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The Argyllshire Gathering 2016



THE ARTEMIS MACAULAY CUP FINAL

INVERARAY

KINLOCHSHIEL

Oban care home needs rebuilt but will not close

LOUISE GLEN
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A GUARANTEE that Eadar Glinn Care Home in Oban will not close was given by the NHS Highland locality manager at Oban Community Council on Monday night.

Annie MacLeod, locality manager for Oban, Lorn and the Isles, said the Oban care home service's strength was its staff – but the building itself would need to be replaced.

However, the large crowd at the community council meeting were told: 'There is no allocation in the budget for rebuilding at the moment.'

The community council raised a concern about the out-and-out closure of the care home – the only one in the area to be run by Argyll and Bute Council.

The fears were raised after the integrated joint board (IJB) of Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland made the decision to close two similar former council-run homes in Dunoon and on the Isle of Bute.

Councillor Kieron Green, incoming chairman of the IJB, said the issue of Eadar Glinn had to be on the agenda.

He said: 'There is no truth in the rumour that it is to be closed, but the building itself needs to be discussed. We need a newer, purpose-built facility in the town. We do need Eadar Glinn. Over time we are going to care for people with more complex needs and at the moment those needs cannot be accommodated with the best technology at Eadar Glinn.'

Oban Community Council

was told purpose-built hoists and en suite facilities could not be fitted in the current building.

After the meeting, locality manager Mrs MacLeod told *The Oban Times*: 'Eadar Glinn is retained in ownership by the local authority and it would be its decision to sell it.'

However, it would be the decision of the IJB.

Mrs MacLeod confirmed: 'Plans have so far not been developed. We haven't got anywhere near that. When we do, we will be consulting with

“ We need to pull together to deliver services in rural areas ”

Annie MacLeod
Locality manager

as many people as possible and making sure that the community is fully engaged.'

Mrs MacLeod said the rising demand for care home beds means that losing a service in the area would not be an option. She said: 'We need some provision for elderly care.'

She added that the way the care home would be delivered would be widely consulted on among the community.

Using partnerships between the community and the health

board on Mull at Java as an example, Mrs MacLeod said: 'There is a fantastic facility on Mull with Bowman Court, enabling people to live independently but also having support available when required.'

Mrs MacLeod pointed to the community and health service being delivered in Appin, calling it a 'good news story'.

She continued: 'We need to pull together to deliver our services in rural areas.'

It was suggested that a collaboration between health and a social enterprise or private business would be the most likely option in the delivery of a care home in Oban.

Mrs MacLeod said Eadar Glinn was on 'prime land', leading one councillor to suggest the sale of the land at the current site could be used for the rebuilding on a new site.

Veteran community councillor Duncan Martin said: 'The staff deserve a better place to work.'

Community councillor Jessie MacFarlane said: 'We should make the empty beds in the hospital into an old folk's place and let them pay. Could you not make it into a bed area for old people?'

Caroline Henderson, integrated joint board local area manager for Oban community, said: 'It is about changing the service to meet the needs of the community.'

'People want to be at home and cared for at home.'

Mrs Henderson said services were being developed in the community to meet the needs of patients and the vision was for more people to be cared for at home.

Big-hearted youngster leaves dad in his wake during charity cycle



Lewis and his dad Kevin before they set off on their challenge to cycle to Fort William.

17_136lewismaccuish1

THE WEE BOY from Benderloch did it!

Lewis MacCuish alongside his dad, Kevin, cycled the full 40 miles to Fort William in under four hours.

But he also smashed his fundraising target of £500, raising £650 for a Scottish children's charity.

And the eight-year-old was

all ready to cycle back again – but his dad had run out of 'puff'.

The pair were raising money for the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity, leaving from Lochnell Primary School in Benderloch at 7am on Saturday and making their way to Fort William.

With wellwishers there to

cheer on the pair of explorers, the first stop was to be the Creagan Inn.

Taking only three hours and 45 minutes, Lewis came into Fort William to successfully complete his challenge.

If anyone would like to donate to the youngster's fundraising, search the Just Giving site for his page, Lewis cycles 40 miles.

TIMESLINE

Dates set for new waste collections

NEW dates for refuse and recycling collection have been confirmed.

General waste will be collected every three weeks starting from Monday October 3 in Kintyre, Mull, Islay, Jura and Bute; from October 31 in Mid-Argyll, Lomond and Helensburgh; and from November 28 in Oban, Lorn, Cowal, Lismore, Tiree, Coll and Colonsay.

Argyll and Bute Council said it is increasing recycling services to help households move to a three-weekly general waste collections, meet national recycling targets and save money for council services.

Recycling waste will continue to be uplifted every two weeks. Households with a blue recycling bin can request a second bin, and homes with recycling bags can request additional bags. Arrangements can be made for certain households to have a second general waste green bin – where there are five or more people, where someone has a medical condition that generates waste, or where families have children using nappies and all recycling options have been considered.

Lismore gears up for book festival

SCOTLAND is the theme of this year's Lismore Book Week, which runs from Monday to Friday next week in Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre. The festival features talks by James Robertson, Alan Riach on translating Alexander MacDonald's Gaelic epics, and music by Mairi Campbell and a workshop on how to write and illustrate by Jennifer Baker and Sarah Campbell. For the full programme, go to page 14.



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CalMac set to transform services

COMMUNITY, social enterprise and safety are at the heart of the winning bid to provide west coast ferry services from October.

CalMac has revealed its plans to transform services which includes a post to promote community engagement and work with other transport providers.

Managing director Martin Dorchester said CalMac's bid will drive improvements and transform the experience of ferry travellers, exemplify customer focus and confirm the company's determination to make a positive difference to the communities it serves.

Mr Dorchester said: 'Our bid

was based on retaining safety at the heart of our operation, a sustainable long-term reduction in subsidy through improving operational efficiency and revenue growth, and enhancing our service to offer even higher levels of customer satisfaction and community engagement. We recognise the importance of ferry services in developing sustainable communities, driving economic growth and enabling island and rural companies to do business with the rest of the world.'

'We also have an enduring commitment to improving environmental sustainability and are a socially responsible

employer which values and invests in our staff.'

CalMac has said it will:
■ Maximise opportunities for local companies, supported businesses (where 30 per cent of staff are disabled or disadvantaged) and social enterprises to tender for supply contracts. CalMac has set a target of sourcing 80 per cent of fresh produce from within its network area.
■ Appoint a director of community and stakeholder engagement and create a board to involve communities in strategic matters that affect them.
■ Take an innovative approach to the introduction of

smart and integrated ticketing to provide improved choice and convenience for passengers.

■ Continue investment in officer cadets, rating apprenticeships and training.

■ Invest £6 million in on-board, port and passenger area improvements.

■ Introduce daily demand forecasting to discourage late cancellations to improve capacity utilisation and greater certainty of travel.

■ Appoint a transport integration manager.

■ Help monitor marine animals and work with marine conservation bodies, supporting economic sustainability.

Dalmally Agricultural Show

Saturday 3rd September 2016 - The Mart Park, Dalmally

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Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

All that jazz

THE island's 2016 jazz festival will kick off on September 9 with an already sold-out performance by the celebrated guitarists Martin Taylor and Ulf Wakenius in the Malt Mill at Lagavulin Distillery, which continues to provide the festival sponsorship.

On the same evening, at 8.30pm, Lagavulin will host the experimental jazz band Pixel with their unique concept of ethereal jazz and indie rock.

Also on the same night, saxophonist, whistle and bagpipe player Fraser Fifield and guitarist Graeme Stephen will be strutting their stuff at Ionad Chalaim Chille Ile at 7pm. They will be ably augmented by the Islay Jazz Quartet, which features leader and drummer Brian Palmer, saxophonist Kirsty MacArthur, bass player Neil Anderson and pianist Craig Weatherhogg.

The Gaelic centre will also be the Friday night setting at 9.15pm for the gig featuring award-winning vocalist Alison Afflick, trumpeter Colin Steele and guitarist Graeme Stephen. Bringing the curtain down on the opening night in the Bruichladdich Hall at 10.30pm will be Pocien De Fe with their funky grooves and horn licks.

Saturday's programme sees Norwegian musicians Haftor Medboe (guitar), Espen Eriksen (piano) and Gunnar Halle (trumpet) at a midday concert at Lagavulin, while the Ulf Wakenius Trio up the tempo at the Gaelic centre at 12.30pm.

Pixel will make a further appearance at Laphroaig Distillery at 3pm and Colin Steele will be joined by his fellow trumpeter Enrico Tomasso at the St Columba Centre at 4pm.

Martin Taylor and Friends will do much string strumming at the Rhinns Hall at Portnahaven at 6pm and the Bruichladdich Hall will resound to the music of alto saxophonist Martin Kershaw's quartet at 8pm before making way for the appearance of trumpeter Ryan Quigley's international quintet at 10.30pm.

Stellar American vocalist James Torme, son of the internationally famous Mel and grandson of British actress Dame Thora Hird, will celebrate the great American songbook at Lagavulin at 8.30pm and pay tribute to such jazz giants as Miles Davis, Nat King Cole, Peggy Lee and Ella Fitzgerald.

Sunday sees the final concerts with young jazz stars Johnston, Jarvie and Henderson in action at the RSPB Centre at Aoradh at noon. The Mighty Bug Ragtime Three, with Erico Tomasso, will make a midday appearance at Ardbeg Distillery, to be followed at 3pm by popular festival pianist Fergus MacCreedy and his trio.

Brazilian bass player Mario Caribe and his quartet will entertain at the Gaelic centre at 5.30pm and Mercy Mercy Mercy, fronted by Martin Kershaw and Colin Steele, will provide the festival closing gig at the Bruichladdich Hall at 8pm.

The increasingly popular festival is promoted by Jazz Scotland in close conjunction with the island's arts association.

Winning bowlers

THERE was much good-natured rivalry at the annual bowling match held at Port Ellen which commemorates the all-too-short life of John Stewart, a son of Professor Sir William Stewart, a native of Port Ellen and a proud Ileach.

