 - 83 Borve and 92 Borve, Barra. Crosses: £54.00 and £50.50 - Lephinkill Farm: £49.00 - Blarmafoldach.

Mules: £51.00 - Ledcharrie: £49.00 - Ormsary Farmers: £46.50 - Garvachy and Bailuacraich, Lismore: £46.00 - Ormsary Farmers. Blackface: £40.50 - Kiloran Farmers, Colonsay and Homefield Croft, Colonsay: £39.00 - Littleport: £38.00 - Castles Estate: £37.00 - Kiloran Farmers and Blarmafoldach: £36.00 - Balnahard, Colonsay: £35.50 - Maam Farm: £35.00 - Succoth Ardeonaig. **Ewes** Texel cross: £55.00 - 92 Borve, Barra: £49.00 - Craig Farm: £42.00 - Dunans. Crosses: £56.00 - Bailuacraich. Mules: £51.00 - Baleveolan and Bailuacraich: £50.00 - Lephinkill Farm. Riggs: £49.00 - Barguilean: £39.50 - Ormsary Farmers: £39.00 - Ledcharrie. **Top prices per kilo** Suffolk cross: 174p - Kiloran Farmers:

164p - Glenshellach: 160p - Kiloran Farmers. Texel cross: 170p - Barguilean: 167p - Succoth Ardeonaig: 165p - Ormsary Farmers: 164p - Homefield Croft: 163p - Ardmaleish: 160p - Barbreck Farm (Ardfern): 159p and 156p - Bailuacraich: 156p - Couston Farm: 155p - Baleveolan, 14 Cleat Barra and High Balantyre Farm. Beltex cross: Cheviot cross: 160p - Rhyndal: 152p - Garvachy: 151p - Hayfield Estate. Crosses: 156p - Succoth Ardeonaig: 150p - Lephinkill Farm. Mules: 151p - Ormsary Farmers. Blackfaces: 137p - Kiloran Farmers: 136p - Homefield Croft: 133p - Kiloran Farmers: 132p - Balnahard Farm: 131p - Succoth Ardeonaig: 130p - Couston Farm: 128p - Brenchoille and Tullochcan.



FIRM TRADE: A fine pen of lambs goes through the Dalmally sales ring last weekend

NFUS discusses mutual benefit with Argyll young farmers



CO-OPERATION: From left, Jenny Baillie (SAYFC development manager), Lucy Sumsion (NFUS Argyll and the Islands regional manager), Donna MacDougall (NFU Mutual agent, Oban) and Rhona Millar (NFU Mutual agent, Campbeltown)

REPRESENTATIVES from two of Scottish farming's cornerstone institutions met last Thursday in Inveraray.

Penny Montgomerie, Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs' (SAYFC) chief executive and SAYFC development manager, Jenny Baillie, met local representatives of the National Farmers Union of Scotland in the comfortable surroundings of the George Hotel.

Up for discussion were plans to work together in the near future to develop opportunities for both organisations.

Jenny is keen to encourage young farmers' clubs across Argyll, while the farmers' union in Scotland is looking to forge links with SAYFC with an eye to the future of its own membership.

Kilchiaran steer tops Islay show and sale

UNITED Auctions held its annual show and sale of suckled calves at Islay Auction Mart on Friday August 28.

Some 308 calves were catalogued and sold at satisfactory levels and to a good following of buyers.

Bullocks averaged £954.26 or 237.13 pence per kilo against £943.60 or 233.53 pence per kilo at last year's sale. Heifers levelled out at £859.29 or 223.53 pence per kilo against £804.77 or 211.06 pence per kilo last year.

Mr J Taylor, Easter Ochtermuthill, Crieff, judged the various classes and he awarded the championship to a Limousin steer consigned by Messrs McLellan, Kilchiaran which later sold at £1,200 to Mr Scott Henderson, Dumfries. The reserve champion was awarded to a Limousin cross heifer, consigned by Mr A McArthur, Lossit which realised £995 to Mr Taylor. Bullocks sold to a top price per head of £1,200 from Kilchiaran and 279 pence per kilo for Limousin cross from Neriby. Heifers sold to a top price per head of £1,195 for British Blue cross from Starchmill whilst the Ardbeg consignment led the heifer prices per kilo at 263 pence for Limousin Cross.

Principal lots and prices

Top prices per head
Aberdeen Angus cross: £1,035(2) - Tallant: £975 - Claggan. Charolais cross: £1,055(3) and £1,005(2) - Tallant: £1,005 - Carrabus: £985(2) - Tallant: £965(5) - Ballimartin. Limousin cross: £1,200 - Kilchiaran: £1,140 - Neriby: £1,125 - Lossit: £1,095 - Neriby and Kilchiaran: £1,085 - Ardbeg (6) and Claggan: £1,075(4) and £1,055(5) - Neriby: £1,045 - Starchmill, Ardbeg (4) and Ballimartin (5): £1,035 - Claggan and Neriby (3): £1,025(2) - Ardbeg: £1,015 - Kilchiaran, Ardbeg (4) and Claggan(2): £1,005(5) - Lossit: £995 - Starchmill and Claggan (3): £975 (2) - Kilchiaran: £965 - Starchmill (4) and Kilchiaran(4). **Heifers** British Blue cross: £1,195, £1,155 and £1,135 - Starchmill. Charolais cross: £965(2) - Tallant: £945 - Claggan: £915 (5) - Ballimartin: £905(2) - Tallant. Limousin cross: £1,095 - Starchmill: £1,085 - Claggan: £1,075 - Starchmill: £995 - Lossit: 975 - Neriby: £955 - Ardbeg: £945 - Claggan and Ballimartin (5): £935 - Claggan (2) and Ardbeg (2): £925 (3) - Kilchiaran: £915 - Tallant (2) and Claggan. **Top prices per kilo** **Bullocks** Aberdeen Angus cross: 224p (3) and 219p (2) - Tallant: 217p and 205p - Claggan. Charolais cross: 267p (2), 255p (2) and

232p (3) - Tallant: 226p - Carrabus: 223p (5) - Ballimartin. Limousin cross: 279p, 267p and 266p (5) - Neriby: 261p - Kilchiaran: 259p (4) - Ballimartin: 258p (2) - Kilchiaran: 256p - Starchmill (4) and Claggan (3): 255p (2) - Claggan: 252p(9) - Ardbeg: 250p - Lossit and Ardbeg (4): 248p - Kilchiaran: 246p (8) - Ballimartin: 245p (2) - Kilchiaran: 244p - Ardbeg (4), Neriby (3) and Carrabus: 242p (4) - Neriby: 238p (3) - Claggan: 237p - Starchmill: 236p(3) - Ardbeg: 234p - Tallant (2), Claggan (4) and Lossit (2): 233p - Ardbeg (4) and Claggan: 232p (4) - Ardbeg: 231p - Starchmill (4) and Claggan (3): 230p - Ballimartin (4) and Claggan (2): 229p - Starchmill (4) and Ardbeg (2): 228p - Lossit (5), Kilchiaran (4) and Claggan (3): 226p - Starchmill: 225p (3) - Ballimartin: 223p (2) - Claggan: 221p (2) - Kilchiaran: 220p (2) - Neriby. **Heifers** British Blue cross: 226p - Starchmill. Charolais cross: 230p (3) and 220p (2) - Tallant. Limousin cross: 263p (2) and 262p - Ardbeg: 259p - Lossit: 251p and 247p - Starchmill: 246p - Ballimartin: 240p - Ardbeg (7) and Neriby: 234p (3) and 232p (7) - Neriby: 232p - Kilchiaran: 231p - Claggan and Tallant (2): 230p - Starchmill and Ardbeg (6): 227p(3) - Lossit: 226p (5) - Claggan: 224p (10) - Starchmill: 222p(2) - Ardbeg: 221p(8) - Claggan: 220p - Ballimartin (5), Claggan (3) and Kilchiaran (2).

New appointments at Caledonian Marts

FIVE new members of staff have been taken on by Caledonian Marts Ltd, the livestock auctioneer which has a site in Oban.

The firm was created earlier this year when the Stirling and

Oban markets were bought out of administration. Announcing the new appointments, managing director John Kyle thanked the support he had received from sellers and

buyers in Oban and Stirling. The new personnel includes trainee auctioneers Tommy Fairbairn and Oliver Shearman, accountant Karen Harrison and fieldsmen Neil Leslie and

Jim Dunn. Mr Kyle added that while there were undoubtedly challenges across the farming sector at the moment, he felt the live auction system was

still the best way for farmers to achieve the true value for their livestock, and was proud Caledonian Marts would continue with a full calendar of live sales in Oban and Stirling.

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Time to unveil the 65 PLATES

The 65-plate cars are out, so for those who have been dreaming of a new vehicle, now is the time to visit Argyll's friendly new and used dealers. And with winter approaching, it's also time to get those cars to a local garage for a cold weather check-up.

For all vehicle owners, September is the time to get the family car or work van ready for winter. A visit to a local garage is the best way to make sure everything is ready for cold, dark, rain and snow. A qualified technician will check the tyres, battery and anti-freeze, as well as wiper blades and light bulbs. Argyll is such a rural landscape, so the middle of winter is no time to find out that one's vehicle isn't up to scratch.

There are many advantages to buying a brand new car that will last long after that 'new car smell' has faded. As well as being able to tailor a vehicle's specification to a customer's exact needs, a new car will be reliable for years to come. And if the unlikely does occur, it could be covered by the manufacturer's warranty. With no previous owners, there are no worries that the car has been mistreated or missed important services. And new vehicles feature the latest technology and cool gadgets, as well as the best available fuel efficiency and safety.

If a new car is a bit out of the budget, September is also a great time to buy a used car. There are lots of last minute 15-plate bargains available and dealers are ready to negotiate. And with many folks trading in their vehicle for a brand new one, selection is excellent now.

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Strathmore Volvo

FOUNDED by Ian Cameron, Strathmore was the first company to import and sell Volvo cars in the UK.

Based in Perth, the dealership is the longest established Volvo retailer in the UK and has enjoyed a successful relationship with the Swedish company since 1958.

Part of a family-owned and run company, Strathmore has enjoyed continuous investment from owner and chairman, Douglas Cameron, who purpose-built the current premises for Volvo in 1972 to establish one of the most experienced Volvo teams in the network.

Many awards for performance and customer care have been won by Strathmore over the years, both from the manufacturer and national award bodies, with recent wins including 'best over-all' dealership in the UK.

Strathmore's mission is to offer customers an outstanding level of service, in all areas of the business, ensuring the team and the customers continue a long relationship together.

Looking ahead, Strathmore will be one of the latest dealerships during the next year to go through Volvo's showroom upgrades which will be the next investment in the future.

The upgrades will aim to further enhance the customer journey throughout the dealership making the whole experience based around openness.

The dealership features the full range of new and used Volvo models, including the highly acclaimed all-new XC90, plus an on-site workshop for servicing and parts, as well as customer and business sales specialists.

Strathmore is the official Volvo dealer for the Oban area and will actually arrange to collect your vehicle when a service is due and leave you with a courtesy car until your pride and joy is returned to you. Now that is what real customer service is about.

For more information on the services available at Strathmore, the full Volvo car range or to arrange a test drive, telephone the dealership, located on Arran Road, Perth on 01738 622156 or visit www.volvocarsperth.co.uk.



How the all-new Mitsubishi L200 Series 5 defines the next generation of pick-up trucks

PICK-UP trucks are fundamental to Mitsubishi Motors. In the UK the legacy extends through four model generations and 33 years. The Mitsubishi trophy room shows the current L200 Series 4 has won more awards than all of its rivals put together. Since its UK launch in 2006, the current L200 Series 4 has outsold all other pick-ups.

Its forerunner, L200 Series 3, was almost entirely responsible for the development of the vehicle segment. Globally, Mitsubishi has six decades of pick-up production, accounting for more than 4.1 million vehicles sold. The new L200 Series 5 inherits

the DNA of its predecessors and further advances the pick-up concept.

It is an entirely new vehicle from the ground up, with significant improvements in 330 areas. The result is the ultimate vehicle for commercial duty, combined with SUV-like refinement in quality and dynamic performance. In all key areas the new L200 Series 5 is best-in-class.

The L200 Series 5 driving experience is a generation ahead of any other pick-up on the market. It is as competent climbing up a mountain or navigating a building site, as it is comfortable on

a motorway or around city streets. The vehicle retains the marque's reputation for ruggedness and durability, and continues to have the best 4WD system. It is the only pick-up that can be driven permanently in 2WD and 4WD on tarmac and off-road.

The new L200 Series 5 provides outstanding cabin comfort and ride. The vehicle has class leading leg room. Mitsubishi's unique 'J' curve body design between cabin and cargo area is not just for visual styling. It allows for a 25 degree recline in the rear seats, making for a comfortable four or five-passenger 'long journey' space. Interior

width has also increased, as have the sizes of the driver and front passenger seats, which now incorporate high density, soft touch 'memory' foam.

The level of equipment specification on standard models is also class leading. For example, the new dual-zone air conditioning is 30 per cent quicker at cooling down the cabin space from 50 degrees to less than 20 degrees. The result of best-in-class aerodynamics and superior sound insulation is that the vehicle is significantly quieter.

The Mitsubishi 'J' curve design also contributes to the

dynamic qualities of the vehicle. Whilst creating the maximum amount of space inside the cabin, it also allows for a compact wheelbase, aiding manoeuvrability and giving the all new L200 Series 5 its best-in-class turning radius of 5.9 metres and steering that can go from lock to lock in 3.8 turns (down from 4.3 in the previous generation L200).

The all-new L200 Series 5 will go on sale in September. Initially available in double cab, prices start from £19,749 for the 4Life, £20,749 for the Titan, £23,049 for the Warrior and £23,799 for the top of the range Barbarian.



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FUEL ECONOMY - The L200 Series 5 has better fuel economy than any of the competition and is the only pick-up truck capable of over 700 miles on a single tank of fuel.

MANOEUVRABILITY - With a turning radius of just 5.9 metres, improved steering ratio and a brand new MIVEC engine, the L200 Series 5 is the most dynamic driving pick-up truck on the market.

TOTAL LOAD CAPACITY - The L200 Series 5 has a total load capacity of 4,090kg, more than any competitor and is equipped with Trailer Stability Assist making towing safer than ever.

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Vauxhall reveals seventh-generation Astra



THESE are the first images of Vauxhall's seventh-generation Astra, which will reach production later this year from the company's Ellesmere Port manufacturing plant in Cheshire.

Based on an all-new lightweight vehicle architecture with a new design, powertrains and technology, Astra will receive its world premiere at the 2015 Frankfurt Motor Show (September 17-27).

One the UK's top-selling and best-loved cars, the Astra is a household name for British car buyers with more than 2.9 million sold in the UK over the last 36 years with more than 50,000 last year.

Depending on the model and trim level it will be up to 200kg (130kg on average) lighter than its predecessor. The completely new vehicle architecture plays a major role in the weight reduction. Every component was checked for compact design and lightweight materials. The body shell weight alone was reduced by 20 per cent from 357kg to 280kg.

Additional, chassis-related measures resulted in a further 50kg weight loss. These include high-strength and ultra-high-strength low-weight steels, compact subframes as well as weight reductions to the front and rear axle.

Powertrains

The all-new Astra features a powertrain portfolio including petrol and diesel units ranging from 100PS to 200PS.

The highlight of the engine range is the all-new 1.4-litre (145PS) ECOTEC Direct Injection Turbo, a four-cylinder unit from the same family as the one-litre, three-cylinder engine seen in Corsa, ADAM and VIVA. The engine delivers maximum torque of up to 250Nm, with maximum power available between 1,800rpm and 4,000rpm.

Based on its construction, the new 1.4 ECOTEC Direct Injection Turbo also adds less weight to the car. The aluminium engine block weighs in at 10kg less than the cast-iron block of the current 1.4-litre turbo.

There's also a base-level 1.0 ECOTEC Direct Injection Turbo (105PS) petrol engine and a 1.6 CDTI 'Whisper Diesel' range with outputs starting from 110PS up to 160PS.

Design

Inspired by 2013's Monza Concept, the lean design makes the new Astra look more athletic than ever before thanks to work carried out by a design team led by Brit Mark Adams.

Evolution of the Vauxhall design philosophy 'sculptural artistry meets technical precision' ensures that the new Astra catches the eye with a lighter, more agile appearance.

The Griffin in the centre of the chrome bar on the grill and the characteristic 'blade' raising towards the rear make the new Astra immediately recognisable as a member of the Vauxhall family. The front headlamps melt into the radiator grille to form a graphic unity.

The most significant design cue is the divided C-pillar, creating the impression of a floating roof. The interplay of light and shadow is emphasised by the horizontal crossbar above the brand logo linking the rear lights.

Smaller outside, bigger inside

The Astra does not just look smaller - it is smaller. With a total length of 4.37m it is almost 5cm short-

er than its predecessor. With a height of 1.46m it is also 2.6cm lower. The dimensions have an impact on aerodynamics and efficiency with the new Astra boasting a drag coefficient below 0.30.

The wheelbase may have been reduced by 2cm but the amount of space inside increased. In combination with newly-designed seats, the passengers in the rear can enjoy an additional 35mm legroom. The distance between the front- and rear-seats is increased providing comfort and space.

The high-quality cockpit and the instrument panel seamlessly transfer the characteristic and aesthetic exterior design to the interior, ensuring that a new interior design generation is introduced in the new Astra. It features a clean look which includes a large colour touchscreen in the centre stack and a reduced amount of control switches and buttons.

Vauxhall OnStar

The new Astra is the first new Vauxhall model that will be available with the personal connectivity and service assistant OnStar from its launch.

OnStar offers customers a broad range of safety and comfort services. If an airbag deploys, OnStar will be alerted automatically. An advisor will then contact the vehicle to determine whether help is required. If there is no response, emergency responders are immediately sent to the exact location of the vehicle.

Drivers and passengers can reach OnStar 24/7 and 365 days a year. No matter whether they need roadside assistance or any other service - an OnStar advisor is always ready to help. OnStar also turns the new Astra into a 4G LTE mobile Wi-Fi hotspot. Up to seven devices, from smartphones to tablets, can be connected simultaneously.

IntelliLink

Making its debut in new Astra is the new generation IntelliLink infotainment system that is compatible with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay.

Each system builds off of the features smartphone users rely on most. Android Auto is built around Google Maps, Google Now and the ability to talk to Google, as well as a growing audio and messaging app ecosystem that includes WhatsApp, Skype, Google Play Music, Spotify, and podcast players. A full list of supported apps is available at Android.com/auto.

Apple CarPlay takes the iPhone features users want to access while driving and puts them on the vehicle's display in a smart, simple manner, allowing drivers to make calls, send and receive messages and listen to music right from the touchscreen or by voice via Siri. Apple CarPlay supported apps include Phone, Messages, Maps, Music and compatible third party apps. A full list of those apps can be found at Apple.com/ios/carplay.

The functions can be controlled via the large, up to eight-inch touchscreen located high on the center stack, via remote control on the steering wheel (volume) or via voice control.

IntelliLux Led Matrix Light Headlights

The all-new Brit-built Astra will be the first Vauxhall to get glare-free IntelliLux LED Matrix Light.

Bringing premium technology to the mainstream, these new LED headlights provide outstanding night time performance enhancing safety for the driver and those around them.



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Subaru confirms specification and pricing for new Levorg Sport Tourer

THE ALL-new Subaru Levorg will go on sale in the UK at the end of this month priced at £27,495 (on-the-road), Subaru has announced.

The new sport tourer model, which made its European debut at the 2015 Geneva Motor Show, has previously launched in Japan, Subaru's domestic market, where it has proved popular with existing customers and created many new converts to the brand.

A spiritual successor to the much-loved fourth-generation Subaru Legacy Tourer (2003-2008), the Levorg promises a compact on-road footprint yet greater interior space than its forebear.

The car will be available in a single trim level called GT, with generous levels of standard equipment, including Subaru's iconic All-Wheel Drive (AWD) drivetrain.

Subaru's most refined interior

Subaru engineers and designers promise that the Levorg will offer one of the company's most refined cabins created, with a greater use of high quality materials.

Leather-trimmed sports seats with unique to Levorg blue stitching will come as standard, as will Subaru's new factory-fit seven-inch touchscreen infotainment, connectivity and navigation system.

Leather trim is used generously within the cabin, including the door trims, on the centre console and on top of the multi-function display on the dashboard.

High practicality from a compact footprint

While the Levorg benefits from smaller exterior dimensions than the fourth-generation Legacy Tourer, the new sport tourer offers buyers greater practicality.

Not only do occupants enjoy greater leg, head and shoulder-room than in the last Legacy Tourer, but the capacious 522-litre boot – rising to 1,446 litres with the second row of seats folded down – provides ample room for anything from sports equipment and bicycles to luggage and pets.

The Levorg has been developed with ease-of-use and practicality in mind, and owners are unlikely to find themselves short on space, in spite of the car's compact footprint.

All-new 1.6-litre DIT Boxer engine and Lineartronic CVT

When it goes on sale in the UK, the Levorg will be available with one engine: a newly-developed 1.6-litre DIT (Direct Injection Turbo) Boxer petrol engine, a signature format for the Japanese manufacturer. Paired with Subaru's super-smooth Lineartronic (CVT) transmission, the Levorg will offer buyers a supremely refined powertrain.

The new 1.6-litre DIT power unit offers the same performance as Subaru's existing 2.5-litre naturally-aspirated Boxer engine, despite being 36 per cent smaller.

Engineered specifically for its application in the Levorg, the all-new four-cylinder engine produces 170 PS and 250 Nm torque.

The all-new four-cylinder engine offers smooth, seamless power delivery and greater efficiency than existing Subaru engines.

Flexibility is core to its character, providing power over a wide range of engine speeds and perfectly matching the car's remit as a sport tourer.

The Levorg accelerates from 0 to 62 mph in 8.9 seconds, while returning nearly 40mpg on a combined cycle. Emissions are rated at 164 g/km.

With Subaru's famous Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive system, Vehicle Dynamics Control and torque vectoring, the Levorg's drivetrain provides unrivalled stability in all conditions.

Strongbody shell and a suite of active safety technologies

The new Levorg will continue to uphold Subaru's reputation as a manufacturer of some of the safest cars on the road, with a strong, light bodyshell and a wide range of passive and active safety technologies.

The new model boasts a higher proportion of ultra-high tensile steel than other models in the Subaru range, such as the Impreza, with 50 per cent of the body made up of strong, yet light steel alloys for the greatest possible crash safety performance.

The Levorg is equipped as standard with the new 'Subaru Rear Vehicle Detection' system (SRVD), which alerts drivers to vehicles which are crossing behind.

A comprehensive safety package, SRVD combines three technologies: Blind Spot Detection, which alerts drivers to cars sitting in their blind spot; Lane Change Assist, which warns drivers of fast-approaching vehicles behind when the driver indicates to change lane; and Rear Cross Traffic Alert, which detects vehicles passing behind when reversing out of a parking space.

Levorg also features SI Drive (Subaru Intelligent Drive) which allows the driver, via a switch on the steering wheel, to choose between two modes according to their



mood or the driving environment - Intelligent mode and Sport mode.

To ensure best-in-class on-road handling, the Levorg joins the WRX STI and new Outback in being fitted with Active Torque Vectoring (ATV).

ATV effectively brakes the inside wheels under cornering and apportions greater torque to the outside of the car, reducing understeer and oversteer to allow a more predictable and controlled course through corners.

New D-Max special edition hits the market with ferocious affordability

HAVING announced the new special edition D-Max Fury just last week, Isuzu UK has ensured it storms onto the market with the offer of highly competitive finance.

The stunning Fury will be available on contract hire from just £215 + VAT per month* when it goes on sale this month.

Conceived specifically for the modern, yet budget-conscious buyer, the Fury offers a unique Magma Red metallic paint finish, bold 17-inch, five-spoke grey alloy wheels, dark grey metallic finish to the front grille – complete with a fiery red Isuzu logo at its centre – and Cosmic Black door and tailgate handles.

Gun metal grey heavy-duty side steps complete the exterior look.

Buyers of the new D-Max Fury will benefit from more than just the purse-strings-friendly finance offer; Isuzu's refined diesel engine returns a highly impressive fuel economy of 38.7 mpg (combined cycle), helping to keep running costs low.



Inside, Fury features unique red stitching to key contact points such as the steering wheel and gear knob and dedicated Fury-embazoned carpet mats.

Customers also have the option to upgrade the interior seat upholstery to Limited Edition Black and Red Fury leather.

William Brown, general manager at Isuzu UK, said: 'Since it was announced earlier this month, the Fury has had a great re-

ception from the dealers and prospective customers.

'We want to ensure it appeals to the head as well as the heart and contract hire pricing from just £215 per month certainly helps it to stand out from its competitors.'

Like all new Isuzu models sold in the UK, the D-Max Fury will come with the company's five-year, 125,000-mile warranty.

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Yaris Hybrid: Double the choice with new Active and Sport

OWNING a new Toyota Hybrid becomes easier than ever before with two new models joining the Yaris Hybrid line-up. The addition of Active and Sport versions means there's now a hybrid in all four grades in Toyota's top-selling supermini range.

Active becomes the new entry point to Toyota's clean, efficient and super-smooth hybrid technology. The five-door hatch comes equipped with dual-zone climate control, trip computer, power front windows and a split-folding rear seats.

What also comes as standard is the quiet and refined Toyota hybrid experience together with 75g/km CO2 emissions and official combined cycle fuel economy of 85.6mpg. The low emissions mean no annual road tax (VED) to pay and, for London drivers, exemption from the congestion charge.

The Sport cuts a sharper dash with rear privacy glass, 16-inch alloy wheels, rear spoiler and a rear pillar treatment that creates a floating roof effect. Other key features include climate control, power windows all round and the Toyota Touch 2 multimedia system with DAB radio, Bluetooth, touchscreen control and rear view camera. An optional Skyview panoramic roof can also be specified (£550).

Using the larger alloy wheel brings a modest change in the benchmark figures to 82g/km and 78.5mpg but Yaris Hybrid Sport retains the benefit of zero road tax.

Pricing and launch offers

The new Yaris Hybrid Active is launched with an on-the-road price tag of £14,995, including a special £300 introductory customer saving. Yaris Hybrid Sport is priced at £16,695.

Both models are made highly affordable with attractive AccessToyota PCP deals. The new Active model is available through an AccessToyota PCP arrangement at 4.9 per cent APR representative¹. The Yaris Hybrid Sport can be obtained with £900 finance deposit allowance and nought per cent APR representative².



Helensburgh Motors at the Argyllshire Gathering and Oban Games

OBAN was the place to be for Helensburgh Motors on Thursday August 27 for the annual Argyllshire Gathering and Oban Games. The team, Kirsteen McGuire and Stephen Vernon, were delighted to meet some of the locals and sample the delights of the games. Sales manager for Helensburgh Motors - Toyota and Subaru, Kirsteen McGuire said: 'Despite a few showers we were kept highly entertained by all the events and lovely people that came to chat to us. As a local-based Argyll and Bute company we are pleased to be able to attend the games and show support to the local people.'



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04 54 Mitsubishi L200 Warrior LWB	£3,500
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04 04 Nissan Navara D/C DCI	£4,650
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West coast recruitment

Reach the peak of your career

Senior Reporter The Oban Times

The Oban Times is inviting applications for a senior reporter.

As the position will be based in Oban, knowledge of the area would be an advantage.

Financial assistance for accommodation where relevant may be available for the first three months.

We offer a good, competitive salary + private health care + enhanced pension + life assurance + excellent benefits and great working conditions

We want to hear from you if you have the appropriate experience and qualifications:

- ✓ Journalism
- ✓ Shorthand
- ✓ Ambition and enthusiasm
- ✓ Talent, self motivation and commitment
- ✓ A full current driving licence



Please apply by email with full C.V. and contact details to: ali@obantimes.co.uk The Oban Times

Special publication sales

OBAN

Full and flexible part time positions available

£ Excellent Basic + £ Bonus + Private Health Care + Pension + Good Holidays

If you've got the energy, drive, determination and ambition, we can offer you an exciting and rewarding career with one of Scotland's foremost independent publishers.

You would be part of a small, highly motivated team selling advertising and features for our well established, award winning publications.

You will be responsible for calling new and existing clients to generate and maintain lasting business relationships and benefit from on-going training, first class support. Extensive travel across Scotland may be necessary. A full driving licence is essential.

Apply with C.V. and covering letter to ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk



Advertising Sales Director Designate

for

The Oban Times Group

- Salary c£45-£50k + substantial bonus potential
- Range Rover Evoque/Merc C Class/equivalent
- Enhanced pension + to 35 days holiday + BUPA
- Additional benefits
- Relocation assistance – where relevant

The Oban Times Group is seeking to appoint an experienced newspaper advertising sales professional who will be based in the popular West Coast town of Oban.

The group has a stable of four weekly newspapers, including the influential Oban Times – one of Scotland's most popular titles.

The successful candidate will proactively lead the newspaper advertising sales team, with additional responsibility for a series of holiday and special interest publications, plus the development of the group's digital strategy.

The position will require regular travel throughout Scotland to develop business, and there is the potential to progress to Divisional Director.

Applications with CV and covering letter to: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

WYVEX MEDIA

The Oban Times Group is part of Wyvex Media, which also has a separate magazines division based in Edinburgh, producing the leading lifestyle magazine Scottish Field and a number of b2b titles.

WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION GROUP – PART OF THE LINK GROUP

POST OF: PLUMBER/ HEATING SERVICE ENGINEER

West Highland Housing Association Group is looking to recruit a highly motivated, time served Plumber/Heating Engineer to undertake our Cyclical Maintenance of Unvented Hot Water Cylinders, Thermostatic Mixer Valves, Solar Thermal Servicing, Heat Interface Unit Servicing, Wet Central Heating Servicing as well as assisting in the day to day running and operation of our Biomass District Heating Schemes.

West Highland Housing Association Ltd have around 800 housing units and operate across the Oban and Lorn area as well as the inner Hebridean isles including , Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Mull and Tiree

What we require:

You should be qualified to a minimum of SVQ level 3 in Domestic Plumbing and Heating or equivalent with extensive post qualification experience. You will also require to hold certification for servicing Unvented Hot Water Cylinders and Servicing Solar Thermal installations. You should have experience in maintaining and resolving faults in heating systems, hot water systems, pump and control systems and the like. You will be well organised, methodical and ideally have knowledge of other associated construction trades and basic IT skills.

You should have excellent communication skills and an enthusiastic and helpful manner with particular focus on providing exceptional Customer Service. The ability to cope well when under pressure and the ability to demonstrate a flexible approach without supervision is essential. You should be able to work effectively both independently and as a team member

You will be required to participate in an occasional Emergency Call Out Service in relation to the operation of the Biomass District Heating Schemes.

What's on offer:

West Highland Housing Association Group offer excellent terms and conditions including, Salary £30,000 - £35,000 per annum based on a 39hr week [normal working hours generally apply but specific timings will vary to suit any operational needs and occasional travel to Islands] 35 days annual leave [includes 10 public holidays] and access to a Contributory Pension Scheme.

Closing date for completed applications is 12 noon on Friday 11 September 2015

Interviews will be held at WHHA offices [Oban] Week-Commencing 21 September 2015

For further information, or to apply for this position, please click on the link below

<http://linkhousing.org.uk/careers/vacancies/>

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

Link is an equal opportunities employer and we welcome applications from all sectors of the community. Our offices are fully accessible to wheelchair users and we will interview all disabled candidates who meet the essential criteria



Housing Services Officer

Oban, Lorn & Isles
Salary £27,146 - £31,427
35 hours per week

Repairs Officer

Lochgilphead
Salary £27,146 - £31,427
35 hours per week

Repairs Officer

Dunoon
Salary £27,146 - £31,427
35 hours per week

Repairs Assistant

Lochgilphead
Salary £20,322 - £22,472
35 hours per week

The above posts will all be subject to a Basic Disclosure Scotland check

Community Support Assistant (Bank Staff)

Mid Argyll
Salary £9.39 - £10.38 per hour as and when required

This post will be subject to an enhanced PVG check

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 11th September 2015

For further details and to apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk/recruitment

If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:

Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Isle of Mull Abattoir are looking for an experienced or part experienced butcher to join our small team of 4 in our butchery.

Preferably 2yrs min experience although further training will be given through the Modern Apprenticeship scheme.

The individual will also be required to work within the Slaughter House alongside the Slaughterman. This position is also available on a temporary basis to the right candidate.

They must be able to start as soon as possible.

Please contact 01680300318 or enquiries@mullslaughterhouse.co.uk

WYVEX MEDIA

Advertising Sales Executive

OBAN

Due to a reorganisation of the sales department and staff changes within the company we are looking an Advertising Sales Executive.

We offer excellent pay and real career progression and benefits including BUPA, holidays to 35 days (Scale), realistic targets and achievable bonus - most sales staff receive regular monthly bonuses.

You will be responsible for calling new and existing clients to generate and maintain lasting business relationships, and you will benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort. A full driving licence is essential.

If you want to be part of the progressive new sales department, please submit CV and covering letter to ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

Facilities Caretaker / Cleaner

Kinlochleven School
37 hours p/week Mon - Fri
£17k p.a.

Applicants will be subject to a PVG check by Disclosure Scotland

Contact: Mears Facilities Management e-mail: andrew.holmes@mearsgroup.co.uk or call 01463 243126 for an application form

Interviews will be held locally in September.

www.mearsgroup.co.uk

Iain Woodrow Electrical Contractor requires an electrician for domestic and commercial work

Must hold 17th Edition and SJIB grade card. This would be a permanent position based on Islay.

Please email CV to iain.woodrow@btinternet.com or phone 01496810410.

PROFESSIONAL MUM SEEKS CLEANER

(Campbeltown)
4 hours per week.
Apply to Box No. 125, Campbeltown Courier, Longrow South, Campbeltown, PA28 6AE.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times



Riggers Mate

To join our rigging team for a fixed period starting September 2015 through to 11th December 2015. The applicant would be working with our existing rigging team to assist with mast and sail removals as boats come ashore for winter lay-up. Knowledge of boats and sailing would be an advantage.

Yard Hand/Maintenance Man

Fixed term contract 1st October 2015 through to 27th May 2016. Role would see applicant working alongside our yard team to assist with bring the boats ashore for winter storage. After the winter slipping season has been finished the applicant would be assisting with general maintenance duties on the pontoons and moorings before assisting with launching the boats again in spring 2016.

Assistant Boat Repair Technician

To work alongside our busy boat building team assisting other members of the team as required with cosmetic and structural repairs in GRP/FRP and timber. A knowledge of joinery and woodwork is essential with previous experience of working with GRP and modern paint systems an advantage. For further information and applications forms please contact Mark. Applications for all positions should be submitted on or before September 16th 2015.

Mark Cameron, General Manager Ardfern Yacht Centre, Ardfern, Lochgilphead, PA31 8QN 01852 500 247 www.ardfernyacht.co.uk



QUALIFIED & TRAINEE BUS DRIVERS CAMPBELTOWN AND ARDRISHAIG

Excellent salary & benefits plus training package available for suitable candidates.

As a West Coast Motors trainee driver, you will complete training courses and achieve your PCV licence.

Once qualified you'll be part of a team that operates buses and coaches on a mix of school contracts, local services, express coach services, school and private group hires.

We are looking for smart, professional people (who are 21 or over) with customer service skills and a real sense of responsibility.

The ability to work shifts (including weekends and Bank Holidays) and a good level of fitness are both vital, as is a full UK driving licence. This is a full time permanent position.

We also have full and part time hours available for fully qualified drivers in both Campbeltown and Ardrishaig. If you have a PCV licence and up to date driver CPC qualification, please get in touch.

Please apply in writing enclosing your current CV to: HR Department • West Coast Motors Benmhor • Campbeltown • Argyll PA28 6DN You can also apply by email to: enquiries@westcoastmotors.co.uk or online at: www.westcoastmotors.co.uk/careers

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www.eqmagazine.co.uk

Accounts & Administrative Assistant

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

A full time position has arisen in our Oban office for an Accounts & Administrative Assistant to provide support to our busy accounts department. This role will also involve administration and hands on support for the distribution of our various products.

Experience of working in an accounts department will be advantageous, as will the ability to work on your own initiative. Computer literacy and a careful attention to detail will be crucial in this role.

This role will involve extensive customer care similar outboard contact with our customer base and a pleasant telephone manner will also be important.

In addition to salary, we offer group personal pension plan, life and medical insurance.

A full current driving licence is essential.

If you feel the above is you, please email your CV and a letter of application to Alison Arden, Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

PERMANENT POSITIONS

FORTEITH FOODSERVICE - RECRUITING NOW!

Class 2 drivers + 7.5t drivers required (permanent)

48 hrs per week + overtime.
Any 5 days from Mon - Sat
To undertake Multi Temp drops throughout Argyll and the Islands.

Class 2 OTE £27,000 per annum
7.5t OTE £25,000 per annum

To apply please contact: John Gillies, Transport Supervisor, Forteith Foodservice, Glengallan Rd, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG
Tel: 01631 569100
email: johngillies@forteith.ils.com

Carr Gomm
Supporting People & Communities

Carr Gomm is a leading Scottish social care charity providing quality care and support.

Relief Support Assistants – £7.16 per hour
We are looking for Relief Support Assistants to join our teams in Oban to help support people to maintain their independence at home and enjoy a better quality of life. We have vacancies in Home Care and our Overnight Response Team.
Full driving licence desirable, we pay mileage and travel time between visits.

Social Care Call Handler for Social Work Emergency Service - £8.20 per hour
This position is out of hours

Support Assistant – In Housing
£13,959 - £15,591
Working with people affected by homelessness providing tenancy sustainment and budgeting support
Full training will be provided

If you are looking for a rewarding job that fits around your other commitments we would love to hear from you.
For more information & to apply please contact:
Liz Spence 01546 603072 Email: lizspence@carrgomm.org

Application packs are also available on our website: www.carrgomm.org/work-for-us
Alternatively, please contact our Recruitment Team:
Email: recruitment@carrgomm.org Phone: 0131 659 4777

Mechanic (Permanent)
£19,002 - £20,179
01546 604334

Campbeltown Ref: DVR00009

Closing date: 18 September 2015.
To apply visit our website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
DECROFTING APPLICATION

1 MacKinnon
2A Kilmoluaig, Tiree
0.1 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.59437

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

Mr J A MacDonald
2 Portnaluchaig, Arisaig & Moidart
0.023 ha - Existing holiday cottage
4.86.58166
Conditions: 3a, 4 & 8

Mr A J Colthart
4 Kinlochlaich, Lismore & Appin
0.309 ha - Amenity ground/Other
4.86.55419
Conditions: 3b, 4 & 8

Conditions

(3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:
(a) the date of the direction
(b) the proposed development completion
(4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
(5) The Direction will expire 3 months from the date of the Direction unless an application for registration of the making of the Direction is submitted before the expiry of that period.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

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 between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
15/03128/LBC	Mallaig Railway Station Station Road Mallaig	Internal alterations/refurbishment in order to form new raising & lowering counter, staff toilets & messing facilities
15/03220/FUL	Hgv Maintenance Workshop Spean Bridge	Formation of serviced house sites (previous permissions 11/02247/PIP & 14/03261/MSC)

Time period for comments is 14 days (15/03128/LBC is 21 days)
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

First Registration of a Croft	First Registration of a Croft	First Registration of a Croft
Alistair Gillies has registered his croft 6 Bunacaimb Arisaig, in the Parish of Arisaig & Moidart 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 18, 2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home . The croft registration number is C1426	Helen McDonnell has registered her croft 8 Bracara and part Glasnacardoch, Glenelg, 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 14, 2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home . The croft registration number is I1396	Alistair Campbell MacColl has registered their croft 84 Portuairk, Ardnamurchan and Sunart, 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 18, 2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home . The croft registration number is C1427.

Kilmartin Museum Trust (SC022744) has applied to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator ('OSCR') for approval of a reorganisation scheme. Details of the proposed reorganisation scheme may be obtained from OSCR's website (www.oscr.org.uk) or by writing to OSCR at 2nd Floor, Quadrant House, 9 Riverside Drive, Dundee DD1 4NY.

Anyone who wishes to make representations to OSCR may do so in accordance with regulation 5 of the Charities Reorganisation (Scotland) Regulations 2007. All representations must reach OSCR not later than 11 October 2015.

Upper Sonachan Wind Park Proposal Public Exhibitions

Portsonachan Village Hall
Thursday 3rd September 2015 12 noon-6:30pm

Kilchrenan Village Hall
Friday 4th September 2015 12 noon-6:30pm

Ecotricity are holding two public exhibitions to discuss our proposal for a nineteen turbine wind park on forested land between the B840 and the A819 near Portsonachan, Ardbrecknish and Cladich, 9.5km north of Inveraray. Members of the Ecotricity team will be there to discuss the proposals.

If you're unable to make it to either of these days please do not hesitate in contacting us at:

Email: Upper-Sonachan@ecotricity.co.uk
Call: 01463 223377
You can find further information at: www.ecotricity.co.uk/upper-sonachan

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/01929/PP	Erection of chalet for holiday letting purposes	Highfield Croft Achavach Glenruiter Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4QA	Oban Area Office
15/02089/PP	Installation of hydro scheme	Land South Of West Ardu Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dervaig
15/02119/PP	Erection of an anemometer mast (80 metres high) for a temporary period of 5 years	Land South East Of Blarghour Farmhouse East Lochaweside Dalmlilly Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmlilly
15/02147/PP	Installation of replacement fuel pumps	MacLennan Motors Pier Road Scarinish Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6TN	Tiree Area Office
15/02285/PPP	Site for the erection of 4 dwellinghouses	Land South Of Creag A Croman Salen Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
15/02318/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 12/01630/PPP (Erection of two dwellinghouses)	Land At Barnafochaig Beag Clachan Seil Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Balvair
15/02333/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 12/01556/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse)	Land North Of Lynwood Longside Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5DZ	Oban Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/02310/PP	Refurbishment of shop front (retrospective)	57 Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7BD	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2015 NOTICE OF APPLICATION UNDER REGULATION 6, 7 OR 8

An application for hazardous substances consent together with plans and other documents has been submitted by:
Applicant: Bruichladdich Distillery Company Limited
Agent: SR Consulting Ltd

Proposal: Application for Hazard Substances Consent to permit the storage of liquid Ethanol and fuel oil (in relation to the existing Bruichladdich Distillery site)

Address: Bruichladdich Distillery Bruichladdich Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA49 7UN

May be inspected at: Planning and Regulatory Services, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD or at the Sub Post Office Port Charlotte during normal opening times. Plans can also be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Between the hours of: 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm Monday to Friday. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am

Written representations (including comments or questions) may be submitted to Planning and Regulatory Services, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD by September 11, 2015

The application may be granted (either unconditionally or subject to conditions) or refused.

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website.

Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

COUNCILLOR'S SURGERY

Councillor Roddy McQuish (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor McQuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 4th September 2015 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 3.00pm - 5.00pm.
He can be contacted by email - Roderick.McQuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567854.

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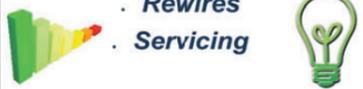
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Oban Times LOCAL SERVICES

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Fox Fitzgerald Whisky Trading Co Ltd
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Oban Times LOCAL SERVICES

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PERSONAL NOTICES

Thank You

Helen and Charlie Geddes wish to thank our friends for their greeting cards and best wishes for our diamond anniversary.



DEATHS

BARKER-BELL - née McCallum, West Barns-Dunbar. Peacefully at home on Sunday August 30, 2015. Jessie, dearly loved mum, and much loved gran and great-gran. Much loved and sorely missed by all the family.

BEGBIE - Patrick Joseph. Previous of South Inch Court, Perth, beloved father, papa, brother, peacefully at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, South Wales on Friday, August 21, 2015. Private family funeral.

FOGGO - Peacefully at Mossspark Nursing Home, Fort William, on August 29, 2015. Jack, aged 96, beloved husband of the late Ann, loving dad, grandpa and great grandpa. Funeral service in Kilmalie Parish Church, Caol, on Saturday, September 5, 2015 at 11am. All welcome to attend.

HARPER - Peacefully at West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth on Wednesday, August 26, 2015. Rosealyn (née Goode), beloved wife of the late Derek, dear mum of Carol and Graeme and a dear daughter, sister, sister-in-law and aunty.