The winners of the Stewart trophy were Andy Hope and Hamish Gillespie who, in a tight final, put paid to the opposition offered by Stuart MacNeill and Kenny MacGlashan, last year's winners.



Bowls presentation, left to right, Kenny MacGlashan, Hamish Gillespie, Lady Elizabeth and Sir William Stewart, Andy Hope and Stuart MacNeill.

The bowling club's president, Eddie Pollard, along with predecessor Ralph Middleton, brought their professionalism to the match arrangements and the event attracted support from as far afield as San Francisco.

Especially welcome at the competition was an appearance by the club's senior president Alex 'Philo' Johnston, a bowls stalwart in fitter days.

Sir William's wife Lady Elizabeth presented the trophy and the other spoils of victory to the worthy winners.

Hugh Smith,
4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. 01496 810 658.



Crowds turned out for Ulva Ferry pontoon opening, with the ribbon cut, below, by Jeanie MacColl and Bruce Cutlack. Pictures: Zac Finch

Hundreds turn out for pontoon opening

LOUISE GLEN
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THE OPENING of Ulva Ferry's eight-berth pontoon on Saturday marked another moment in the community's ambitions to turn a rural coastline on the Isle of Mull into a vibrant location for families to live.

The pontoon opening shows the tide has turned for the ambitious community which at one time had been told its school would close due to lack of people moving into the area.

Five years on, the community through its charity, Ulva School Community Association (USCA), has built its own pontoons, provided community transport, created many more opportunities for social gatherings and developed a state-of-the-art housing project.

The island support for these projects could be seen last Saturday, August 27, as members of the community came out in droves with more than 200 people attending events for the



official Ulva Ferry pontoon opening.

Businesses and volunteers joined in the celebrations with day trips run by Mull Charters, Turus Mara, Isle of Mull Coastal Rowing and tours of RNLI's Severn-class lifeboat *Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsay*. There were also stalls from Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, HM Coastguard, Wild Child Scotland

Outdoors and others. Mull Gaelic Choir (Coisir Ghaidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich) sang beautiful songs of the sea including *Cearcall a chuain (Circle of the Ocean)* before the ribbon-cutting by community stalwart Jeanie MacColl and Bruce Cutlack – one of the youngest members of the Ulva Ferry community and pupil of Ulva school.

Alexander Anderson piped the procession to Ulva school for

the ceilidh, where everyone was entertained by Sandy MacAulay and friends.

Cally Fleming, Ulva Ferry development officer, said: 'We are delighted the project is complete. The pontoon will provide the only secure berthing on the west of Mull, opening up more sailing opportunities in this stunning coastal area. It will be part of the growing marine tourism sector, with sailing worth more than £100 million to Scotland's economy each year.'

'The pontoon will complement other facilities at Tobermory, Salen, Lochaline and Mallaig, and will be a stepping stone to Coll, Tiree, the Small Isles and the Western Isles, and to Jura, Islay, Colonsay and Ireland. Facilities will include fresh water, electricity, fuel and wifi and access to nearby award-winning restaurants.'

'We are looking forward to welcoming boats from the Clyde and from all around the UK and beyond to sample what Mull has to offer.'

Islay ferry services face disruption

ESSENTIAL repair work at Port Ellen ferry terminal will require operator CalMac to divert all Islay services to Port Askaig for a period of around three weeks.

The port's linkspan is being replaced by owner Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL).

The work, previously announced to take place in April, has now been rescheduled and the terminal will close from October 24 to November 14.

There will be no reduction in overall service but an amended timetable will operate. A free bus transfer service will be provided from Port Ellen to Port Askaig for foot passengers.

'While this closure will, unfortunately, cause some inconvenience to the travelling public for a short period of time, this is essential upgrade work being carried out by the port owner CMAL,' said CalMac's director of operations Drew Collier.

'To help us limit disruption as much as possible, we ask that foot passengers looking to travel to or from Port Ellen should alert our contact centre 24 hours before they travel during this period. This will allow us to plan road transfers effectively.'

CalMac's customer team can be contacted on 0800 066 5000.

Bid to help quake victims

OBAN and Lorn Lions Club is raising money this weekend to help the victims of the Italian earthquake disaster.

A collection point will be held on Saturday (September 3) at Tesco, from 10am to 4pm, to 'raise as much needed funds as possible to assist the many unfortunate families who have lost everything', the club's appeal explains.

'Any donation, no matter how large or small, will be gratefully accepted and forwarded to the Lions Club International Fund, to be used where necessary locally in that area. To date £75,000 has already been awarded to this needy cause.'

Oban to host cancer van

THE HOMEBASE superstore in Oban has offered an information bus space to give people the knowledge they need to understand cancer.

Macmillan Cancer Support is bringing its mobile information centre to the store's car park on Thursday September 15 and it will be open to the public from 10am to 4pm.

On board will be a team of cancer specialists who can offer information and support to anyone with a concern or questions relating to the disease.

No appointments are required and anyone is welcome to just pick up leaflets or stay a while for a face-to-face conversation.

Islands Bill is welcomed by Argyll and Bute

LEGISLATION 'to empower Scotland's island communities' is to be progressed over the next year, and the Scottish Government's announcement has been welcomed by Argyll and Bute Council.

Islands Minister Humza Yousaf said the new Islands Bill will be shaped by the findings from a recent consultation, and will be brought forward during the next 12 months – within the first year of the new parliamentary session.

Mr Yousaf said: 'Our islands make a significant contribution to Scottish life from both a cultural and economic perspective. Drawing on the work of both the Island Areas Ministerial Working Group and the consultation findings, the bill will provide lasting benefits for all our island communities for generations to come.'

A new Islands Strategic Group has also been announced, which will include representatives from all six local authorities which

represent Scotland's 93 inhabited island communities.

Councillor Len Scoullar, Provost of Argyll and Bute and chairman of the islands task force and policy lead for island affairs, said: 'We are pleased that the needs of our island communities will be considered at a national level.'

'Argyll and Bute has 23 inhabited islands, each with its own distinct identity. The council set up its own islands task force to identify and address the issues

which affect them and has been working to take forward our own initiatives to ensure we can attract people and boost the local economy.'

'The creation of the Islands Strategic Group is an important step in acknowledging the unique needs of our islands as well as providing the support required to facilitate further empowerment. Argyll and Bute Council is looking forward to being closely involved in shaping the legislation.'

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Success for Lomond School pupils

Pupils and staff at Lomond School are celebrating one of its strongest SQA Exam results, with a third of all S4 pupils achieving straight A grades in all eight of their National 5 exams. Johanna Urquhart, principal, stated: 'I am delighted for the whole school community. Pupils and staff have worked really hard to achieve these outstanding results. They are even more pleasing given that Lomond is not academically selective. Our ethos is one of high expectation and individualised support. It is very satisfying that our rich and diverse curriculum and focus on transferable skills and learning for life has paid such positive dividends. We will continue to build on these excellent results! Lomond School takes great pride in offering the scope and choice for their young people to develop as individuals, not just as university applicants. This model also ensures greater success in the crucial S6 year, because, should the young people wish, three new subjects are options to pick up again at Higher. Oban's own Orla Sedgwick is the recipient of a Silver Academic Tie, having achieved at least six A grades at National 5. 'To receive a Silver Academic Tie feels like a great achievement,' Orla said. All the work over the past two

Orla studies hard, asks for help when she needs it and follows the guidance given to her. Orla has really thrived in the boarding environment and makes the most of the extra evening tuition and access to the teachers onsite. She is a credit to the school and we are all very proud of her and her achievements.



Orla was one of the Silver Academic Tie winners.

years and support from the school, friends and family has paid off. Lomond School has definitely helped me focus and given me the confidence and opportunities with extra classes and willing teachers to achieve the grades I wanted. I enjoy being a pupil at Lomond due to the warm and friendly atmosphere at both the school and the boarding house. The support and encouragement I have been given right from the start has benefited me greatly! Lomond School is a leading Scottish co-educational HMC independent school founded in 1977. The school has around 400 students and provides day places for children aged three to 18 years and weekly and term boarding options from the age of 10.

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Leading the fight to protect interests after exit from EU

Argyll and Bute MSP MICHAEL RUSSELL explains his ambitions now he has been appointed Scotland's Brexit minister

JUST two weeks ago I spent an hour at SAMS in Dunstaffnage talking about Brexit.

I had been invited by concerned staff members because SAMS (the Scottish Association for Marine Science), like many highly regarded academic and research institutions, relies heavily on a free flow of ideas, money and personnel from Europe.

Everyone involved – researchers, students and teachers – wants and needs all this vital work to continue.

Membership of the EU over the past 40 years has made such collaboration absolutely normal and increasingly convenient. It has also, of course, contributed to even greater excellence and to the development of world-class science, which is often of huge practical benefit to our country and our planet.

SAMS is also a very important part of the economy of Argyll, particularly in Oban and Lorn. It underpins the ambition to make Oban a university town and to help increase population.

Now, however, there is huge uncertainty. The EU referendum resulted in England and Wales voting to leave the EU (though Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to remain) which has created a climate of insecurity and confusion with little or no information coming from those who created the problem.

Subsequent vague promises made by the UK government about higher education funding and some farm incomes fall far short of what people need just in order to go on doing their jobs.

I promised to return to SAMS at some stage in October and in the meantime to try to find out what might be possible.

I had not expected, however, to be thrust so quickly into the heart of that issue and to find myself, only days later, accepting an invitation from First Minister Nicola Sturgeon to become the Scottish Government's minister for UK negotiations on Scotland's place in Europe.

SAMS presents a particularly urgent problem. When I was



Michael Russell is appointed Brexit minister by Nicola Sturgeon.

there one member of staff asked me bluntly if she should bother to start the process of developing a complex funding application given that it covered a period of five years - well beyond what the UK government is claiming will be the total time taken to leave Europe. I think she should fill in the forms.

For a start, the First Minister has made it very clear that Scotland, having voted to remain,

must not be disadvantaged by whatever England decides to do.

While the new UK government has dithered, Nicola Sturgeon has acted. Within days she had set up a Standing Council on Europe with the participation of many of the key players and most knowledgeable individuals. She has offered strong reassurance to EU nationals living here, something I

echoed in a letter to every EU national on the electoral role in the constituency.

There are more than 1,000 European citizens contributing to our communities and the free movement of labour - one of the key four freedoms that underpin the European single market - is economically and culturally crucial for Argyll and Bute.

Ms Sturgeon has met politicians across the UK and Europe and has laid out five tests by which any eventual solution for Scotland has to be judged - those being the protection of our democratic and economic interests, continuing social protection, solidarity through pan-EU co-operation and ongoing influence on EU laws and policies.

Here in Argyll and Bute, farming and crofting rely heavily on financial support from the EU and the increasingly important food industries need access to European markets, including our whisky industry.

Even in fishing, perhaps the area locally where there has been most hostility to European

regulation, there are lots of unanswered questions about what Brexit will mean.

Many are beginning to realise that there are no guarantees from Westminster no matter what was said in the campaign. Our environment has been massively improved by European action and although that is sometimes cumbersome - as I know having been environment minister - it has led to cleaner seas and better protection for species that would have probably disappeared without it.

And, of course, our reputation as a wonderful and welcoming place, which is vital to our tourism sector, has to be jealously guarded.

There is urgent work to be done to ensure that we all understand what is at stake and to make sure we can secure the very best from the present situation, which was not of our making.

That is what I am now tasked to do and I want to secure it for the whole of Scotland but, of course, also for Argyll and Bute.

TIMESLINE



Victory for pub has tails wagging

THE Lord of the Isles in Craobh Haven won the Dog Friendly Pub of the Year at the 2016 Scottish Bar and Pub Awards.

Wil Craig and Mollie Macfarlane, who took over the pub and restaurant in March 2016, collected the award at the 21st anniversary ceremony in Glasgow's Hilton Hotel.

Awards organiser Susan Young, who presented the Lord of the Isles team with their prize, said: 'The winners were voted for by customers and people in the trade, and each and every one deserved their accolades. Congratulations to them all.'

This year the Lord of the Isles also won the title Window with a view for Scotland.

Charity lunch will help feed children

CONNEL Parish Church is hosting a charity lunch in the Church Hall on Thursday September 8 in aid of Mary's Meals.

The lunch is the culmination of the volunteers' season of summer lunches, which they have hosted for quarter of a century, each Thursday from noon until 2pm to promote fellowship and raise funds for St Oran's Church.

Maria scales the heights of success

CHEF Maria Magda Illoiu of Tyndrum's Real Food Café has been shortlisted in the UK's top 10 young fish friers for the 2017 National Fish and Chip Awards, billed as the 'Oscars of the fish frying industry'.

Competitors faced a 'rigorous judging process' of exams and interviews, said the seafood authority Seafish which organises the award, and they will be subjected to further assessments at the National Federation of Fish Friers training school, until the 10 finalists are whittled down to five vying to be the 2017 champion.

The overall national winner will be announced on January 26, 2017, at the National Fish and Chip Awards annual ceremony in London.

Argyll bands top the class in Cowal

INVERARAY and District Pipe Band held off the challenge of Johnstone Pipe Band to be crowned winners of the grade one Cowal Pipe Band Championships, taking home the famous Argyll Shield at the Cowal Gathering.

The novice juvenile B went to Kintyre Schools, which also won the grade three and the grade three MSR. The novice juvenile A went to Oban High School, which also won the juvenile award.

Inveraray and District won the best band on parade.

In a less formal setting, Oban-based Skipinnish brought the house down when they headlined the show. They were joined by Tiree band Trail West.

While they were playing in the marquee behind the stadium, the heavy athletes and wrestlers battled it out for top honours in the stadium itself.



Neil Price and Peter Weir have promised to keep Kerrera marina open for 18 months.

Marina owners give pledge on future despite plans to sell up

OBAN Marina on the Isle of Kerrera will be open for business as normal for the next 18 months at least, its owner has promised, despite it going up for sale in May.

Peter Weir, managing director of The North Ledaig Co Ltd, which bought the marina on Kerrera's north tip in 2012, announced in January it was going back on the market for offers over £975,000.

The sale was 'as a result of many issues of which we were unable to control', he wrote on its website, listing problems with the spring water and diesel supply, ferries and wifi speed. But, despite much interest, so far it has failed to attract a buyer.

Mr Weir told *The Oban Times*: 'We needed to reassure boat owners and staff we will be carrying on for another 18 months to two years, guaran-

teed. We had to make that decision now because boat owners need winter storage from the end of September.'

Winter storage for 2016/17 will go ahead as planned, on the water and on land, the website assured.

Oban Marina offers 100 pontoons, 30 moorings and yacht services, and employs five staff in the winter, and two more ferry drivers in the summer, plus another dozen in its bar and restaurant, which Mr Weir hoped to reopen next year.

Mr Weir wrote that he had given staff 'reassurance their employment is secure and guaranteed until March 2018 and hopefully well beyond that and all the staff have given a clear indication they will be staying and working to give the marina a positive future. At the end of 2017, we will review what impact the

proposed transit marina in Oban has had on our business before taking a decision on our future.'

Marina manager Neil Price added: 'If it doesn't sell, we're preparing to take it on because we believe in this marina. I'm convinced it's going to be on the up and up now. We thank customers for their support and hope they come back to us.'

Mr Weir added: 'Most of our problems are being resolved, and we feel we have a bright future. We're trading as normal. The marina is open, and we guarantee it will stay open.'

He admitted it had been a 'hard ride' but promised it would continue and improve, with another ferry driver recruited for the 34-passenger private boat, and plans to increase the supply of water and diesel.

Head teachers could appoint librarians

A MULL councillor has come up with a plan to save librarians for schools who want them.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon has delivered on her promise to 'do everything she could' to save library posts throughout the Argyll and Bute Council area by asking the full council to agree head teachers had the authority to reinstate the posts, which were removed in the 2015 funding cuts.

Councillor Devon, who lives on Mull, where the community has vigorously opposed the removal of the librarian's post at Tobermory High School, said: 'I put a motion to the council that every school could make its

own decision about the future of librarians.'

Mrs Devon explained that she had read about the extra money coming in to the local authority from Education Secretary John Swinney MSP.

'This opportunity came about after money was freed up from a council tax banding change meaning a share of an extra £100 million would be made available for education in Argyll and Bute.

'I wanted my colleagues in the council chamber to be aware of the opportunities for members.

'In response, my motion was approved, meaning the council gave permission for head teachers to use the cash



Mary-Jean Devon.

to employ librarians if they deem it a priority.

'As with any decision, it should be the head teacher who knows their own children and school, and their informed decision on what to spend the extra cash on.'

Last week, Theresa Breslin, president of the Chartered Institute of Librarians and Information Professionals in Scotland, wrote to Argyll and Bute Council asking it to reverse its decision to remove 10 librarian posts.

Ms Breslin said: 'I would like to officially progress this matter and so I am formally requesting that a full council meeting is convened immediately and that all previous correspondence from all sources be presented to the councillors with a motion to reverse the decision and reinstate the posts of secondary school librarians.'

Referring to a £500,000 pot made available by the

local authority to encourage people and business into the area, Ms Breslin continued: 'I note also that Argyll and Bute is offering incentives to young families to become residents.'

'Deleting posts which provide a key component of education undermines this initiative.'

'School provision is a high priority when parents consider relocating. Argyll and Bute could become the only authority in Scotland failing to provide a dedicated library service within its secondary schools.'

'Perhaps some of this money could be allocated to fund the posts?'

POLICE FILES

AN 84-YEAR-OLD partially-sighted pilgrim, who went missing on the Isle of Iona, was rescued safe and well before being taken by helicopter 200 metres back to where she had set out from.

The woman, who was staying in Iona Abbey for a week's retreat with the Iona Community, told her rescuers she thought that from where she was she could see both the Atlantic Ocean and the medieval abbey.

The pensioner called emergency services to tell them she was lost and needed help to get back to her accommodation. When asked why she didn't attract the attention of the helicopter, she said she wasn't aware the 30-tonne aircraft was overhead.

Police Scotland thanked colleagues in the volunteer Coastguard, the retained fire service on Iona and the many volunteers who set out to look for the woman.

She was found on the west side of the island beyond the island's highest

peak Dun I. The woman had contacted emergency services at 11.55am and was delivered back to the abbey, unharmed, by 2.55pm.

A DISTURBANCE at a Skipinnish Ceilidh House in Oban saw a 23-year-old Glasgow man spend the night in the cells until he was 'sober enough to be released'.

The man was charged with two police assaults and a breach of the peace.

A report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.

Police discharged pepper spray during the disturbance.

A SEASONAL worker who reappeared through a window in a public house on Mull after being shown the door by bouncers was arrested by police.

After spending a night in the cells, the 24-year-old had sobered sufficiently to walk home.

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Roadshow rolls onto North Pier

IT GOT extremely hot and cold in the kitchen for BBC Scotland TV series *Landward* last week, when the countryside programme arrived in Oban for two days of filming.

Crowds flocked as presenter Dougie Vipond and celebrity chef Nick Nairn cooked squat lobsters and scallops with seabuckthorn on North Pier in glorious sunshine on Wednesday. The appearance came after the pair prepared rose veal schnitzels and goat kebabs in the rain on Ganavan Sands the day before.

'We got absolutely soaked,' Dougie told *The Oban Times*, 'but I love coming to Oban.'

'We take the food van around Scotland to do a story about local produce or someone producing great things, and then Nick and I cook it in the van and let the public taste it,' he explained. 'You get a real, honest reception.'

Water buffalo carpaccio went down well in Luss on Monday, he said, and he hoped salt marsh lamb would be equally well received on their road trip to Glencoe on Thursday. The episodes featuring Oban are due to be broadcast on September 23 and November 25.

Nick Nairn and Dougie Vipond on Oban's North Pier.