HAY - Suddenly but peacefully at home on August 27, 2015, in his 53rd year, Billy Hay, beloved son of Marina and the late Willie, husband of Danielle, much loved father of Sean, Ryan and Iona. Sadly missed.

HUNTER - (Linsidmore, By Lairg) - Peacefully in his home, 3 Linsidmore, by Lairg on Monday, August 24, 2015, following an illness borne with great courage and dignity.

Nielsen Hunter, beloved and loving husband of Jeani, dearly loved dad of Maren and Kirsti, dear father-in-law of Michael and Nigel, much loved papa of Jamie, Matilda and Humphrey, loving brother of Maren and loved by all the extended family and friends. A service was held in Creich Parish Church, Bonar Bridge on Thursday, August 27, followed by interment in Creich Cemetery. Enquiries to Alasdair Rhind, Funeral Directors, Sutherland House, Bank Street, Tain.

MACPHERSON - Peacefully at home on Saturday, August 29, 2015, Margaret (Peggy) MacPherson 'Tolsta', McCaig Road, Lower Soroba, Oban. Beloved wife of Ian, loving mother of Robert and Elaine, mother-in-law to Sandy and Donna, much loved granny of Mark, Arlene, Molly and Sophie and dear sister of Jimmy, Marjorie, Bellann, Anne and Chrissie.

ROBERTS - Peacefully on Thursday, August 27, 2015 in Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, surrounded by his family, Gren, husband to Joy, brother to Nipper, a loving dad to Emma and Carl, beloved granddad to Abbie, Megan, Cailie and Katy. Funeral service on Friday September 4, at Pennyghael Community Centre at 12.00pm.

ROBERTSON - Peacefully at home on August 24, 2015, in her 90th year, Jean Robertson, beloved wife of the late Bill, much loved mother of John, loving mother-in-law of Carolyn, doting grandmother of Alicia and Max. An active member within local book, poetry and music groups. Sorely missed by all.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GALBRAITH - David and the family of Annie would like to thank family, friends and members of our community for all expressions of sympathy, cards etc. They have been greatly appreciated at this difficult time. Thanks also to Mull Ambulance teams Duty Doctors, nurses Jennifer and Laura-Anne, Scottish Air Ambulance crew for all they tried on the morning of the 17th. Also Salen Medical practise and Nurse McAdam. The Reverent Johnny Paton for an excellent personnel service also church Elders and organist etc. Billy McClymont for his very understanding and professional funeral arrangements. Salen Hotel for refreshments efficiently provided. Retiring collection of £407.73 to Marie Curie nurses.

GRANT - John, Andrew, Frances and families, would like to thank everyone for their kind messages of sympathy and support following the loss of our dear mum, Isabel. Special thanks goes to Father Roddy MacAulay and Sister Diane for all their comfort and support. Grateful thanks to Dr Massie, Dr Allan MacDonald and the Staff in Ward 1, Belford Hospital for their compassionate and dignified care towards mum in her final weeks. To Mike McFall and Jamie Manson for their professional and efficient funeral arrangements. A retiring collection of £560.00 will go to Ward 1, Belford Hospital.

MACKINNON - The MacInnes and MacKinnon families, Isle of Tiree would like to thank everyone for their love and support following the death of their uncle Hugh. A special thanks to Rev. Elspeth MacLean for her comforting service and all the staff at Tigh-A-Rudha for the care, love and attention he received over the years.

MEMORIALS

BARNHAM - In loving memory of Val Barnham, who passed away September 3, 2013.

Forever in our hearts. - With love Les, Bees, Matt, Josh, Louis and Oli xxxxx

CRAVEN - In memory of our dear brother who died September 3, 2009. Always remembered and happy memories. - Marleen and Allan

FORRESTER - Cherished memories of Jim, dearly beloved husband of Joan, father, father-in-law, grandfather who died on September 2, 2002. Forever in our thoughts. - Joan and family, Oban, Uddingston and High Wycombe

MACCUISH - In loving memory of Mickey, who passed away September 1, 2012. Beloved dad and papa. You leave us with heartache no-one can heal. A memory no-one can steal. YNWA

- Frank, Anmarie, Jodi, Stephen, Tara

MACMILLAN - In loving memory of Ian MacMillan, a dear brother-in-law and uncle who died September 5, 2012. Always in our thoughts. - Agnes, Martin, Chloe and Leona

MACPHERSON - In loving memory of our dear mother Carrie who passed away September 2, 2011 and our dear father Ewen who passed away August 30, 2013. Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal. Always in our hearts. - Ewen, Lorraine and family

OBAN TIMES BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

OBAN TIMES BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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Art lovers from all over Argyll see the red dot

ARTISTS and craftspeople reported a good turn-out to the annual Art Map event in Argyll over the weekend. More than 50 artists were displaying work in their own homes and studios to visitors. The successful event welcomes people to take part in a red dot trail to see as many artists as possible over one weekend.



Carol Olsen showed with her scarves and some very beautiful jewellery and paintings. 26. 136art4



Lucy Gray presents her popular Forrest Symphony. A blue an interactive sculpture display that was admired by visitors. 26. 136art1



Ewen Munro shows off his wonderful photography where he focuses on the colour and detail in landscapes in Argyll. 26. 136art2



Fiona MacRae opened her home in Tainuill to art lovers. Her wee dogs were on hand to keep visitors amused. 26. 136art3

CHURCH NOTICE

Craig Lodge Community 25th Birthday Mass
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Shedding the pounds to raise pounds

THE Go-it-Alone weight loss group has raised £137.00 for Oban's Riding for the Disabled group through August's £1 weekly donation. The group meets every Monday at 5.30pm in the Lorne Suite of the Great Western Hotel. At the end of the month all funds collected go to a good local cause chosen by the group. The next charity to gain from this continued weight loss will be Friends of Oban Community Play Park.



RAISING MONEY BY LOSING POUNDS: Members of the Go-it-Alone weight loss group showing how much money they have raised. 136weightloss1

Thought for the week

A DEAR friend who is 108, the oldest lady in Scotland, introduced to us this very powerful prayer which we share with you.
*May the healing mercies of our risen Lord Jesus Christ
Enter afresh into our souls,
Minds and bodies,
To heal us from all that is harming us,
And fill us with His Joy, Love and Peace.*
This is asking for help that is freely given, but for it to be effective we must learn the sensitivity to recognize and accept the experience of answered prayer that is the key to a balanced and worthwhile life.
The help is there for us, but requires the faith to ask, the sensitivity to listen and the humility to receive and accept the experience.
Prayer enables us to be in harmony with ourselves and with our Creator.
Geoff and Janet Fairbairn, (Society of Friends, Quakers).

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THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL

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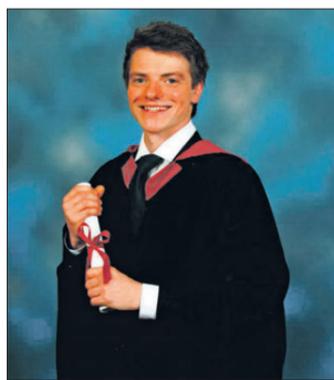
WEDDING



CRAIG - TUCKER

Brodie Craig and Matt Tucker were married in Sussex on June 13, 2015. Chief bridesmaid was Megan Friel and best man was Ryan Woodford-Kelf (Woody). Both Brodie and Megan are the great-granddaughters of the late Duncan and Agnes Black of Seabank, Port Appin and Tynribbie, Appin.

GRADUATIONS



Struan Carmichael

Tobermory, Isle of Mull. Graduated with a BSc (Hons) Music Technology from the University of the West of Scotland. Son of Creon and Susie Carmichael and grandson of the late Hugh and Marjorie Goldie, Tobermory and the late James and June Carmichael, Salen Isle of Mull. Now working as an Acoustic Consultant for RBA Acoustics in London.



Kieran Gallagher

Recently graduated from HMS Raleigh as CISSM. Kieran is husband to Kirsty Gallagher and father to Ciara Gallagher. Kieran will now continue on to do his submarine training with proud support of his family.



Allan R Macneil (M. Sci. Astronomy and Physics)

Recently graduated from Glasgow University with a degree of Master in Science in Astronomy and in Physics with honours of the first class. Allan is the son of Donald and Elsa Macneil (née Matheson), Oban and the grandson of Elizabeth Matheson and the late John (Ian) Matheson, Oban. Allan is now going on to do his PhD in Space and Climate Physics at University College London.

Sixth place finish for McPhee in crash-strewn British Grand Prix

Moto 3

CONNEL'S John McPhee kept his head in what turned out to be a rain-lashed, crash-strewn, topsy-turvy Moto3 race at the British Grand Prix to finish sixth.

The Saxoprint-RTG rider - who started from 12th on the grid - got shuffled down the order to 18th on the chaotic opening lap but rose steadily up the order as some 16 riders came to grief in the atrocious conditions.

The race was barely underway when front-row starter Karel Hanika, followed by pole-man and race leader Jorge Navarro, both crashed out in quick succession.

The pair's downfall promoted RBA Racing's Isaac Vinales into the lead ahead of Leopard Racing's championship leader Danny Kent and Drive M7 SIC's Jakob Kornfeil, who had muscled his way up from 13th on the grid.

But the Spaniard's time at the head of the pack lasted no more than two laps as he joined what was to become the steady stream of riders to hit the deck and slide out of contention.

That left Kent bossing the show with Kornfeil and Romano Fenati literally trailing in his wake while McPhee made his way up to ninth to lead a three-way fight for what eventually became fifth.

The battle - involving McPhee, RW Racing's Livio Loi and MAP-FRE Mahindra rider Juanfran Guevara - was joined just before



ACTION MAN: John McPhee in action on the rain-soaked track at Silverstone Photo: Bonnie Lane

mid-distance and lasted for half a dozen laps before Loi escaped as McPhee got sucked into a lengthy and time-consuming tussle with the Spaniard.

By the time he broke free, Loi was an un-catchable 4.6 seconds down the road in seventh which - with two laps to go - became

fifth as Guevara's team-mate Francesco Bagnaia, followed by Gresini's Enea Bastianini joined the casualty list in the steadily worsening conditions.

By that time Kent was some 10 seconds clear of Kornfeil which allowed him the luxury of easing off to secure the win practically

8.5s ahead of the Czech. Ongetta-Rivacold's Niccolò Antonelli claimed the final podium place a further 4.7s behind. Estrella Galicia 0.0's Fabio Quartararo and Loi rounded out the top five, with McPhee in sixth just two seconds in arrears of the Belgian.

John said: 'It was a really tough race in those conditions. There was standing water everywhere but I knew if I kept a cool head and played a patient waiting game the result would come to me - and it did.'

Kent's points haul stretches his championship lead over the

ill-fated Bastianini in second to 70 points. Romano Fenati in third is a further 28 points adrift. McPhee remains 11th on 70pts just two points outside a place in the top 10.

His team-mate Alexis Masbou, who finished 11th, is 14th in the standings on 46 points.



Glencruitten

THE Cameron trophy was cancelled last Saturday due to the weather.

On Sunday the President's prize was played - Arvid Fagervold winning with the better inward half with a score of 65 - 3 = 62 from Phillip Murphy with a score of 63 - 1 = 62.

The Cameron trophy will now be played on September 19 and 20.

This Saturday the Stableford finals take place along with the monthly medal.

Dalmally

LYNDSAY trophy: (Green-some) - 1 Janet Buchanan and Ann Munro 38pts; 2 Maud Marshall and Lily McKay 35pts; 3 Alison Livingstone and June Sutherland 34pts.

Good away cup win for Oban Athletic

Football

OBAN Athletic travelled to Station park, Cardross to take on the local side in a League cup match and the Oban boys returned home with a fine 5-2 win under their belts.

Paul Carmichael gave the visitors a 2-0 half-time lead but Cardross pulled a goal back just after the restart to make it 2-1

However, a Kris Gillies hat-trick in the second half gave Athletic a 5-1 lead before the home side pulled another goal back just before the end to make the final score 5-2.

The Oban side were due to travel to take on Carradale at in another League cup tie as the *Oban Times* went to press on Wednesday night. This game was being played at Tarbert.

On Saturday Athletic stay on League cup duty with a home game against Crookston at Glencruitten, kick-off 2pm. Referee in charge is Martin Rae.

Limbering up for Tiree event

Ultramarathon

COMPETITORS are limbering up for this year's Tiree Ultramarathon, which takes place on Saturday.

The route - a gruelling 35 miles - circumnavigates the Hebridean island, taking in its dramatic scenery and famous white beaches.

Organiser Will Wright, who runs Tiree Fitness, which provides fitness training, equipment and camps, said he was looking forward to the event's second year.

'We have around 200 runners signed up, almost double what we had last year and the 35 miles around the island really captures what Tiree is all about.'

An ultramarathon is anything over the standard marathon length of 26.2 miles.

Runners will follow a series of checkpoints with simple navigation in between, including route arrows and a team of marshals will also be on hand to guide progress.

The day's events will be rounded off with a concert at the island's An Talla community hall.

For more information, visit: www.tireefitness.co.uk/tiree-ultramarathon/

Strong winds for Round Shuna fleet

WITH strong winds gusting 37 knots, Clyde Corinthian Yacht Club's Round Shuna Pursuit Race proved a testing 'blast' for all competitors.

Many opted to remain in the shelter of Craobh but for those who braved the conditions it was a fast pursuit with Colin Crawford's Dehler 35 Nimrod from Oban Sailing Club first over the line in the 30-strong fleet. Colin and team lifted the prized case of bubbly and the Camus Trophy.

Pursuit races see yachts leave according to handicap with the theory they all finish together.

Competitors in the Round Shuna can decide which way to circumnavigate. This year's favoured option was north about and close behind Nimrod in Class 1 was Joey Gough's Tangle o' the Isles, also from Oban. Stewart and Dorothy Ritchie's Contest 41 Anna Mae from Salen, Loch Sunart, was third.

Class 2 was won by Brian Wiseman's Storm 33 Sor of Appin with the conditions befitting the Westerly Storm. Brian and team also won the feeder race from Ardfern the previous day and so lifted the top prize for the whole

weekend and the Craobh Haven Challenge Cup.

Alistair Pugh's Contessa 32 Marisca was second in Class 2 sailing just two up and Donald Smith's Maxi Tilty Too third. Alison Chadwick's Hot Toddy took Class 3 from Hamish Whyte's Elizabethan 30 in second and Alan Manson's Cutlas 27 Dark Islander third. Alan also lifted the Brendan Bucket for the last boat home.

Several Flying Fifteens were forced to retire in the strong winds but Clive Brown's Ffaolcuain and David Attwood's Okey

Sailing

Dokey kept their cool crossing the line in first and second position respectively. With a better amalgamated score David won the Craignish Sailing Club Trophy for the best performance from a Flying Fifteen for the weekend.