Fears for future of grants

THE Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee granted more than £8,500 to third sector organisations in August but councillors have raised fears over the future of the annual fund.

Argyll and Bute Council's third sector grant budget allocated a total of £31,500 to the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee to distribute to causes over 2016/17. Applications are considered twice yearly, in April and August, and the committee had £8,696 left to grant at its meeting last month.

Within the nine applications received, the area's six councillors decided to give Argyll District Scouting £388 for a September activity weekend, and £598 to Atlantis Leisure for its tennis court opening event. A further £500 was granted to Lismore Historical Society for a community open day, and £240 was given to the Argyll choir Coisir Ghaidhlig Tigh an Uillt to attend this year's Mod in Stornoway.

Crossroads North Argyll's request for £370 for mobility aids, to enable people to live more active lives away from their own homes, was agreed by the committee, as was a £2,000 start-up award for uniforms for Mull and Iona schools pipers. It also agreed a final contribution of £1,600 for Sound Waves, which runs Mull Music Makers providing monthly workshops for island children to learn a musical instrument.

Councillors cut Dunollie Projects' recommended grant of £2,000 for the production of a guidebook by £1,000, as it had already received grants of £2,500 and £800. Councillor Mary-Jean Devon argued: 'Every penny matters. There are other groups that are really struggling now. It seems a lot to spend on design.'

Councillor Iain MacLean agreed: 'Dunollie has had a good bite of the cherry.' Councillor Devon proposed reducing the grant to £1,000, which was carried by the committee.

However, councillors agreed to increase a £1,000 start-up award to Mull Safe and Sound, a new group which supports socially vulnerable or excluded people on Mull and Iona, by a further £1,000 if it successfully secured match funding. 'It's a lifeline service in a rural area,' argued Councillor Julie McKenzie.

'They are the only mental health group on Iona,' added Councillor Devon. 'I'm going to support giving them a wee bit more as well.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish said the third sector grants 'show the good the area committee has been able to do. I worry about these grants in the future. Let's hope they survive the budget decision next February.'

Fascinating history is unearthed

SANDY NEIL
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A NEW community project has been launched to unearth more of Islay's human history over the past 12 millennia – and island archaeologists are encouraging volunteers to get involved.

The Islay Heritage Project, which was launched at the Islay Show, is devoted to furthering knowledge about Islay's past, and the many ways in which it can be explored and enjoyed by everyone.

'Islay has a rich heritage,' explains the project's website, 'beginning with the evidence of Ice Age pioneers who visited the island 12,000 years ago, and continuing until the present.'

'There are a huge number of archaeological sites and monuments, ranging from the sparse remains of hunter-gatherer campsites, to the deserted townships of the 19th century. Discovering more about these sites helps reveal the story of the island.'

The project is led by archaeologists

Steven Mithen, professor of early prehistory and deputy vice-chancellor of the University of Reading, who has been studying Islay's prehistoric settlements since 1986, and Dr Darko Maričević, an expert on European neolithic and Bronze Age communities at the Universities of Reading and Bournemouth, who undertook his PhD research on Tiree, Coll and Mull. 'Some sites are well known and accessible,' the website continues, 'such as the medieval seat of the Lords of the Isles at Finlaggan, and the Kildalton Cross; others are virtually unknown, difficult to find and rarely visited. There may be many more waiting to be discovered.'

Between August 20 and September 2, the team of archaeologists, helped by Port Ellen Primary School, has been excavating a neolithic burial tomb, known as the Giant's Grave, at Nereabolls, and there is ongoing research at the late glacial and mesolithic site of Rubha Port an t-Seilich.

Islay Heritage is also asking islanders to help identify and promote the



Dig this: left to right are Kerry Baker, Professor Steven Mithen, Alexander Millar and Dr Darko Maricevic, who launched the Islay Heritage Project at the Islay Show on August 11, with a stall of ancient Islay artefacts such as stone tools and flint blades, and encouraged volunteers to help them explore the island's 12,000 years of inhabited history.

'Islay 100': the island's 100 most significant sites which tell the island's story through the prehistoric, medieval and historic periods of its past.

The project involves four elements: research to discover more about Islay's history by archaeological surveys and excavations; education by supporting schools and groups to visit the sites and participate in excavations;

recreation, by making sites more accessible and creating heritage trails; and, finally, conservation to preserve the sites for future generations.

'Islay Heritage arose out of discussions on Islay following a public meeting in Bowmore in March to discuss the creation of a prehistory trail,' the website concludes. 'The idea was to improve accessibility to, and provide

information about, the numerous prehistoric sites on Islay. The meeting felt that not only prehistoric but also medieval and historic sites should form part of an island trail. Following these discussions, a group of volunteers met to explore ways forward. The outcome was Islay Heritage.'

For information, visit the Islay Heritage Project at www.islayheritage.org.

£20,000 incentive for new GPs

GP TRAINEES are being offered a £20,000 'golden handshake' to work in Scotland's remote and rural areas.

The Scottish Government's latest recruitment campaign advertised 100 new GP training places in Scotland, and a proportion came with a £20,000 incentive for trainees who choose to take up posts in 'hard to fill locations'.

These 100 new places bring

the total number of GP specialist training posts advertised this year to 439, following a recruitment drive earlier in the year.

Health Secretary Shona Robison said: 'General practice is the heart of our NHS and is becoming ever more important as we build the community health service of the future.'

'That is why we are investing to recruit more junior doctors

into GP training posts – with 100 extra places advertised this year to help build the primary care workforce of the future.'

'However, we know there are some parts of the country that have challenges recruiting – mainly because of their geographical location. So we're offering a financial incentive with certain posts to fill these vital training places.'

Hydropower is 'at a crossroads'

SCOTLAND'S hydropower industry is at 'a crossroads' with new projects coming on stream and UK government subsidy changes threatening future jobs, Holyrood's energy minister has claimed.

Visiting a pumped hydro storage plant at Foyers, near Loch Ness, Business, Innovation and Energy Minister Paul Wheelhouse MSP said: 'Hydro

generation in 2015 was at a record high level – 5,780 GWh, up 6.3 per cent on 2014. But the hydro sector is at a crossroads, with a number of exciting developments opening, but with some future investments, especially in small-scale hydro, at risk due to changes in subsidies, brought in by the UK government, putting jobs at risk in many rural communities.'

Mr Wheelhouse highlighted

the role pumped hydro storage could play in Scotland's energy system. He said: 'This tried and tested technology can play a key role in enhancing energy security, providing local jobs and helping to integrate renewables onto the network.'

He added that this flexible, renewable source of power could support peak demand, and store energy when demand is low.

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Medieval cathedral discovered buried on the island of Lismore

79 drivers stopped in campaign

LOUISE GLEN
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AN INCREDIBLE medieval cathedral has been found buried under the grounds of the existing church on the island of Lismore.

The structure will be on the same scale as other contemporary cathedrals such as Melrose, Dunfermline and St Andrews, and was discovered by archaeologists and volunteers during a community dig on the island.

The last dig, undertaken in the 1950s, had uncovered the skulls of ancestors, so it was with some trepidation that Claire Ellis from Argyll Archaeology undertook a community excavation funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, with a contribution from Argyll and Bute Council.

However, the week-long excavation discovered a huge-scale medieval abbey.

Lead archaeologist Dr Ellis explained: 'The cathedral may have been built in the late 12th, 13th or even 14th century and served the newly created diocese of Argyll.'

'Lismore was probably chosen because of its connection with St Moluag, who was a contemporary of St Columba. At the time, Moluag was a much more influential missionary so it is likely the cathedral was important in its central geographic location and ease of access by sea. 'The walls of the nave are



Volunteers joined archaeologists for the dig that discovered the ancient cathedral.

substantial, with more than a metre in height surviving. White dressed sandstone, imported from Morvern, forms a drip course near the base.

'Fragments of white sandstone that would have lined a window have also been discovered.'

Dr Mark Thacker, from Stirling University, added: 'It

is clear that the cathedral was built by skilled stonemasons and would have rivalled other medieval cathedrals built at this time in Scotland.

'Along with the existing choir [now the parish church], the cathedral would have been an impressive sight, some 40 metres long, standing tall and

gleaming white in the sunlight.'

The archaeologists have also discovered that the stone walls were cemented using a shell-rich mortar and they hope that samples of charcoal from the mortar can provide a series of radio-carbon dates, finally revealing when the nave was built.

Excavations in the 1950s also discovered a small structure built into the west end of the nave and interpreted it as a tower.

However, the recent excavation has shown that at least some of the wall has a soil/sod core, Dr Ellis said this was a rural construction technique, and one which would have been unlikely to have been able to support the weight of a tower. She said: 'Future investigation will aim to discover the purpose of this building.'

The excavation, by a team of a dozen volunteers, was a joint project of Lismore Parish Church and Lismore Historical Society (Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mor).

During the week-long exercise in late August, the dig attracted more than 130 visitors.

It is hoped that more funds can be secured in the near future to continue the excavation, something Dr Ellis said will ultimately reveal all the walls of the nave and associated structures so that 'the remarkable ruins of Argyll's medieval cathedral can finally be appreciated by all'.

A RURAL roads campaign being undertaken by Police Scotland has seen incredible results in its second week.

In Oban, 47 drivers were stopped and 'engaged with' on road traffic 'matters'.

Of those, 15 drivers were warned regarding various minor road traffic offences, 12 were issued with fixed penalty notices for traffic offences, one person was arrested for drink driving, one was reported to the procurator fiscal for dangerous driving and two people were reported to the procurator fiscal for speeding.

Campbeltown saw 16 drivers stopped and engaged with regarding various road traffic matters.

Five drivers were warned regarding various minor road traffic offences, one person was arrested for drink driving offences and one person was reported to the procurator fiscal for speeding.

In Mid Argyll, 16 drivers were stopped and engaged with regarding various road traffic matters.

Five drivers were warned regarding various minor road traffic offences, five were given fixed penalty notices for traffic offences, one person was reported to the procurator fiscal for dangerous driving and three people were charged with the offence of having no MoT.

The campaign will run until the end of September.

Argyll Enterprise Week update...

31 Oct - 04 Nov 2016

Book your place

THE timetable for the first Argyll Enterprise Week has just been announced and the event is now open for bookings.

Argyll Enterprise Week is an exciting new event, bringing together businesses, social enterprises, entrepreneurs and anyone with an interest in enterprise.

The week, which is being hosted by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway, is packed with opportunities designed to inform, connect and inspire those taking part.

A wide range of free workshops, seminars, briefings, networking sessions and exhibitions are on offer between Monday October 31 and Friday November 4 in Oban, and with more than 25 partners involved and nearly 30 events taking place within the week, there should be something for everyone.

Key themes include funding sources, business support, exporting, digital, social enterprise, tourism, creative industries and food and drink.

Councillor Aileen Morton, policy lead for sustainable economic growth, explains: 'We are keen to encourage existing businesses and attract new ones to Argyll and Bute. The number and variety of events on offer within Argyll Enterprise Week demonstrates the strength of the support available to businesses in Argyll and Bute to help them realise their goals and ambitions.'

One of the keys to addressing the population and demographic challenges facing Argyll and the Islands is to have a vibrant, successful enterprise community providing world-class goods and services regionally, nationally and internationally.

David Smart, head of special projects for Highland and Islands Enterprise, says: 'Argyll and the

Islands is already home to some truly outstanding organisations. To build on this, Argyll Enterprise Week aims to share some of these success stories and to strengthen networks and relationships to drive new thinking and collaborations.'

'This is the first time that an event of this scale has been undertaken in Argyll and the Islands and I am excited about its potential to effect real positive change.'

For more information on the activities during Argyll Enterprise Week and to book a place at any of events, visit www.argyllenterpriseweek.eventbrite.co.uk.

Booking is quick and easy – just click on the 'Register now' box, select the events you want to attend, click 'Checkout' and then enter your contact details.

Alternatively, call the Business Gateway team on 01546 604555.



David Smart of HIE with Argyll-based entrepreneur Sam Coley.



Evelyn McDonald, CEO, Scottish EDGE

One of the partners for Argyll Enterprise Week, Scottish EDGE is a private community interest company that offers funding and support to help entrepreneurs grow their businesses.

CEO Evelyn McDonald said: 'Scottish EDGE is delighted to be part of Argyll Enterprise Week and join a fantastic group of support organisations dedicated to supporting small businesses in Argyll.'

'We're hoping to encourage entrepreneurs in Argyll and Bute to find out how they can access the funding on offer from Scottish EDGE and to hear from previous winners.'

Originally run by Scottish Enterprise, Scottish EDGE is a competition aimed at identifying and supporting Scotland's up-and-coming, innovative, high-growth potential entrepreneurial talent. Businesses have to pitch to a panel of judges and the ones that demonstrate the most potential win a grant or loan to help them deliver their growth plans.

The competition has four categories; the main Scottish EDGE competition, where a business can win up to £100,000 as a 50:50 mix of grant and loans, Young EDGE, the dedicated application route for entrepreneurs age 18 to 30 and Wild Card EDGE aimed at pre-trading companies – up to £10,000 is available in each of these categories. In addition, two prizes of £150,000 or £100,000 are available in the science, technology and engineering category – Higgs EDGE.

The total prize fund is £1.3 million. In addition to the financial awards, all EDGE winners are provided with a package of support from business experts, including a business mentor, to help their business grow.

Daily guide to Argyll Enterprise Week

Monday: Launch event featuring key speakers from across the political, private and public sector involved in supporting business growth, including an address by Nicholas Ferguson CBE, chairman of the Argyll and Bute Economic Forum, plus a showcase of Highlands and Islands Enterprise and council initiatives supporting economic growth.

Tuesday: Funding seminars from SJ Noble Trust, Growth Deck, Developing Strathclyde Business Finance Ltd, Scottish EDGE, Argyll and the Islands LEADER and Argyll and Bute Council, as well as 'A Day with The Angels' – Investing Women Angels Ltd.

Wednesday: Business support Trade Fair; taster sessions outlining the support available for exporting, manufacturing, intellectual assets, digital and customer care training; workshops on *Cyber Security* and *Movies on Mobiles*; women in business discussion panel and networking event, as well as social enterprise film festival and question time panel.

Thursday: Social enterprise day co-ordinated by InspirAlba, featuring networking, plus workshops and dragons' den, plus workshops on *National Food and Drink Strategy Refresh* and *Market Insights and Consumer Trends* from Scotland Food and Drink, plus Supplier Development Programme procurement workshop.

Friday: Talks and one-to-one discussions with industry experts from Creative Scotland, ThinkSync Music and the Xpo-North organisers; Craft Scotland workshop; Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative's *Adventure Tourism* workshop; *The Oban Times*-sponsored speed networking event.



inspire – connect – inform

Join us in Oban for Argyll Enterprise Week. For more information and to book events visit argyllenterpriseweek.eventbrite.co.uk or call the local Business Gateway team on 01546 604555

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Taynuilt



Davy Paterson and Clare Bryden with Carol Thomson and Heather Harris (seated) who produce the newsletter.

WHEN Carol Thomson approached fellow Taynuilt residents Heather Harris, Clare Bryden and Davy Paterson regarding a community newsletter for the village, her idea was met with great enthusiasm. After a series of discussions and a lot of hard work, the first issue of the

newsletter *What's The Craic In Taynuilt?* was finally launched last week. It is hoped that the monthly publication will encourage Taynuilt residents and organisations to share their stories. Copies of the newsletter can be obtained at Taynuilt Post Office and Graham's Grocers.

LAST Saturday's Camanachd Cup semi-final at Taynuilt sports field between Oban Camanachd and Lochaber attracted not only a large crowd but it also became the second televised shinty match at Taynuilt within the past couple of months.

the perfect backdrop. The venue is regularly used by Taynuilt's own senior shinty team and for junior competitions.

The first-class pitch at Taynuilt is widely considered to be one of the best in Scotland and, with the new sports pavilion having greatly improved facilities, it is expected that the village will continue to attract many more important shinty fixtures in the future.

In June, the Celtic Society Cup final between Kyles Athletic and Inveraray was successfully televised live at the Taynuilt venue, with Ben Cruachan providing

Stornoway



John Swinney MSP with Nicolson Institute pupils.

DEPUTY First Minister John Swinney paid a visit to Stornoway last week to launch a Gaelic board game. Mr Swinney visited educational resources organisation Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig on Wednesday (August 24) to mark the beginning of the game that is a Gaelic version of the popular Scottish Quess.

Entitled *Ciste Ulàidh na h-Alba* and created by Stòrlann, the game will be made available to all primary and secondary schools involved in Gaelic medium education across Scotland. Similar to Scottish Quess, it is a heritage game with questions about land and nature, history, culture and contemporary Scotland. Mr Swinney, who is also education secretary, kicked-started the game's distribution by presenting class sets to Laxdale school pupils during a tour of facilities in the Western Isles.

Barra and South Uist



Among those in attendance for the induction of the Rev Lindsay Schluter were the Rev Stephen Fulcher, Marilyn Shedden, and Dr Chris Brett, presbytery clerk.

New church minister for islands

A NEW Church of Scotland minister has been appointed for the Isles of Barra and South Uist, after the post lay vacant for several years. The Moderator of the Presbytery of Argyll Ms Marilyn Shedden inducted the Rev. Dr Lindsay Schluter

as Minister of Barra linked with South Uist in Cuithir Parish Church, Barra, on Thursday August 18. Prior to Lindsay's induction, the Barra position had been vacant for eight years, while South Uist's had been unfilled for five years.

Lindsay comes to Argyll Presbytery from Larkhall Trinity in the Presbytery of Hamilton. During the service Rev Stephen Fulcher, the Minister of Saddell and Carradale linked with Southend, preached on John 21: 15-21,

and encouraged the new minister and the members of the two congregations to sustain and encourage each other in their joint work of mission and ministry. The service was followed by a reception and a ceilidh in North Bay Hall.

Corpach

AN IRISH man living in Cardiff came to Fort William at the weekend to take on a mammoth charity swim.

He has previously undergone a similar challenge, swimming the longest river in Britain, the Severn, from which he raised more than £2,000 for motor neurone disease.

Ross O'Sullivan, 26, took off from Fort William on Saturday (August 27) to begin his 110km swim to Inverness.

Ross said he hopes to raise £1,000 for Noah's Ark children's hospital in Cardiff, and he has already received £350 in donations. Ross added: 'I visited Scotland when I was a boy, about 16, and I just loved how similar it is to Ireland, with its rural and unspoiled landscape.'

Ross hopes to tackle the swim in just six days, but he

said: 'It will all depend on the weather and how cold the water is.'

Now that I live in Cardiff, travelling to Scotland will be a great escape for me.'

Skye

Roads shut as Hollywood crew arrives

HOLLYWOOD descended on Skye last week to film what is believed to be the latest *Transformers* film.



Speculation is rife that the latest Transformers movie has been filmed in part on Skye.

The Highland Council confirmed that a film company successfully applied for temporary road closures on Monday and Tuesday, August 22 and 23, from 6am to 1.30am, on Skye.

The routes affected by the filming were the Old Man of Storr and on Trotternish Ridge, south of the Staffin Uig Hill Road to Bealach nan Coisichean. Steven Gibson, who was in the area last week, said: 'There were stunts going on at the locations, with three

helicopters flying around the area. 'There were quite a lot of tourists about at the Quiraing.'

The latest blockbuster in the series, *Transformers: The Last Knight*, is due to be released in June next year. Starring are Mark Wahl-

berg, Laura Haddock and Sir Anthony Hopkins. Mr Gibson added: 'I thought I might have caught a glimpse of Mark Wahlberg but he never appeared.'

The council could not confirm details of the filming saying: 'While we are aware of the filming in Skye we also hold a confidential policy with any productions that reach out to the film commission.'