Andrew Chapman made a brave effort to sail his full rig Laser in the stormy conditions but a broken boom at the north end of Shuna ended his chances of not only being the only dinghy out but regaining his dinghy trophy of last year.

Oban and Ardfern feeder races

With a long beat for the Oban boats, Eric Chapman and team found form to win the feeder from Billy Fortie's Shadowfax. Hot Toddy was third. The Ardfern race saw a mix of conditions and Sor of Appin took the honours from Alan Gent White's sloop An Sulaire. Donald Smith's Tilty Too was third. David Attwood's Okey Dokey won the Flying Fifteen Class from Brian Johnston's Reckless and Russell Anderson's Toff in third place. Despite a much-reduced fleet due to the inclement weather, the weekend was a great success. Commodore Kenneth MacDonald thanked everyone for competing in the challenging conditions and invited all competitors to return for next year's event.



SILVERWARE: Prizewinners from the Round Shuna Pursuit race Photo: Tom Allen

Season gets under way this weekend

BT West Regional Shield - Oban Lorne v Isle of Arran

OBAN Lorne kick off the 2015/16 season with a home tie in the BT Shield against Division 2 Isle of Arran RFC.

The Green Machine will go into this game with confidence after a boost in playing numbers and a well-structured pre-season programme.

The islanders will provide a tough test for Lorne prior to the following weekend's away trip to Cambuslang in the opening weekend of West Division 1.

Oban should field a strong team despite missing club captain Cammy Smith and brother Struan due to work commitments. Captaincy for the game will be taken by 21-year-old Craig Wright.

Rugby

Kick off will be 3pm at Glencruitten.

BT West Regional Bowl - Birkmyre v Argyll and Bute

Argyll and Bute RFC will play their first ever game in the BT Bowl with an away game to Birkmyre in Kilmacolm on Saturday.

Argyll have impressed during the pre-season with home and away friendly wins over Aberfeldy and Kintyre.

It is hoped that the team will have a successful season ahead and can fulfil all of its fixtures with a blend of youth and experienced players. The team are still looking for new recruits; anyone interested can train 6.45-9pm every Tuesday and Thursday night at Oban Lorne RFC.

Argyll and Bute's first home game of the season will take place on Saturday September 12 with an Argyll derby against Cowal RFC

Oban Lorne Ladies

Oban Lorne Ladies begin the 2015/16 season this Sunday at home to Glasgow University RFC in National Division 1. This is the highest league that Oban Lorne have played since the team's formation. Kick off is 2pm at Glencruitten. Ladies' training runs every Wednesday night from 6-7pm at Glencruitten.



SKIPPER: Craig Wright will captain the side against Arran

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

A Livingstone Port Ellen Islay

D Smith Port Charlotte Islay

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £900

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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

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.

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.

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Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



Please tape your £1 coin here

Name
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Summer weather calls foul on shinty fixtures last weekend

HEAVY rain which fell on Friday night and Saturday morning caused havoc with shinty fixtures last weekend with 11 of the 22 games allocated having to be called off due to unplayable pitches.

The Strathdearn Cup final managed to beat the weather with Newtonmore defeating Glengarry 3-1 thanks to a hat-trick from Calum Stewart.

Only one premiership game survived which resulted in a 1-1 draw between Lovat and Inveraray.

The other three scheduled premiership games all fell victim to the weather.



SILVERWARE: Newtonmore captain Martin Iviil holds aloft the Strathdearn Cup
Photo: Neil Paterson

Premiership

FORT WILLIAM'S scheduled home game against Kyles Athletic was postponed due to an unplayable field at An Aird.

As well as a league clash, the teams were also supposed to be playing for the inaugural Drew Ferguson cup, in memory of a young Fort player who died in 2013.

Co-manager Victor Smith said his team would wait for a rearranged fixture with Kyles to play for the trophy as Drew was an Ibrox season ticket holder and Rangers football club presented the first set of jerseys, in red white and blue, to Kyles players.

Fort William have no game this weekend due to the Caol cup under 21s match at Ballachulish, when An Aird man Jamie Cruikshank will play for the north side.

Heavy rain put paid to **LOCHABER'S** trip south to take on Oban Camanachd at the weekend.

The Spean Bridge men were favourites as they are nine points ahead of Oban but it was not to be as the game was called off as Mossfield Stadium was flooded.

Lochaber have no game this weekend but will be keen to support team mate Barry MacDonald, who is playing in defence for the north side at the Caol cup under 21 match in Ballachulish on Saturday.

LOVAT will be concentrating on the Camanachd Cup after a draw at the weekend all but ended their league hopes.

Despite taking a seventh minute lead through Fraser Gallagher against Inveraray, Lewis Macnicol fired back in the 44th minute for the southern side. The scores remained unchanged in the second half, leaving Lovat on 14 points from 14 games, six points behind league leaders Newtonmore, and with only four games left to play for the Kiltarlity side.

John MacRitchie's men will now be concentrating on the Camanachd Cup final, their next fixture, where they meet Kyles Athletic on September 19 at Mossfield Stadium, Oban, with a 2pm throw-up.

Shinty

In their first match since the retirement of goalkeeper Graham MacPherson, **INVERARAY** faced a potentially dangerous trip north to play Camanachd Cup finalists, Lovat.

Things looked ominous for the Argyll outfit when Fraser Gallagher scored for Lovat on the seventh minute, but Lewis Macnicol pulled one back just before half-time. A stubborn defensive display by the visitors saw the match end 1-1, earning Inveraray a valuable point in the battle to avoid relegation from shinty's top tier. The Royal Burgh side's rivals for the drop, Oban Camanachd, have three games in hand over Inveraray, however, and have shown some decent late season form.

OBAN CAMANACHD and Lochaber's Premiership tie was postponed at the weekend when Mossfield was deemed unplayable because of the weather.

Ian Hay's men will next be in action on September 12, when the play Kinlochshiel in Taynuilt.

The side's league future is still uncertain, with them sitting second-bottom of the Marine Harvest Premiership, one point ahead of Inveraray, but with three games in hand.

NEWTONMORE'S league tie with Glenurquhart was cancelled at the weekend, when the pitch at Drumadrochit was deemed unplayable.

P J Mackintosh's side are top of the Marine Harvest Premiership, having won 10 of their 11 league games.

They also won the Macaulay Cup against Inveraray on August 22, picking themselves up after disappointment against Kyles the week before in the Camanachd Cup semi-final.



CLASH OF THE ASH: Action from the South Division One game between Kyles Athletic and Lochside Rovers played at Tighnabruach last Saturday. The Oban side ran out 5-3 winners
Photo: Paul Paterson

Their next fixture, a replay of the Glenurquhart tie, will be on September 12, with a 2.30pm throw-up at Blairbeg Park.

National Division

Beating Inverness 4-0 at the weekend has kept **KILMALLIE** hot on the heels of first-place Skye.

With no game on Saturday, manager Mark MacPherson will be preparing to take on the islanders for their biggest game of the season next week.

Both Skye and Kilmallie have two games left to play, including their clash a week on Saturday, meaning this game at Canal Parks could be the decider of who is promoted to the premier league.



UP FOR THE CUP: A jubilant Newtonmore squad celebrate their 3-1 Strathdearn Cup final win over Glengarry
Photo: Neil Paterson

MacPherson said: 'We had a really good first half against Inverness but we didn't score enough goals for my liking. We're still nine goals and two points behind Skye so this is going to be a big challenge.'

'We play Skye at home a week on Saturday, then after that we've both only got one game left each. We have Ballachulish and they have Beaulieu. You never know what's going to happen so we're just going to enjoy it but we really want to win these next two games.'

In yet another convincing display **SKYE** stole the show at home defeating Glasgow Mid Argyll 6-1.

The island team are going from strength to strength as they reach for premiership glory.

While Skye are playing consistently well, they are just two points

Marine Harvest Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	11	10	0	1	37	9	20
Kyles Athletic	12	9	1	2	44	14	19
Glenurquhart	14	8	2	4	32	25	18
Fort William	15	6	3	6	24	26	15
Lochaber	16	6	3	7	30	42	15
Lovat	14	5	4	5	30	29	14
Kinlochshiel	15	5	3	7	22	38	13
Kingussie	14	3	3	8	18	29	9
Oban Camanachd	10	2	2	6	11	17	6
Inveraray	13	1	3	9	13	32	5

second side on Saturday.

Having taken the lead in the 10th minute through Daniel Cameron, goals in the 38th and 39th minutes from Kyles saw them 2-1 up.

However, Lochside fired straight back with a goal in the 40th minute from Scott MacMillan and one from Craig MacDougall, giving Lochside a 3-2 advantage going into half time.

Michael MacQueen made it 4-2 in the 47th minute for Lochside, but Kyles pulled one back on the hour mark. Again, an instant reply from Rovers, by Daniel Cameron in the 62nd minute, rounded off the scoring to give Lochside the points in a thrilling 5-3 win.

Gareth Evans' side will hope to keep the momentum going in this week's game, where they face fellow league challengers Bute, who are two points behind Lochside but with two games in hand.

The tie will throw-up at Ganavan at 2.30pm

GLENORCHY'S away tie against Taynuilt was one of several to fall foul of the weather at the weekend, with the field unplayable.

John Smith's side will next be in action in their replay with Taynuilt on September 19, where they will be keen to pick up the points and overtake second-bottom Kilmory, who are on equal points but have played three more games.

The tie with Taynuilt throws-up at 11.30am.

OBAN CELTIC'S game with Bute was cancelled on Saturday, after it was decided the surface at Ganavan was unplayable.

David Hamilton's side will next be in action in the league on September 12 at Ganavan, where they meet Kilmory, who are second-bottom of South Division One.

Every point counts now, with the top four teams in the division separated by only four points.

Celtic vs Kilmory will throw-up at 2.30pm.

KYLES ATHLETIC'S second string slumped to seventh in the league after another home defeat last weekend.

This time it was Lochside Rovers doing the damage with a 5-3 victory. Douglas Nicolson had given Kyles the lead at 2-1 after 39 minutes, but the advantage was short-lived and when Scott McMillan levelled matters and Craig MacDougall gave Lochside the lead once again, there was no coming back for the home side. Matthew MacColl scored another for the Kyles after an hour, but it was to prove mere consolation.

TAYNUILT will have a free week this week, having had no game on Saturday either. Their tie with Glenorchy was one of many to be cancelled because of the condition of the pitch.

The side will next be in action a week on Saturday, when they face Aberdeen at home.

Taynuilt sit a respectable fifth-place in the league, and will be hoping to stop Aberdeen and Kyles from overtaking, with the two sides just a point behind them, as the league nears an end.

The Aberdeen tie will throw up at 2.30pm in Taynuilt on September 12.

Short of a number of key players through injury **KILMORY** made the long journey east to Fife last Saturday. The Lochgilphead team

Marine Harvest South Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inveraray	14	10	2	2	37	18	22
Lochside Rovers	12	10	0	2	50	16	20
Oban Celtic	12	9	1	2	45	16	19
Bute	10	8	2	0	40	3	18
Taynuilt	14	5	2	7	24	36	12
Aberdour	15	5	1	9	22	35	11
Kyles Athletic	13	5	1	7	23	41	11
Strachur	15	3	3	9	23	43	7*
Kilmory	14	1	2	11	13	39	2*
Glenorchy	11	1	2	8	8	32	2*

*Points adjustment

'Nostie' Macleod Memorial Trophy

THIS Saturday the shinty teams from Caithness and Sutherland will meet for the fourth consecutive year to contest The Kenny 'Nostie' Macleod Memorial Trophy.

The popular event was inaugurated in 2012 in memory of the Reverend Kenny Macleod who had introduced the sport to young people in the Thurso area.

Sadly Kenny passed away in the spring of 2012 but his work was key in sowing a seed which has grown to an exciting fruition. Over the past three years a senior Caithness shinty team has taken shape.

The players meet to train each week at their adopted home of Viewfirth Park in Thurso and compete in matches and tournaments around Scotland.

The next step will be the club's most ambitious to date - to join the North Division 3 shinty league for the 2016 season.

Shinty has continued to grow apace in West Sutherland where Duncan and Paula Clark and Heather Macneil have worked tirelessly over the last eight years to develop the game.

The Sutherland team will mainly comprise of

players from Kinlochbervie Camanachd but will also include former players from Farr high school shinty team.

The memorial match has gone from strength to strength since its inception three years ago. This Saturday's occasion promises to be the biggest yet with a new cultural input being included in the build up to the match.

Entertainment Musicians from Feis Ghallaibh, members of the town's pipe band and other local performers will provide entertainment from 11.30am onwards. It is also hoped that Runrig's Calum Macdonald will be in attendance as special guest and patron of the day.

Pre-match entertainment will also be provided on the pitch with a six-a-side tournament involving Caithness, Kinlochbervie, Inverness and Kenny's former club, Kinlochshiel. The event will take place at Viewfirth and the match itself will commence at 1.30pm.

Refreshments will be provided by members of the local scout group. Entrance is free but donations will be gratefully received for the Beatson charity.



CELEBRATION: Kilmallie's Liam Cameron celebrates scoring his team's third goal in their 4-0 National Division win over Inverness at the Bught Park, Inverness, last Saturday
Photo: Neil Paterson



Fixtures

Saturday September 5
Caol Cup - Under 21
Representative Match
North U21s v South U21s
Alex MacVicar - 1.30pm
at Ballachulish

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Lochside Rovers v Bute
Lachie Wood

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Lewis v Kilmallie
Andy MacLean

Throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated

Youth Fixtures
Friday September 4
Marine Harvest Under 14 League Div 1
Skye v Fort William
Beaulieu v Kingussie

Marine Harvest Under 14 League Div 2
Inverness v Caberfeidh
Glenurquhart v Kinlochshiel

Marine Harvest Under 14 League Div 3
Lochaber v Newtonmore
Lovat v Strathglass

Sunday September 6
Marine Harvest Under 14 9-a-side League
Glasgow Kelvin v Kyles Athletic
Ballachulish v Oban Camanachd
Bute v Aberdour

Women's Camanachd Association
Saturday September 5
Marine Harvest Challenge Cup Final
Marine Harvest MA v Ardnarmurchan
Evan MacRae - 1pm
at Bught Park, Inverness

Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup Final
Glasgow Mid Argyll
versus
Badenoch & Strathspey
Archie Ritchie - 3pm
at Bught Park, Inverness

Results

Saturday August 29
Strathdearn Cup Final
Glengarry 1 - 3 Newtonmore

Bullough Cup Semi Final
Tayforth 5 - 1 Inveraray

Marine Harvest Premiership
Fort William P - P Kyles Athletic
Unplayable field
Glenurquhart P - P Newtonmore
Unplayable field
Lovat 1 - 1 Inveraray
Oban Caman P - P Lochaber
Unplayable field

Marine Harvest National Division
Caberfeidh 4 - 3 Beaulieu
Inverness 0 - 4 Kilmallie
Skye 6 - 1 Glasgow Mid Argyll

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Beaulieu 1 - 1 Kinlochshiel
Fort William P - P Strathglass
Unplayable field
Lochcarron 1 - 4 Lovat

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Aberdour 3 - 0 Kilmory
Kyles Ath 3 - 5 Lochside Rovers
Oban Celtic P - P Bute
Unplayable field
Taynuilt P - P Glenorchy
Unplayable field

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Boleskine 9 - 0 Strathspey
Kilmallie P - P Inverness
Unplayable field
Lewis P - P Lochaber
Lochaber unable to field a team, points to Lewis

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Bute P - P Col Glen
Unplayable field
Glenorchy P - P Aberdour
Unplayable field
Oban Lorn P - P Ballachulish
Unplayable field



Kerrera kayakers face testing conditions

THE SIXTH Oban Sea Kayak Race, the biggest in the UK, took place last Saturday and it turned out to be one of the most testing conditions ever for its 60 entries.