'Therefore we are unable to provide any details of the filming that took place.' In recent years Skye has hosted a number of film crews from *The BFG* and *Prometheus*.

Cairndow



The team raised £4,000 for the Pink Ladies Day.

A HARDY team from Loch Fyne Oysters, Cairndow, took on the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales in the national Three Peaks Challenge in aid of Pink Ladies Day. The journey began on August 12 at Ben Nevis, where the group faced torrential rain, high winds and poor visibility before moving onwards to Scafell Pike, arriving at approximately 2am to begin their ascent in darkness, over steep rocky terrain.

In contrast to the Scottish and English weather, they were grateful to be greeted by sunshine in Wales. Challenge completed, the group celebrated their achievement with champagne before embarking on the long journey home.

Martyn Paterson, from Loch Fyne Oysters said: 'I could not be more proud of the team.'

The climbers included Martyn Paterson, David Wilson, Beth Clark, Katie McNair, Jason Morrison, Andy Welsh, Mark Woolard, Adam Smith and Paul Marietti. They were aided by a support team of Hugh Johnston, Richard Hunt-Smith, Andy Rooney and Iain MacKay, who provided first aid and shared driving throughout the expedition.

Pink Ladies Day is about women who have or have had breast cancer in the west coast of Scotland. It's a day of fun, pampering, good food and drink along with the opportunity to develop friendships with like-minded (and like-bodied) women.

It is a free event open to women who have, or have had, breast cancer in the past five years - along with a close friend. If anyone feels this free day on December 9 would benefit them, then call Nicky Murphy on 07786 861266 to register.

MORVERN lines

Hydro power

WATER power is not new. It used to be a thing of beauty and wonder but these days hydro electric schemes conjure up images of ugly scars in the landscape, deep potholes in the public roads, large lumps of concrete in species-rich, post-glacial ravines, and the loss of many plants, insects and bird habitats.

For generations water has been harnessed from our hillsides to turn wheels and stones to produce flour and spin circular saw blades to shape timber. Meal mills at Acharn, Bunavullin, Savary, Ranachan and Bourblaise in Morvern and Ardnamurchan once fed a high population and, in the hills above Strontian, huge industrial water-driven pumps and ore-crushers sustained the great lead-mining works of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Above Bells Grove and at Lurag, in Morvern's Black Glen, stone and earth dams were built from which water was released from time to time to expose mineral veins using an ancient and historic mining method called 'hushing', from the noise of the ensuing flood. In 1908, George Herbert Strutt built a massive concrete dam and fish pass in Glengalmadale near Kingairloch, which was emptied in times of drought to create artificial floods to entice salmon and sea trout up the Galma river from Loch Linnhe. It cost more than £5 million in today's money.

More than 100 years ago, Thomas Valentine Smith had a unique water hydraulic service lift installed in Ardtornish Towers, which was doing sterling service until fairly recently. It was said that only two of its kind were built, the other for Balmoral Castle.

The English National Trust claims that Cragside, a property it owns near Rothbury in Northumberland, was the very first building in the world to be lit by hydro-electricity. In 1870, water from one of the es-



Many of today's hydro schemes are built without respect for the landscape.

tate's lakes was used to drive a Siemens dynamo. The resultant electricity powered an arc lamp which was replaced two years later by Joseph Swan's incandescent lamps in what Swan considered 'the first proper installation' of electric lighting.

I believe Braemore House in Ross-shire, built in 1867 by Sir John Fowler, who engineered the Forth Bridge, had a better claim.

I do not know who was responsible for building the first hydro electric scheme in West Lochaber and where, but it is more than likely to have been on one of a number of big private estates. The owners of Ardtornish, Glencriepsdale, Shielbridge, Kinlochmoidart, Inverailort, Glenborrodale, Rahoy and Laudale lit their mansions and employees' cottages with it.

As a matter of interest, the late Rev Hector MacSween, Morvern's Church of Scotland minister from 1929 to 1977, built an innovative little scheme in the Allt nan Coileach burn beside Fiunary Manse in the 1940s. Using empty tin cans attached to a bicycle wheel and a car dynamo, it produced enough current to power a 12v domestic lighting system, albeit intermittently.

It would appear that a number of hydro electric schemes in the Highlands arrived in the aftermath of the famous Glasgow International Exhibition held in Kelvingrove park in 1901. Described as 'an amazing demonstration of Victorian self-confidence which proudly displayed the great progress made in industry, science and art during the 19th century', it was the largest exhibition held in Great Britain up to that time. It opened on May 2 and ran until November 4 in the hope, according to the catalogue, that some of its 11 million visitors 'would carry home with them an intelligent idea of the world's progress, in civilisation'.

The estate owners of the day were clearly enthralled by the technology they saw at the exhibition and soon were vying with one another to build the best hydro plants, regardless of cost. Not for them the brutal, in-your-face schemes of today. On the contrary, they took a great pride in concealing as much as they could, including the turbine houses which were so well designed and finished that they might have been mistaken for farm cottages - unlike the modern, poorly-designed 'cell-blocks' which, with a bit of common sense and respect for the landscape and a push from the local planners, could have been underground or toned down using local stone and slate.

Today, hydro power produces about 12 per cent of Scotland's annual electricity requirement - well below the government's over-ambitious 100 per cent green energy target for 2020.

No scheme on the peninsula has been built in the past decade without a grant in some form or another so every ohm produced is sold to the National Grid. The visual and environmental impact is huge and will be with us until the next Ice Age.

Now that there is a surfeit of green energy nationally, questions are being asked why developers are not being means-tested before qualifying for financial assistance and why our local councillors are doing nothing to prevent schemes being built in areas of outstanding beauty.

Has the government instructed the planners, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage to turn a blind eye and to sacrifice what was once held of national importance on the altar of the 2020 target? It looks like it.

Perhaps Brexit will ride to the rescue and the bubble will finally burst.

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High death rate may be due to lack of end-of-life home care

ELLIE FORBES
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HIGH mortality rates at Fort William's Belford hospital could have been a result of insufficient end-of-life care in Lochaber.

Recent Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratios (HSMR) show that from January 2016 to March 2016 the Belford had an HSMR of 2.55 for deaths within 30 days of a patient being admitted to the hospital, while the national average is 0.97.

But Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Andrew Baxter has told *The Oban Times*: 'Perhaps these figures are more related to an elderly population, living in a wider remote rural area, meaning that it is often difficult to arrange suitable end-of-life care at home.'

'I do think we need to offer a wider range of choices in end-of-life care, which includes the option of being cared for at home or closer to home within a nursing home.'

'There will always be patients who will need to be cared for in hospital but if we got social care right it would also ease any pressure on the Belford.'

Dr Rod Harvey, medical director for NHS Highland, said: 'Several factors could have contributed to the spike in the mortality ratio, including more people being admitted for end-of-life care.'

Mr Baxter added: 'The headlines last week gave the impression the Belford hospital was some horrible death trap, without looking at the details behind the statistics and any causal link that might mean there is a higher mortality compared to other

areas. Many of us know from personal or family experience that the care and treatment at the Belford is first class.'

Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Brian Murphy added: 'I think the standard of care at the Belford is excellent, as are the staff who work there.'

And with a new Belford hospital to be built at the Blar Mhor site, Mr Baxter said it will 'give an opportunity to review health and social care across Lochaber as a whole, rather than focusing on problems such as home care and the recruitment of consultants and GPs in isolation.'

But no plans for the hospital have been seen yet. Mr Murphy said: 'A group was set up to take forward planning for the new Belford hospital but it'll take as long as it takes. As far as the community is concerned, it would like to see a new hospital tomorrow because the present hospital has outgrown its site.'

'I look forward to seeing a modern, consultant-led rural general hospital on the Blar Mhor.'

An NHS Highland spokesperson said: 'NHS Highland is working towards an initial proposal to take the project forward to the next stage. A steering group has been set up with a number of sub groups.'

'Due to the low volume of activity in a small hospital such as the Belford, small natural variations in the numbers of people who die following admission can have a big impact on the calculated HSMR.'

Dr Harvey said a detailed investigation was taking place which he hoped to be completed by mid September.

Show stoppers: pipers call tunes at Lochaber show



The Lochaber Schools Pipe Band were a hit at this year's agricultural show. The band performed on Saturday (August 27) for spectators following their 'usual busy summer season'. The pipe band also had their final high street parade of the summer on Tuesday night (August 30), at which there was a short presentation to members who have left school and are leaving the band as a result. Following Tuesday's performance things quieten down for the band, with just three or four more events to perform at before the October holidays. Picture special on page 11.

TIMESLINE

Celebrations for Gaelic anniversary

LAST Thursday marked the 30-year anniversary of Gaelic education in Western Isles schools.

In 1986, four pupils embarked on their education in Gaelic, at Breasclate school on Lewis.

The school was given official Gaelic status last year and now more than 80 per cent of pupils are educated in Gaelic. Several events are planned during the coming academic session and there will be a Gaelic Day in November.

Islands group is now established

ISLAND communities will be brought together under an islands strategic group, it has been announced.

Islands Minister Humza Yousaf confirmed the new group during a visit to Skye and Raasay. The group involves Argyll and Bute Council. Full story, page two.

Flower show is all set to blossom

NETHER Lochaber flower and produce show will be held this weekend. The annual event will start at 2pm on Sunday September 4 in Nether Lochaber village hall. Entries for the show will be from 9am to 10am. Call Ann Marie Cameron on 01855 821231.

Drivers warned to expect delays

MOTORISTS are being warned to expect disruption on the A82 between Drumnadrochit and Fort Augustus this Saturday from around 7am as a result of a wide load.

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McCall Smith's new Tobermory tale sets sail for the Caribbean

SUSAN WINDRAM
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TODAY sees the launch of the second instalment in Alexander McCall Smith's new children's series, with the hero and heroine of the school ship *Tobermory* setting sail for a Caribbean adventure.

Entitled *The Sands of Shark Island*, the second novel in the *Tobermory* series is filled with exciting drama and finds Ben and Fee MacTavish navigating their way through an adventure that includes a mysterious nautical chart, some great baddies and a nail-biting island rescue.

While the latest exploits see the children travel to the Caribbean, the ship is based here in Argyll, where the adventures were first inspired by McCall Smith's love of sailing – as well as his love of Patrick O'Brian's naval historical novels, which inspired the Russell Crowe film *Master and Commander*.

Alexander McCall Smith said: 'I've been sailing for about 15 years. Most of my day-to-day sailing is here on the West Coast, but in the past few years I've been sailing in the Caribbean, so I do know a little bit about the conditions there and all the places mentioned in the new book are real places.'

'I'm also a great fan of Patrick O'Brian's naval historical books about Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin. I love those books. Those books were about friendship really, and friendship, I think, is one of the great literary themes.'

Friendship has certainly been the theme for many of McCall Smith's novels – the *No! Ladies' Detective Agency* in particular. It is something he very much enjoys writing about, which is why it is a central theme of his *Tobermory* tales.

'Young people love the idea of going off with their friends. We can all remember that. I remember as a boy the excitement of going off camping with friends, and later on travelling abroad with friends. What a lovely



Sandy McCall Smith and illustrator Iain McIntosh in Aros bay, off Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

thing to do, going off to have adventures with your friends. So that, I suppose, is one of the main things behind it. But there is also the idea of boarding school. For whatever reason, the idea of boarding school appeals to children, the notion that you are off in a world of your contemporaries in which there are adults present, but nonetheless the daily world is defined for you by your contemporaries.

'I suspect many of the children who read boarding school stories with delight would actually hate being at the real thing.'

Youngsters going off on adventures with their friends is not a new theme – Enid Blyton's stories about *The Famous Five* being a case in point. But Mc-

Call Smith's straight-forward storytelling in the *Tobermory* series brings that theme bang up to date for young readers today.

'The world is very tame these days because nature is more controlled, so this notion of going off, having adventures with some danger at sea, is going to appeal. I think it's a great tragedy that children's lives are being so circumscribed and are so indoors. I understand why this has happened. It's very difficult for parents to let their children roam around, but that's why I think it's very important for people to have some sort of opportunity to get out in the real world and have fun.'

'I was in Tobermory harbour recently and there was a ship

full of young people and what fun they would be having. That adventure would be fundamentally life-changing for many of them...What a wonderful, wonderful thing.'

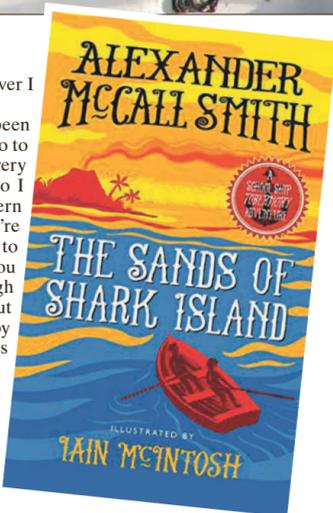
With his unquenchable sense of adventure and his love of friendship, it will come as no surprise to find that McCall Smith has many more stories where this latest tale has come from and so he plans to write more books in the *Tobermory* series.

'This second book is just about to come out but I've got the third one worked out. I know where they're going to go. They're going to Australia and there will be all sorts of excitement. That's the delight for me, being

able to take this wherever I want.'

'Although I've never been sailing in Australia, I go to Australia just about every year with my books. So I know a bit about northern Australia where they're going to go. You have to write about places you know. You make enough mistakes anyway, but why compound it by writing about places you've never been to?'

■ *The Sands of Shark Island* is published today (September 1) and is available in all good bookshops.



Sophie Houston, Murray Scott and Megan Day, with Iain MacIntyre and Ken Moncrieff.

Youngsters' words of wisdom win over judges

THE ROTARY Club of Oban held its annual Young Speakers competition at the Royal Hotel on Wednesday, June 15.

This competition is open to primary six and seven pupils, and 13 youngsters took part representing Dunbeg, Lochnell, Rockfield, St Columba's and Taynuilt Primary Schools.

The young people are judged by members of Oban Speakers' Club and it was generally agreed that the standard was as high as in previous years with the participants giving very good and in some cases exceptional presentations over a wide-ranging list of subjects.

The winner of the competition was Megan Day, representing Taynuilt, who spoke on The International Space Station/Tim Peake, with Murray Scott from Lochnell in second place talking about refugees, and third was Sophie Houston also representing Taynuilt on the subject of the Zika virus.

In addition to the winners being awarded monetary prizes, all participants received a Rotary Dictionary 4 Life, together with a personalised certificate for taking part in the event.

The evening was brought to a close by comments from the event organiser, Rotarian Iain MacIntyre, who complimented all the young people on their speeches, followed by a few words from Rotary president Ken Moncrieff.



The contestants sprint for the line during the girls' 100m.



The triumphant girls' tug of war duo.

Youngsters are such good sports

THE FIFTH annual Oban High School Highland Games graced Mossfield Stadium the day after the Argyllshire Gathering.

The Friday began with the four clans – Ossian, Diarmid, Fingal and Somerled – marching from the school to the park where all students were piped into the games field by the Oban High School Pipe Band.

A Highland dancing presentation took place to mark the opening of the day, and the first prize to

be given out was to Katie MacPherson, the most successful dancer of the season.

After head teacher Peter Bain opened the games, there was a mad dash to be first in line for the burger stall and the inflatable attractions, such as the pillow fights, disco and bouncy castle.

The pupils weren't far behind.

However, the main event was the athletics where pupils from S1-S6 competed in 100m, 200m, 600m and

1,200m on the track, as well as long jump, high jump and shot-put on the field. There were a high number of entries for each of these events, but particular credit must go to 40 or so students who completed the 1,200m – four laps of the Mossfield track.

The Argyllshire Gathering was thanked for kindly allowing the school to use its tents and equipment, as were all the staff who helped to make the day a huge success. Finally, the pupils were congratulated for

competing with such enthusiasm to win points for their clans.

Oban High School Highland Games 2016 results are as follows.

The overall clan results are: 1 Diarmid, 2 Somerled, 3 Ossian, 4 Fingal.

The individual results are as follows: Piping Trophy: Innes Munro (S1 – Somerled). Dancing Trophy: Katie MacPherson (S5 – Ossian). Heavies Trophy: Craig Cook (S4 – Ossian).

Athletics: S1 boys: 1 Daniel Teape

(Ossian), 2 Thomas McCrindle (Ossian), 3 Rhys Fairbairn (Fingal).

S1 girls: 1 Amy Gibson (Diarmid), 2 Hannah MacDonald (Somerled), 3= Mairi Inglis (Fingal) and Isla Dunlop (Somerled).

S2 boys: 1 Ellis Hunter (Ossian), 2 Lewis Budge (Diarmid), 3 Cameron Johnstone (Somerled).

S2 girls: 1 Alison Noble (Diarmid), 2 Poppy McKillop (Somerled), 3= Zoe Brown and Ailsa Dowd (both Somerled).

S3 boys: 1 Sam Coates

(Diarmid), 2 Aidan MacKay (Diarmid), 3 Aaron McCall (Diarmid).

S3 girls: 1 Abi Cato (Diarmid), 2 Katie Edmundson (Diarmid), 3 Hannah Teape (Ossian).

S4 boys: 1 Sandy Welsh (Somerled), 2 Angus Neil (Ossian), 3 Lorn McDougall (Somerled).

S4 girls: 1 Kelsey Whitlow (Diarmid), 2 Eilidh Shearer (Ossian), 3 Grace Thompson (Diarmid). S5 boys: 1 Stewart Inglis (Fingal); S6 boys (Headmaster's Trophy): 1 Ben Coates (Diarmid).



The pupils put their hearts into the welly-throwing competition.



It's a close-run thing as the athletes near the finish line in the boys' 100m.



Instructions were given for how to toss a caber.



Young runners set off on a 100m dash.



One young man flies through the air during his long jump attempt.



Pillow fights on an inflatable were hugely popular.



Pupils take on their teachers at the tug of war.

Petition victory on pitch

A COMMUNITY petition to save an artificial pitch in Fort William has been victorious.

Wendy Lev, 34, from Banff Crescent, started the Keep the Upper Achintore Astro Open online petition in May and it now has 566 supporters.

And last week the Highland Council announced that repairs are to be made to the multi-use games area at Upper Achintore to allow the pitch to be brought back into temporary use.

Members of the education, children and adult services committee agreed last Thursday to release funds of around £10,000 for the pitch to be repaired.

Mum of three Wendy told *The Oban Times*: 'We are happy they are not closing the pitch and that the council has decided to spend £10,000 to keep it open.'

'The long-term plan for the ground is still in debate, but it's great that there is communication with the community about what they want, rather than just shutting the pitch all together.'

'I started the petition because my daughters encouraged me. I knew they would be upset if it was to close.'

'The kids took in a paper petition to Lundavra primary school, which their classmates signed, and they collected 252 signatures.'

'It's been really important for the kids because they feel they have been listened to and have been able to make a change.'

The council also said it would 'carry out community engagement to establish if a community management committee of local stakeholders will, in the short term, oversee the use of the pitch once repaired, and carry out housekeeping of the pitch'.

Wendy added: 'There is, hopefully, going to be a group set up to try to get funding for a new carpet surface for the pitch, but the council has listened to us and re-evaluated what it is going to do with it, which is great.'

Clarification

IN LAST week's *Oban Times* we published a story on the tragedy in which a cyclist died in a road accident on the A82 in Fort William. We would like to point out that the lorry in the photograph used to accompany the piece was not involved in the accident, but was merely caught in traffic when the police closed the road.



Celebrating the £275,000 in funding are pool manager Brian O'Rourke and lifeguards Jenna Gliddon, left, and Kayleigh Woods.

Pool is swimming in cash thanks to whopping grant

ELLIE FORBES
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THERE has been huge success for Mallaig pool as it has landed a whopping £275,000 towards its million-pound refurbishment programme.