The mass start, sent off by Oban lifeboat, was a big success and looked very impressive as the racers headed down the sound of Kerrera.

A head-on wind blowing force five-six made progress very difficult.

Nearing the south east point of the island, it became clear that the safety plan the organisers had put in place at the pre-race briefing was working, whereby anyone who became intimidated by the big conditions would turn round and head back to Kilbowie.

The safety boats were prepared for this and had to rescue a few swimmers around the point.

Once round the critical south east point, the 2-metre cresting waves were beam on, but did not cause any further problems for the racers.

Kayaking

The organisers would like to thank everyone who entered this year's race and made it such an incredible event. It just gets better and better.

A special thanks went to the support boats manned by Struan and Cameron Smith of Coastal Connection, DM Matheson, Dr Erik Jespersen, Drhuc Forbes, David Crisp, Derek and Andrew Pretswell and Adrian Stark for their safety cover during the race, without which the organisers could never attempt to have such an event.

A big thanks went to the many competitors who travelled from every corner of the UK and also from Australia and Canada to take part in the race and also to the many businesses around Oban which sponsor the event every year.

All proceeds from the Oban Sea Kayak Race are in aid of the Oban lifeboat.



ON THE ROCKS: Peter Mackman from Nairn required to be rescued after being thrown on to the rocks by the waves Photos: Stephen Lawson

The winner of the Champions Trophy was Mark Ressel, Devon in a time of 1:39:47, who smashed the course record set by Ivan Lawler, London, in 2013 by two minutes.

Second was Simon Garbett, Cambourne, 1:45:40, with third place going to Luke Horder, Bondi, Australia, 1:50:58. Patrick Winterton, Oban, came in fourth in a very good time of 1:51:52.

The ladies' champion was Lizelle Kemp with a time of 2:29:00, who is originally from South Africa, but now lives in Dunbar.



TOP BOY: The fastest junior prize went to Ross Urquhart from Inverness



UNDER ORDERS: Oban lifeboat starts the 2015 Oban Sea Kayak race



WINNER: Mark Ressel from Devon was first round Kerrera in a time of 01:39:47. He is being presented with his trophy by one of the race organising team Gus Brydon

Fun and games for Oban high school pupils

OBAN high school held its annual games day last Friday, with the young athletes managing to stay dry enough to allow all the events to go ahead.

This was the third year that the games have been held the day after the Argyllshire Gathering, at Mossfield Stadium.

The Argyllshire Gathering committee allows the school to use their equipment including the large tents, which housed arts and crafts activities throughout the day.

Head of PE at Oban high,

Murray Hamilton, said that the individual championships had been of a very high standard and very close. In some cases only one point separated the winning and second place athletes.

Champions

The results were: sports champions - S1 boys, Ellis Hunter, Ossian; S1 girls, Poppy McKillop, Somerled; S2 boys, Sam Coates, Diarmid; S2 girls, Abi Cato, Diarmid; S3 boys, Patrick McBeth, Ossian; S3 girls, Eilidh Shearer, Ossian; S4 boys, Stewart Inglis, Fingal; S4 girls, Lauren

School games

Turner, Somerled; senior boys, Ben Coates, Diarmid; senior girls, Roanne Lilley, Ossian; Headmaster's cup, Scott Black, Diarmid; the Argyllshire Gathering trophy, Daniel Spiers.

The Highland dancing was won by Katie MacPherson, and the piping champion was Gregor MacDonald.

Overall clan winners were Diarmid, with 303 points, followed by Ossian on 203, Somerled on 176 and Fingal on 109.



TROPHY WINNERS: Matthew Anderson, centre right, Argyllshire Gathering steward, and Oban high school head teacher Peter Bain, centre left, pictured with the trophy winners



UP AND OVER: Action during the high jump competition



SILVERWARE: Matthew Anderson presents the Argyllshire Gathering trophy to Daniel Spiers



INTO THE SAND PIT: A long jump contestant in mid flight



BATON CHANGE: The hand over of the baton during a girls' junior relay race

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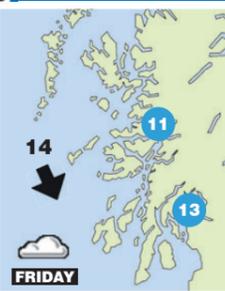
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WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy
Winds moderate north north westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.

Friday Cloudy with light rain showers
Winds moderate north north westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 13°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday
Cloudy on Sunday
Winds moderate north north westerly
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, September 3, 2015 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour)

Date	am	pm		
Thur	02.41	0.6	08.23	3.7
Fri	03.28	0.8	09.07	3.4
Sat	04.21	1.1	10.00	3.1
Sun	05.22	1.4	11.22	2.9
Mon	06.58	2.8	06.33	1.6
Tues	02.44	2.9	07.57	1.6
Wed	03.50	3.0	09.11	1.4

Port	Difference	Port	Difference
Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

The Oban Times

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A82 drivers pull out the stops to rescue poodle



Cloud hangs over care home as staff conduct probe continues

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

MORE than a year after the closure of Mallaig's Mackintosh Centre, enquiries into staff conduct are still ongoing.

The care home re-opened in August, after 13 months of closure amid allegations of poor practise, but is still being run under interim managers as investigations of staff continue.

NHS Highland announced on Monday that the centre's temporary manager Jackie Hodges will soon return to her permanent role as service improvement lead for social care, handing over the reins to a new interim manager Nancy Campbell. She will take on the role as a six-month secondment from her current job as a Lochaber public health nurse.

A spokesman for the health service said it was 'more suitable' to appoint another interim than a permanent manager for the Mack as enquiries into management continue.

He added: 'These investigations are necessarily extremely thorough, given that they can involve witnesses and a very detailed examination of the facts, and are therefore time-consuming.'

This comes after residents had to be housed 45 miles away in Fort William's Invernevis House while an investigation

was underway and new care staff were recruited.

But a family friend of Mackintosh residents, who fought to have the five pensioners returned to their home for the last year but asked not to be named, said there is 'still a cloud' over the care home as a result of these ongoing issues.

He said: 'I can understand why they can't permanently replace staff while enquiries are ongoing because that would break employment law. What I don't understand is why the enquiries still aren't finished after all this time. It's shocking that this still isn't finished. A disciplinary shouldn't take this long, they can be dealt with in a matter of days.'

'While it's really good that the home is finally open again and everyone seems really

happy with it, there's still a cloud hanging over the Mack and it will stay until this issue is resolved.'

But Ms Hodges, who has been the interim manager since mid-July, said the care home continues to improve: 'It really does feel like the Mackintosh Centre is starting afresh. We improved the level of staffing, training and future planning before the home re-opened and our staff have been working above and beyond the call of duty. We are also working hard at developing the 'My Home Life' initiative, which improves the way people are supported in a care home setting. My Home Life is an evidence-based approach to supporting and enabling care home managers to create home environments in care homes.'

All dressed up for dinner

STAFF and volunteers at the Mackintosh served up a special treat to residents last night (Wednesday) to celebrate the home re-opening.

The event saw the pensioners and their guests dressing up and enjoying a special meal.

Jackie Hodges, the Mackintosh centre's interim manager, said: 'It was the

residents themselves who came up with the dinner idea. They told us that one of the things they missed about living in a care home was dressing up and going out for dinner, so we thought we'd turn our dining room into a posh restaurant for the evening, and lay on something a bit special for residents and invited guests from the local community.'



SHOW GIRLS: from left, Nicola Muir, Margaret MacIntyre and Louise Pescod with some entries at last weekend's event 21_136colour01

All change at the helm of Corpach in Colour show

A POPULAR gardening show bid farewell to its lead organisers at the weekend, making way for two new masterminds.

Organisers of Corpach in Colour, Margaret MacIntyre and Margaret Simpson, known affectionately as the two Margarets, have handed over the reins to Nicola Muir, secretary, and Louise Pescod, treasurer.

At the event held in Kilmallie Village Hall on Saturday, Louise said: 'Nicola and I have not taken over just yet, but we have been shadowing the Margarets as they've

organised this year's event. This is the first year we have been involved. Next year will be our first show on our own.'

The two Margarets will continue to volunteer on the committee and will be on hand for support. Nicola said: 'There is a lot of work involved in the planning of Corpach in Colour, but with the support of the community, schools and nurseries we can keep going with this ever-growing event.'

It was apparent on Saturday that the poor weather of this summer had had an effect on the honey produce and vegetable growth,

and organisers found the categories low in entries. However, flower entries were strong and varied.

Holiday maker Margaret Simpson was said to be disappointed she could not attend the event due to a mix up with holiday dates.

Judges of five years Linda and Isobel Campbell also announced that it would be their last year on the job as the time had come for them to move on. Margaret MacIntyre received a special gift and kind words from both judges and new organisers ahead of the prizegiving.

Hoax caller jailed for four months

A HOAXER who made calls to the coastguard pretending a yacht was lost in remote waters has been jailed for four months.

Alasdair Munro, from Kyleakin on Skye, appeared in Portree sheriff court on Friday and denied making multiple calls claiming the boat had gone missing on Loch Hourn, north of Knoydart, on October 30 2013.

But sheriff James Scott found the 55-year-old guilty under the Communications Act, calling the crime an 'extremely serious offence' as Mallaig RNLI lifeboat and Kyle Coastguard rescue teams were sent to search for the vessel.

Jackie Mackenzie of HM Coastguard welcomed the sentence: 'Those who risk their own safety to rescue others

should also not be put at needless risk in responding to hoax distress calls.

'The important thing is that the hoax caller was found and punished. HM Coastguard fully supports the action of the police and the court in dealing with this offence. Hoax calls can, and in this case did, tie up a valuable maritime search and rescue resource.'

Education boost

A QUARTER of a million pounds has been awarded to Highland council to improve education in the region's schools.

Highland was one of 19 local authorities to get money from the Scottish government's inspiring learning fund for distance learning development and new equipment to connect schools.

Drew Millar, chairman of Highland council's education, children and adult services committee, said: 'I'm delighted as the funding will allow us to look at how new technologies can be used to bring benefits to all schools and pupils, especially when it comes to creating more opportunities for distance learning and making the most of shared resources. We also work hard to ensure the safety of young people when they are using technology, so continuing this work will also be a priority.'

Weekend fires

TWO FIRES in Lochaber at the weekend saw one woman end up in hospital and another in court.

An elderly female was taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation after a blaze in Claggan, Fort William, in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Firefighters were also called to Kinlochleven in the early hours of Friday morning, following reports of flames at flats in Foyers Road. None of the residents needed medical attention.

Police said a woman from Kinlochleven had been reported to the procurator fiscal after the incident, although a crown office spokesman said this was in connection with alleged threatening and abusive behaviour.

The 38-year-old appeared at Fort William sheriff court on Monday and was bailed to reappear.

Teaching talks

HIGHLAND council has joined forces with five other northern local authorities to tackle teacher shortages.

Officials will join those of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray, Orkney and Shetland councils at a summit next month, aimed at addressing the issue.

Scottish government ministers and members of the General Teaching Council for Scotland will also attend the event on October 7.

Jenny Laing, leader of Aberdeen City council, the driving force behind the summit, said: 'Whilst not yet at crisis levels this is nevertheless a serious issue that we want to tackle now to protect the interests of pupils.'

'We urge the Scottish government to work with us on finding a solution at a national level. This is a case where one size does not fit all councils.'

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Lucky climber thanks rescue team

ADVENTURER SAVED BY LOCHABER GROUP PLEADS WITH FELLOW MOUNTAINEERS TO TAKE CARE ON THE HILLS

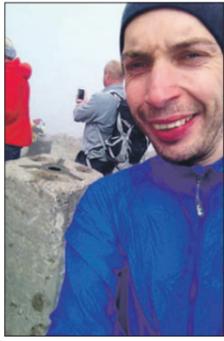
AMANDA CRAWFORD
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A MAN who narrowly survived a 200ft fall from a mountain range said if it was not for a Lochaber rescue service he would not be here today and has urged people to take care on the hills.

Matt Dawson, from Glossop in North Derbyshire, was ice climbing at Aonach Mor in February last year with a friend when disaster struck, leaving him with a broken neck and brain damage.

The 34-year-old outdoor business owner said: 'As far as I can remember, I was climbing ahead of my friend and we had completed a pitch [section] of the climb. I got to the last step and flatter ground and I must have slipped in my crampons whilst building a belay to make myself safe and I fell around 200 feet over the ice cliff.'

Mr Dawson's friend tied ropes together at the bottom



OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST: Matt on a run up Ben Nevis

of the climb and ran to get help, leaving his fellow walker unconscious and attached to a cliff for 40 minutes.

The lucky adventurer shared his story with the *Oban Times* as Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team (LMRT) reached its

100th rescue of the year last week, meaning it has already had its busiest year ever, with four months still left of 2015.

The accident left Mr Dawson - who runs Trekking Skills in England, which provides guided trails, navigation coaching and Duke of Edinburgh training - suffering from a brain haemorrhage, bruising of the brain, severe brain damage, a broken neck, nerve damage and fractures in his foot and arm.

The outdoor enthusiast, who also works part time for the Royal Bank of Scotland in Manchester, said: 'I didn't think this would ever happen to me. I work in the outdoor business. My life is the outdoors and all my friends are mostly outdoor instructors or guides.'

'I teach climbing at outdoor centres in the Peak District.'

'This just shows you the consequences of a big fall whilst climbing, especially in

winter. Thank god for Lochaber mountain rescue or else I would not be here.'

According to Mr Dawson's friend the rescue team gave him just a 10 per cent chance of survival on their way to Belford hospital in Fort William, where he was treated before being transferred to Glasgow.

Miraculously, Mr Dawson has managed to return to the outdoors with support from his family and friends, including his sister Amanda and fiancée Louise Broadstock.

To show his gratitude, the climber presented LMRT with a cheque for £600 in a special visit to Lochaber following his recovery. Determined Mr Dawson has even taken to rock climbing again as he attempts to rebuild his strength.

LMRT's 100th call-out took place on Friday when a woman was rescued on the West Highland Way. Since then, three more people have been rescued and the team are



GRATEFUL: Matt and fiancée Louise presented a cheque to LMRT's Davie Austin, right, and Donald Paterson, left

searching for a missing person now bringing the number of deployments to 105 for the year. Mr Dawson said the unseasonably cold weather had surprised walkers: 'I feel that the summer weather is being

misjudged in Lochaber. As a qualified guide, I've never known this amount of snow to last this long on the mountain summits in Lochaber. Footwear and prior planning of your day out is essential.'



Five new teachers take up posts at Lochaber high

Five new teachers started at Lochaber high school this term. Head teacher, Jim Sutherland, said: 'We're fully staffed for the session ahead and I'm delighted to welcome these new members of staff to Lochaber high. I wish them all the best for their time in the school.'

From left: Allan Newton, history; Kim Boa, physical education; Flora Keppie, chemistry and science; Christine MacMaster, modern studies and Vikki MacKinnon, English

Final summer show then the prizes

LOCHABER schools pipe band played its final high street show of the season ahead of an awards presentation.

The band plays throughout the summer season on the High Street of Fort William to the public and Friday was its last of 2015.

The band also carried out its annual award ceremony in the town.

Piper Sean MacDonald received the June Standen Memorial Shield, which is a prestigious award presented only to the best-turned-out piper or drummer of the season.

Brothers Ewen and Iain MacQueen received special prizes from Jim Sutherland, head teacher of Lochaber high school, and instructor Margaret MacMaster, because they have both reached the age to leave the band.

Ewen is the most senior piper with the band. He joined as a primary school pupil and has been performing with the band for seven years. Ewen will leave to begin work as an apprentice mechanic. Iain has been drumming with the band for five years and will leave Fort William to study maths at Glasgow University.



WINNERS: members of Lochaber schools pipe band received awards at the final show on Fort William High Street on Friday

Council rejects school teacher plea

CALLS to permanently increase the number of teachers at a Gaelic school on Skye have been rejected by Highland council.

Parents of Bun-Sgoil Shlèite (Sleat primary school) pupils, the first Gaelic school with an English unit in Scotland, asked the local authority to retain a teacher who has been covering maternity leave, despite the original employee returning to work, to maintain a higher standard of education. This extra teacher would allow primary four pupils, who are introduced to English language, to

be taught in a separate class from primary one to three children, who are still educated through 'total immersion' in Gaelic. A 700-strong petition campaign against the cut was provided to Highland council's education, children and adult services committee, ahead of a meeting last Thursday (August 27). It said: 'Total immersion is vital in Gaelic medium education and this would be lost as English is introduced in primary four. Furthermore, Bun-sgoil Shlèite has a teaching head teacher, a role which in a Gaelic school with an English unit comes with a

number of very specific duties and extra pressures. The loss of a teacher would add significantly to those pressures.'

But members of the education committee endorsed the current teacher to pupil ratio. Bill Alexander, director of care and learning, said no member of staff had been 'removed' as the probationer wasn't a permanent role. He added: 'The area care and learning manager has been in touch with the school and is confident we can deliver Gaelic medium education at Sleat primary school within the existing policy.'

Campaign boosts pothole repairs

MORE than 1,000 potholes in the Highlands were repaired in the first six months of this year.

A spokesman for Highland council said a campaign to encourage reporting of uneven roads aided the repair of 1,437 potholes between January and June, following 2,538 reports in the same period.

The average time to carry out emergency repairs, from roads to housing, has also dropped from 14 hours last year to six in the first quarter of this year.

Councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of Highland council's community services committee, said: 'The campaign to encourage members of the public to report potholes and other problems online has been very successful, as demonstrated by the large increase in the number of reports received. This is very helpful as it helps our community services staff to quickly identify and prioritise the problem areas and target resources at urgent repairs.'

'It is also very encouraging to see that the time taken to complete emergency repairs has been significantly reduced and staff are to be congratulated for this achievement.'

Police hunt snack bar vandals

POLICE are appealing for witnesses or information regarding the following incidents:

A mobile snack bar was vandalised while situated on a Lochaber building site.

The incident happened between Saturday and Sunday August 23 and 24 at the site in Corroul. The damage was caused at around the same time alcohol was stolen from Corroul Youth Hostel.

On Saturday August 29 someone reportedly lost a quantity of medication on a busy Fort William street.

It is believed the medication was lost on the town's High Street.

People are being urged to call the local police office on 101 or confidentially on 01397 702000.

Crimestoppers may also be contacted anonymously on 0800555111.

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OFFICERS ENFORCE ZERO TOLERANCE APPROACH AND VOW TO FLUSH OUT ORGANISED CRIMINALS

'Nowhere to hide' as police step up drugs crackdown

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

ORGANISED criminals will be flushed out of town with the help of the public, the Oban, Lorn and the isles' area inspector told a meeting of Oban community council on Monday night.

With reports from members of the public that children as young as three are being used as lookouts for drug suppliers and drug barons from the cities beginning to build supply networks for drugs throughout Argyll, Inspector Mark Stephen, a former Glasgow drugs officer, told councillors 'there is an organised way to deal with drug dealers in the town. Tell police officers about it.'

'Oban's drug users and suppliers,' he said, 'were being disrupted and were unable to go about their business.'

Saying it 'will be increasingly difficult' to supply and use drugs in the town, he wants members of the public to come forward with drug use and dealer information, and other criminal activity, in order to halt the supply of heroin, cocaine and other class A, B and C drugs to users.

One person, who has already come forward both to the police and the *Oban Times*, said police acted on information that the informant believed at the time was almost insignificant.

The person decided to speak to officers from the community investigation unit after a chance meeting in the street.

For legal reasons the individual cannot be named.

The *Oban Times* was told by the informant that a few weeks ago information was passed to

“**My children live here - your children live here - they deserve to grow up in safety**”

Inspector Mark Stephen
Area inspector

the police on what was believed to be the delivery of flats made to particular flats in Soroba and Miller Road on the same day every week.

The informant said: 'A team of people who seem to be drug users almost instantly appear after a particular car arrives at a property.'

'Some of the people coming to the house are as young as 12.'

Last Sunday police were called to the Oban-to-Glasgow train to seize a bag of a substance believed to be cocaine worth £50, while other reports of drugs buried in the gardens of the elderly and infirm are being made on a regular basis to both Oban police station and Crimestoppers.

Inspector Stephen has called national police resources into the town to help officers stamp out the scourge of illegal use and supply of drugs.

Inspector Stephen told the community council: 'There is nowhere to hide for drug dealers - we have people every-

where. Police across Argyll and Bute are closing in on drug dealing and the supply chain that already exists.

'My children live here - your children live here - they deserve to grow up in safety.'

He continued: 'We have officers who are collecting and building up information on what is happening in the town and the rest of the area.'

'There are officers in plain clothes working around the town. There really is nowhere for criminals to hide.'

'We have two officers heading up our community investigation unit (CIU) who are gathering intelligence all the time. Because of our work as a team, we know much more about the profile of suppliers, dealers and users in the town.'

Inspector Stephen added: 'We have several supply cases ongoing that have been reported to the area procurator fiscal for his consideration.'

'We have an excellent relationship with our communities who pass information to us through contact with officers or through Crimestoppers.'

'People tell us who they think are drug dealers. We keep all that information.'

Inspector Stephen said the use of specialist road policing units had helped to identify vehicles and people of interest who may be involved with criminal activity.

Inspector Stephen said: 'We will do everything possible to disrupt criminal activity.'

'Anyone with information in regards to illegal drug use should phone the community investigation unit in Oban by dialling 101 or speaking in confidence to Crimestoppers.'

Argyll piper hits all the right notes at gathering



Stuart Liddell of Inveraray with his haul of prizes after winning the senior piobaireachd competition at last week's Argyllshire Gathering. His winning tune Lament for the Earl of Antrim ensured him a place at the prestigious Glenfiddich championships in Blair Castle in October. See pages 14 and 15 for full coverage of the Argyllshire Gathering.

TIMESLINE

Sectarian singers sought by officers

FIVE men who shouted and sang offensive songs while drinking on a train from Glasgow to Oban are being sought by British Transport Police (BTP).

It happened on the 4.37pm service from Glasgow Queen Street on Saturday. The men are described as being in their late 30s. One had a shaved head, another was wearing a white t-shirt and one of them had a moustache.

Police constable Stephanie Crawford said: 'This sort of behaviour is not acceptable.'

Youngsters reach music semi final

THREE youngsters from the west coast have made it into the semi final of the Radio Scotland young traditional musician of the year.

Fiddle players Neil Ewart from Ardnamurchan and Hannah Macrae from Lochaber will join Lismore accordionist Murray Willis at the semi-final weekend in South Lanarkshire, on October 2-4.

They will perform at a concert on Saturday October 3 in Coulter Hall, Coulter, South Lanarkshire.

From this concert, six musicians are chosen to go through to finals at Celtic Connections festival in Glasgow in January 2016.

Parking fine cash tops £177,000

PARKING fines have topped £177,000 in the first year Argyll's council has operated on-street parking charges.

Taking over the parking meters in Argyll and Bute has seen the level of income reach £177,139 from parking contravention notices alone and a further £500,000 from parking charges.

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Winter gritting plan condemned

A LOCHABER councillor has condemned the Highland authority's winter gritting policy, despite being a member of the administration which wrote it.

Ben Thompson blasted amended route plans at Lochaber area committee last week after four roads in the area were given lower priority than last year, as part of policy changes.

The Caol and Mallaig Independent councillor complained that roads in Glengarry, Spean Bridge, Ardgour and Polloch had been demoted from 'secondary' to 'other', meaning they will no longer be classed as a priority for gritting following policy changes by his party's minority administration. This is due to a reduction in the size of school buses using the roads.

According to the new guidelines, a bus must ferry nine or



UNHAPPY AT GRITTING PLANS: Ben Thompson

more pupils for the road to be considered a school bus route.

At the Lochaber meeting last Tuesday Mr Thompson called the amendments 'a farce': 'This changing of routes every year and dumping them into another category appears that we're doing that just so we can say that we are meeting the policy.'

'From the public's perspective, that stinks. We shouldn't be doing that. I think this is a farce and what greatly concerns me is the point about - are we achieving the policy? Every year the number of secondary roads is getting smaller and smaller. What we're setting out to cover changes from year to year. It looks to the public that what we're effectively doing is changing the area that we want to cover to fit the budget.'

Fellow Lochaber councillors agreed the policy should be re-examined and referred it

back to the administration.

Council leader Margaret Davidson said the policy would be examined with the help of the community services committee. She said: 'We inherited a budget from the last administration that the Independent group disagreed with and voted against. I agree with

Ben because no-one wants to do these things but we have been left with a very difficult budget. I'm going to look at exactly what we can do about this alongside Allan Henderson [chairman of community services] who is a Lochaber man so knows the issues with rural roads in winter.'

Lochaber pavement clearing concern

LOCHABER pavements could be left icy and covered in snow this winter, as it was revealed that just half the equipment required to grit walkways was available.

Cameron Kemp, one of Highland council's community services managers, told Lochaber area committee there were currently just two pavement tractors available for the whole area, compared to the usual four or five.

Brian Murphy, councillor for Fort William and Ardnamurchan, raised his concerns about the issue and asked if more would be made available in time for winter.

There are currently 48 pavement tractors in the Highland council area.

Mr Kemp replied: 'We will need to query that and investigate if we can get that for an even distribution.'

Big entry for Dalmally's big show day

THE AGRICULTURAL show season is coming to an end, but it goes out with more of a bang than a whimper this Saturday, September 5, at Dalmally.

Traditionally one of the most prestigious days in the calendar for the Blackface sheep and Highland cattle breeds, this year's Dalmally agricultural show also has all sorts of attractions for every member of the family.

The Dalmally dog show grows bigger year-on-year, while local farmers have defied the dreadful summer weather by producing more livestock entries than last year across sheep, cattle and poultry sections.

The skills on show in the home industries section are always amazing to behold, with a big entry in both the adult and children's sections. Floral displays, home baking and preserves, horticultural produce and much more besides will stimulate the senses.

Primary school six-a-side shinty teams from across Argyll will be battling it out for the Pat

Chrystal Memorial Trophy, and this is sure to offer an entertaining spectacle for spectators.

The terrier race is always great fun, while the Daltote horse display team will entertain the crowds with remarkable horsemanship. Nostalgia will be to the fore as the vintage tractors make their appearance, while the Clan Colquhoun Pipe Band from Helensburgh will offer musical entertainment throughout the day.

There will be plenty of trade stands and rides for children of all ages to enjoy - but the main event at Dalmally is the competition, and livestock judging begins at 10am.

Show secretary Rhona Crawford said: 'Everything is a bit behind this year with the weather, but people have still entered in big numbers. We're up on livestock entries, and this year there is double the number of entries in the Highland cattle.'

She added: 'Dalmally is always a good day out, whatever the weather, so come and enjoy it with us.'



Laila checks in with church cash

A three-year-old from Taynuilt raised £1,222.55 by climbing a 368-metre peak to raise money for St Conan's Kirk, Loch Awe, after lead was stolen from the church roof in July. Laila Lopez, who gave £11.50 from her own piggy bank, climbed Beinn Lora in two hours. Laila decided to do the sponsored climb after her mum told her about the £35,000-worth of lead that was stripped by thieves in July. Laila was made an honorary member of Friends of St Conan's Kirk and at three, she is the charity's youngest advocate 07_136conan1

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No butts- smoking banned at Oban hospital

CIGARETTE butts at the door of Oban's Lorn and Islands hospital are unsightly and puffing at the front door needs to be stopped, said one visitor to the hospital last week.

NHS Highland said it promoted a healthy environment and regularly cleaned up the area - but apologised if it was a mess.

Hospital visitor Katie Boyd of Oban told the *Oban Times*: 'I have just been to



Lorn and Islands hospital is a no-smoking zone - but one visitor feels the rules are not being enforced

the hospital this morning and attempted to enter by the side door, which I think was locked.

'I was absolutely disgusted to see all the fag ends sitting in a corner beside that door.'

'I spoke to a member of staff inside and said I was utterly disgusted to see them.'

'I commented that I saw the nurses and staff right at the end of the hospital grounds, facing the bus stop on Glengallan Road, having their cigarette.'

'They have to obey the rules on smoking so why is nothing being done to stop patients and this disgusting habit right at the door of the hospital.'

'They are not even being swept up but then I would imagine the cleaners are not responsible for that.'

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'We are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for patients, visitors and staff and we have a

no-smoking policy for the hospital and its grounds. The vast majority of the public comply with this policy and if anyone is observed smoking they will be reminded of the policy by our staff.'

'The main entrance is also cleaned regularly as part of the cleaning schedule for the hospital and any rubbish will be collected and disposed of and we can only apologise if that has not happened on this occasion.'

TIMESLINE

Speeding drivers caught by police

MOTORISTS have caught the attention of traffic officers this week after travelling at excessive speeds on the A82.

On August 30, a 21-year-old man was stopped after allegedly travelling at speeds of more than 100 mph in a 60 mph zone.

The same day, near Tyndrum, a 41-year-old motorist was allegedly detected travelling at more than 88mph in a 60mph zone.

Later that evening, again near Tyndrum, a 57-year-old man was detected travelling at 87mph in a 60mph zone.

Police sergeant Alan Moore said police units were on patrol in the area and anyone caught speeding would be fined or reported to the procurator fiscal.

Thieves may have been disturbed

A BREAK in at a Connel boatyard may have been disrupted before any theft took place, but officers still want to know of any information about people in the area at the time of the serious breaking and entering.

A shed at Fisherman's Wharf at Connel had been broken into and a gate had been cut open.

Conducting the enquiry, police constable Fraser Anderson wants to hear from anyone who saw anything suspicious between 7pm last Thursday, August 27, and 11am on Friday August 28.

Search on for man seen in Gallanach

POLICE are searching for a man in his 50s with a Liverpool accent who they would like to eliminate from their enquiries.

The man, believed to be a visitor to the area, is described as white with long hair tied up in a pony tail. He is believed to have been in the Gallanach area of the town between 6pm and 10pm last Friday when a theft occurred and may have vital information about the crime.

Parking blunder sees church goers fined

LOUISE GLEN
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PARISHIONERS at St Columba's Cathedral in Oban have been shocked to find car parking tickets pasted over more than 20 cars while they attended mass.

The town's car parking attendant targeted the cars of people who have been going to mass in the same church and parking in the same place for more than 30 years.

Sandy McGregor, nephew of one of the octogenarian church goers, said: 'Whilst attending St Columba's Cathedral church, as my 79-year-old uncle

does every Sunday morning, he returned to his car to find out he had a parking ticket.

'He was not the only one. Everyone who parked on the single yellow line across the road from the cathedral also got one.'

'Some common sense should apply here.'

'It is truly a sad day when parking attendants are targeting people at church on a Sunday.'

'As far as he was aware the parking restrictions on the single yellow line only apply Monday to Saturday and in the last 30 years he has been parking on the single yellow

line across from the cathedral on a Sunday and he has never received a ticket nor has anyone else he knows. He is very upset over the matter.'

'Are we so badly off for money in Argyll and Bute that an old man cannot go and say prayers on a Sunday for an hour without fear that he will be fined for doing so?'

'In pursuit of attendants meeting targets are we going to be putting off people from going to worship in their community?'

'I don't think £70 fines will do much for anyone's mental health never mind the pocket of a pensioner.'

Graham Fraser from art shop Alba on Albany Street said: 'It is high time the council considered the problems that parking charges are causing.'

'Evidence from Wales now shows that by cancelling parking charges towns can achieve a 50 per cent rise in business.'

In response to the parking tickets given out near the cathedral, councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'We will be taking this up and apologise for the lack of consideration and the concern this has caused.'

An Argyll and Bute council spokesman said: 'There are no targets either for the number of [parking contravention notices]

PCNs a warden must issue or for income from decriminalised parking enforcement.'

'The council took on the responsibility for enforcing parking regulations throughout the area to ensure effective traffic management in our towns.'

The spokesman added: 'Outside the cathedral on the seaward side of the road there are two separate parking restrictions.'

'There is a single yellow line which indicates that parking or waiting at that roadside is prohibited at certain times of day, in this instance from Monday to Saturday.'

'There are also sections of

double yellow lines which mean no waiting at any time.'

'If cars are caught parking on the double yellow lines the issuing of a PCN is legitimate.'

'If cars were parked on the single yellow line on Sunday and were issued with PCNs this was in error and we will, of course, rescind them and apologise for any confusion.'

'We would encourage anyone who was in the area on Sunday and feels they may have been incorrectly issued with a PCN to make contact with us (as we do not hold their contact details) using the contact details on the back of the PCN and we will look into it.'

Benefits of road safety campaign outlined to minister during visit

JUSTICE secretary Michael Matheson visited Oban community fire station last week to hear about the 'cut-it-out' road safety campaign.

Mr Matheson was given a tour of the station and was then provided with the chance to view appliances and other operational resources.

He then met with the on-duty fire crew before being given the opportunity to observe a real-time crash simulation.

The MSP was then updated on some of the community-based initiatives the station is engaged in with its multi-agency partners. This includes the 'cut-it-out' road safety

initiative which is a programme aimed at promoting safe driving amongst young drivers and passengers of school leaver age.

Mr Matheson met some of the young people who have already taken part in the programme and he was very interested in their feedback.

He also met June Graham and Kay McGhee from Argyll and Bute council's road safety department.

June and Kay explained to Mr Matheson the rationale behind the initiative and they also spoke of the positive feedback received from the schools which have participated so far.



ROAD WATCH: MSP Michael Matheson joins Oban community fire station manager Martin Hill and watch manager Duncan Litster

Progress made in bid to secure fairer system of buying cheap train tickets

PROGRESS in securing a 'fairer' system of buying cheaper tickets on the Oban to Glasgow rail route during peak hours has been made.

The current pricing structure does not allow anyone on the early train to get a discount as it is a 'rush-hour train' but regularly leaves the town with 'only a few' passengers on board.

Duncan Martin, a community councillor in Oban, has asked the national rail authority for a 'split ticket exemption' under rules in the train operators handbook.

Mr Martin said: 'I wrote to Abellio ScotRail

and then had a long phone call with them but to date I have not received a written answer.'

'But there is a feeling that there is an inconsistency by the way other rail lines work with rush hour rulings.'

'In some places it is when a train arrives in Glasgow rather than when it leaves the end of the line.'

Community councillors said they believed a review on the pricing structure of the railway was already in place, but would write again to ask for a face-to-face meeting with ScotRail.

Senior officers on the move to town

TWO SENIOR police officers are coming to live in Oban.

Inspector Mark Stephen told Oban community council: 'An officer from Aberdeen and one from Fife are both moving back to the area.'

'Under a national police force we can cast our net far and wide to recruit staff.'

'This makes it easier to encourage people to come to Oban.'



TEAMWORK: left to right, Gordon McNab, Louise Stewart, Sorley Henderson and Kelie Cooper.

A warm welcome for winner Kelie

AN AWARD winning paralegal joined Stevenson Kennedy Solicitors in Oban earlier this month.

Kelie Cooper, 46, won paralegal of the year at both the Scottish Law Awards in September 2014 and the Scott and Co Legal Awards in March 2015.

Kelie specialises in wills, executries and powers of attorney. She is available to meet at the office in Oban or a home visit can be arranged. She said: 'It feels like I've been here for years. It's my home away from home. It's a great environment and they're lovely people to work for.'

Oban police are on the case in August

SINCE the beginning of August, Oban town centre has seen increased police activity, which the force says is normal for this time of year.

Community officer Jeremy Moore told a meeting of Oban community council on Monday night that there had been 13 crime reports.

These included disorder in the town, one Licensing Scotland Act case [where a drunk person did not leave a licensed premises when asked], six thefts, four vandalism cases, six road traffic offences and one case of wild life crime.

OCTOBER ISSUE OUT NOW

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THIS WEEK: **Mike MacKenzie** Thanks to community council officers for their support in the recent election

Macaulay Cup match report and photos from the 2015 final

Agenda: ● the people ● the issues ● the back story

Nicola's a class act say pupils as school visit leaves them on a high

TIMESLINE Annual review on the cards for 2015

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Finlay Wild will try for six out of six in Ben race

HUNDREDS of people from all over the UK and beyond will race up Britain's highest mountain on Saturday.

The Ben Nevis race, officially founded in 1951 with a field of 21 runners, now welcomes 600 athletes annually, all running the ascent of more than 4,000 feet to the summit and back again.

Not for the faint-hearted, rules state that competitors must reach halfway to the top in one hour or they will be turned back, as will anyone who doesn't reach the summit in two hours.

Of the field, more than 100 will be local, recognised by their distinguishing white and blue Lochaber Athletic Club (LAC) vests. Nestled among them will be last year's winner, Finlay Wild,



FIVE IN A ROW: Finlay Wild celebrates winning the Ben Nevis race for the fifth year running, the only person to do so, at last year's event 20_136benrace01

Athletics

who will try again to beat Kenny Stuart's fastest time of one hour, 25 minutes and 34 seconds, held since 1984.

Although the Lochaber doctor has never broken this record, Wild set his own last year when he became the only competitor to win five years in a row.

It's not only winners who will be hoping for silverware, as seven competitors have also set their sights on a coveted Connochie Plaque, awarded to those who complete the gruelling challenge 21 times. The prize is awarded in honour of Kathleen Connochie, who stunned spectators in 1955 when, at age 16, she set off in the race two minutes after the main field, after being forbidden to compete by the Scottish Amateur Athletic Organisation.

Despite Kathleen's efforts, it wasn't until 1978 that women were officially allowed to run the Ben Nevis race. This year, Mandy Goth of Todmorden Harriers, West Yorkshire, will be the first woman to receive a Connochie Plaque, if she completes the race on Saturday.

Now an event for all the family, festivities at Claggan park start with a shinty tournament at 10am and a six-a-side football festival, starting shortly after the field set off at 1pm.



SPARRING PARTNERS: Claymores boxing club welcomed fighters from all over the country to a sparring day in Kinlochleven

Gloves are off at Claymores sparring day

MORE than 30 boxers and their coaches from all over Scotland travelled to Kinlochleven recently for a day of sparring with Claymores boxing club.

From ages 10 through to 40, male and female athletes with varying levels of experience took the opportunity on August 22

to test their skills against new opponents.

Martin Glensiek, head coach with Claymores, said: "The standard of sparring on show was first rate and everyone got a chance to spar a range of opponents and learn some valuable lessons ahead of the new season. We had five of our own boxers

Boxing

in the ring who have been training hard all summer. They all did me proud and I fully expect them to bring back some medals from the Scottish Novice Championships in October."

Taking the plunge for Glencoe open water swim

ALMOST 100 swimmers braved the chilly waters of Loch Leven for the first Glencoe open water swim at the weekend.

Saturday's heavy downpours didn't dampen the spirits of the 98 brave souls who dived into the loch to battle through blustery winds.

Starting from Glencoe boat club, the event offered a variety of distances from 50 metres to five kilometres.

Sam Daynes, 11, from Ballachulish was the youngest competitor on the day, successfully completing the 500-metre section.

Catherine Susans, chairwoman of sponsors

Swimming

Discover Glencoe, said: "It's been great to see so many people travelling to the area to participate in this new event. They haven't been put off by the weather either, though that's perhaps because they knew that they were going to be getting a little wet anyway."

"I've been speaking to swimmers who've come from as far away as London and the east coast of Scotland. It's been a great response, and I hope that we will see the event returning in future years."



IN THE SWIM: Brave swimmers took on the cold waters of Loch Leven for the Glencoe open water swim at the weekend



WINNERS: David Corrigan of league sponsors, Marine Harvest, presents the Duthie cup to Caol United

Caol United win Duthie Cup

WINNING the final match of this year's Marine Harvest welfare league wasn't enough for Mallaig to secure the Duthie cup.

The team beat Caol United 7-3 at home last Wednesday but couldn't overturn an 8-1 defeat the previous week, allowing

Welfare football

Caol to take home the trophy on aggregate.

Scottish champions Cribbage

TWO FORT William men have won the cribbage pairs Scottish championship.

Colin MacDonald and John Garrick, members of the town's British Legion branch, won all their games in the competition in Coldstream.

Colin also won the Highlands and Islands cribbage singles.

Sandy wins Isle of Skye open Golf

THE ISLE of Skye golf open was held at the weekend, with five competitions played on Saturday.

Results: all Skye club member unless otherwise stated, Gents' scratch: 1 Sandy Ross 73; 2 Simon Latton 74; 3 Willie Cowie 76. Gents' handicap, division one: 1 Martin Bird 61 (73-12); 2 Jamie Beaton 65 bh (75-10); 3 Kenny Gollan 65 (76-11). Gents' handicap, division two:

Golf

1 Alasdair H Mackenzie 65 (86-21); 2 Calum Beaton 66 (81-15); 3 Austin Fisher 69 (83-14).

Ladies' scratch: 1 Karen Starr (Lochcarron) 80; 2 Jill Mackinnon 90.

Ladies' handicap: 1 June Sanderson 65 (88-23); 2 Donalda Johnston 66 (90-24).

Fort lose to Lossie

Football

Lossiemouth	2
Fort William	1
Highland League	

FORT William suffered another loss at the weekend, despite playing well in the second half. The team were away at Lossiemouth and were disappointed at the 2-1 defeat after their first victory of the season against Deveronvale the previous weekend.

Already two goals down, Fort striker John McLeod fired the ball in to the net in the second half, but it was not enough to turn the game around.

Determined, the side continued to try to get a goal back and battled until the final whistle but alas they couldn't get that elusive equaliser and lost by the odd goal in three.

This Saturday Fort William will travel to take on bottom of the table Rothes at MacKessack Park. The game kicks-off at 3pm.

Rothes were on the wrong end of a 9-0 scoreline against a rampant Formartine United at the weekend, so Fort William will be confident they can get a result at the shell-shocked Speysiders.

The last three encounters between the teams have provided one win apiece and supplied an astonishing 17, so a cracking game is in prospect.

Change of date proves successful Yachting

A YACHT club's annual race proved to be a success, despite a change of date.

Lochaber Yacht Club held the yearly event on the weekend of August 22 and 23.

The regatta is normally held in June over a week, but a decision was taken to move the dinghy race to a date later in the summer and on a tighter timescale.

Domhnall Montgomery of the club said: "This change seemed to be popular with the members, with a good turnout. Dinghy racing was held on the Saturday and Sunday and the keelboat racing took place on Sunday."

On the Sunday afternoon competitors, spectators and organisers enjoyed a barbecue, followed by an award ceremony that saw prize winners receive their trophies.

Results: Simpson trophy for fast handicap dinghies, Keith Falconer and Lucy Ballantyne; Britannia cup for slow handicap dinghies, Ben Lennon; Junior cup, Ruairidh Poll; M M Cameron - the Keelboat trophy, Domhnall Montgomery, Sine Montgomery and Alex Francis.



PRIZEWINNERS: From left: Ben Lennon, Lucy Ballantyne, Keith Falconer, Ruairidh Poll, and Domhnall Montgomery

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WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy
Winds moderate north north westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.

Friday Cloudy with light rain showers
Winds moderate north north westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 13°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday
Cloudy on Sunday
Winds moderate north north westerly
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, September 3, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	02.41	0.6	08.23	3.7	15.03	0.6
Fri	03.28	0.8	09.07	3.4	15.55	1.0
Sat	04.21	1.1	10.00	3.1	16.53	1.3
Sun	05.22	1.4	11.22	2.9	18.04	1.6
Mon	00.58	2.8	06.33	1.6	13.28	2.9
Tues	02.44	2.9	07.57	1.6	15.32	3.0
Wed	03.50	3.0	09.11	1.4	15.59	3.2

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-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