Last week Highland Council approved the funds which will go towards the centre's £1.1 million appeal.

The money will be used for extensive refurbishments and the replacement of essential pool equipment, 'breathing some much-needed life into the facility'.

On hearing the news, which came last Wednesday (August 24), pool manager Brian O'Rourke told *The Oban Times*: 'I'm absolutely elated we got the funding.'

'We have been working on this for the past three years. It's been a long time coming.'

'We want to replace the pool plant's equipment. A lot of it is almost 23 years old, starting to

fail and generally inefficient. The building is also very draughty so we want to upgrade its insulation and thermal qualities.'

It was said at the meeting of the Highland Council resources committee in Inverness that the social enterprise could fail because the cost of running the plant was so high, as a result of its energy inefficiency.

Independent councillors for Caol and Mallaig Ben Thompson and Allan Henderson said: 'We are delighted to have secured funding for the Mallaig pool and leisure to the tune of £275,000 from the Highland Council's capital discretionary budget, despite the ceiling on the award of £250,000.'

'The £275,000 is vital in the centre's quest for funding to allow all of the project to go ahead. This commitment from the Highland Council gives the swimming pool and fitness centre board, as well as the fundraisers, confidence with

this ambitious upgrade. The centre has always been a good facility delivering the school curriculum and helping the whole of west Lochaber and the islands to improve health, safety and fitness, and it can now

“I'm delighted the council has agreed to fund this vital work”

Ben Thompson
Caol and Mallaig councillor

become a great facility. This is not the end of the journey but the beginning.'

The importance of the refurbishment has been reflected in the efforts of the local community, which raised more than

£10,000 towards the project in just six weeks.

Sue Currie, from Arisaig, said: 'I think the pool has been the most important building in this area to my family in the past 30 years. I want it to be reborn for us all.'

Abigail Jackson, from Mallaig, also said the refurbishment of the facility was 'essential to the area.'

She added: 'Everyone should learn how to swim, but it is highly important in a fishing village. Upgrades are necessary to keep it running and to keep people coming.'

Mr Thompson added: 'This couldn't have happened without a lot of effort from the board, staff and friends of the pool, as well as from the Highland Council staff who have helped and advised on the process so far.'

'The pool and leisure facility is a vital resource for residents and visitors of all ages. I hope this good news from the council

will further motivate the public to get behind the rest of this ambitious project to transform the centre.'

Fiona Baker, chairwoman of the Mallaig pool and leisure, said: 'We're absolutely delighted the Highland Council has recognised the value of Mallaig pool to the community and supported our refurbishment programme with an award of £275,000 of public funds towards our goal.'

'This is a culmination of three years of methodical and detailed groundwork by the team of enormously talented, dedicated and largely volunteer board and management to whom all credit must be given.'

'Over the next three months we await the response of a number of other funding agencies.'

'This project will only be entirely successful if we can now deliver the collegiate sponsorship necessary to match-fund this significant award. But this is a great boost.'

TIMESLINE

Synthetic pitch for Acharacle school

COUNCIL members have agreed plans for a synthetic playing field at Acharacle primary school.

Approval of a 90m x 45m playing area, the larger of two options available, was approved.

The project is set to cost £600,000 and will be funded from the Life Cycle Investment budget.

A report by the education, children and adult services committee said: 'The school opened in 2009 and has had limited play space available since then.'

'During this time, council officials have worked with community representatives and ward members to explore the feasibility of providing a larger playing area to meet the needs of the wider community.'



Fiona Hyslop.

Minister is set to visit Fort William

LOCHABER Chamber of Commerce is gearing up to welcome Fiona Hyslop MSP to Fort William.

The culture, tourism and external affairs secretary will be in Fort William on Monday September 5 for the opening of the pontoons, after which Lochaber Chamber of Commerce will be holding a small reception for members to informally meet the minister. This will give people the chance to raise any queries with the Ms Hyslop.

Cervical testing views wanted

NHS HIGHLAND is looking for the views of lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) women about the cervical screening programme. An online survey has been designed to collect the views of LGB women, as evidence has suggested barriers may exist which deter them from having smear tests. NHS Highland wants to understand what can be done to improve this situation.

The survey is at www.survey-monkey.co.uk/r/NHSHCSLGB0816.

Forest appeal lands £750,000 in funding

MONICA GIBSON
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AN APPEAL to save an 'enchanted forest' has hit the halfway mark towards its target thanks to a big funding boost.

Loch Arkaig pine forest is being sold by Forest Enterprise Scotland under the National Forest Land Scheme.

Woodland Trust Scotland is partnering Arkaig Community Forest – a small group of local residents who share ambitious plans to take over the 2,500-acre site which is in need of a bit of TLC after becoming degraded over the years.

The plan has been boosted by a £750,000 award from players of People's Postcode Lottery, taking the appeal halfway to the £4.5 million required.

Gary Servant, of Arkaig Community



There is potential for various businesses using products from the forest. A woodworker has plans to make furniture from fallen ancient timber.

Picture courtesy of John McPherson

Forest, said: 'We give heartfelt thanks to all People's Postcode Lottery players for this magnificent contribution. This money will help us secure the ecological regeneration of our forest and the economic regeneration of our community. This is a once in a

lifetime opportunity and it is fantastic to have this support.'

Clara Govier, from the People's Postcode Lottery, said: 'We are delighted that our players are able to support the work of the Woodland Trust across Britain, and to back the

exciting partnership of conservationists and community at Loch Arkaig.'

During the Second World War, the Loch Arkaig pine woods were a training ground for commandos but since then they have been degraded by historic felling, and planting with non-native conifers which will be slowly removed over the next 20 years.

Becky Speight, from the Woodland Trust, added: 'This is a fantastic funding commitment from players of the People's Postcode Lottery. Wherever players are in Britain, they will be supporting tree planting and protection of woods in their own area while helping secure and restore this venerable old forest at Loch Arkaig. From the tree at the end of the city street to the mighty pines of Arkaig, they are nurturing Britain's woods and wildlife for everyone to enjoy.'

Melanie is write person to lift memorial trophy

THIS year's winner of the Thomas Rae Memorial Prize for writing is Melanie MacLennan, from Lochaber high school.

The prize, donated by the parents of former pupil Thomas Rae, who tragically died young, is awarded annually for the best writing produced for a Higher English portfolio in Lochaber high school.

Melanie, 16, who enjoys writing in her spare time, is currently undertaking the Advanced Higher English course, which will allow her to develop her talent.

She hopes to go on to university next year to study journalism and creative writing.



Melanie MacLennan from Lochaber high school who won the Thomas Rae Memorial Prize for writing.



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Viewpoint

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
email: editor@obantimes.co.ukThe Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Many parents and schools will be delighted with the news that Argyll and Bute Council has approved a motion by Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon that every head teacher has the authority to reinstate the post of librarian in their school should they so wish.

Money was freed up from a council tax banding change and education secretary John Swinney MSP made the decision that an extra £100 million should be made available for education in Argyll and Bute.

This year's budget cuts hit many services and education took its share of the pain, so councillors should be commended for agreeing that head teachers should be given the power to decide where the money can be best used to support our children's education.



Days gone by – car boot sale

There were plenty of smiles at this car boot sale held in Barcaldine, possibly in 1993. However, given the way most of those in the photograph are wrapped up in their coats, it was clearly not the warmest of days! If any reader has any more information, including the names of the people in the picture, please let us know by emailing to editor@obantimes.co.uk or by writing to The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON
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Bearsden Festival

BEARSDEN will be buzzing with the sound of traditional music this Saturday, September 3, between 10pm and 4pm, when there will be lots of Celtic music workshops taking place all around the town.

The workshops are all completely free and are being billed as a chance to try out something you have never done before. They offer participants the opportunity to take part in ukulele, fiddle, singing and Gaelic workshops led by professionals, and there are both children's and adults' classes as well as classes for people who play the instruments already.

Participants should meet at New Kilpatrick Parish Church at 9.30am for 10am classes, and 11am for 11.15am classes. Coffee and juice are available and there are, of course, various eating places in Bearsden, as well as New Kilpatrick halls for your own picnic.

There is a Celtic concert on Saturday night in the church featuring the festival tutors. Everything involved in the festival (including the concert) is free – so it really is a wonderful opportunity for aspiring musicians.

Clydebank ceilidh

THE Clydebank Highlanders are

Social media

THERE was criticism on social media of the Argyllshire Gathering being held on a Thursday instead of at the weekend.

Allan Strang Jnr complained: 'I bet the school kids would've loved to go but these games are on a Thursday to keep most of the working class and their families away.'

Ross McNab wrote: 'Always held the week after the kids go back to school, it's a joke. The games are not for locals, they are for the toffs and land owners.'

Colin Cooper lamented: 'I wish they

holding their first ceilidh of the season on Friday September 9 in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, at 7.30pm.

Chairman for the evening will be Neil Murray and Gaelic singers include Jimmy Cameron, Gordon McKeever and current Mòd gold medalist Catriona Macneil.

That's quite a line-up. Rocksalt will provide some Scots songs, and Susan Macfadyen will give a few tunes on the box.

The accompanist for the evening is Gordon Kinniburgh and the piper is Robert Wood. It's always a good ceilidh in Clydebank and this one sounds like a great night.

Stirling ceilidh

THE Stirling branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach is having a ceilidh in the Lesser Albert Hall, Stirling, on Saturday September 17 at 7.30pm.

Stirling Gaelic Choir will perform along with various soloists and duetists. The piper for the evening will be Sandy Campbell. Everyone will be made very welcome and tickets are £5 which includes teas.

What's on

Saturday September 3: Bearsden

would change it to Saturdays I always miss out because it's held mid week.' Joanne Sardini recalled: 'One of my most vivid memories from childhood.'

THERE was also strong reaction to the news that research by Mountaineering Scotland showed 67 per cent of its members did not want to see wind farms when in the hills.

Willie Reid countered: 'I don't mind them at all. I'd rather have wind turbines than have acid rain and a huge hole in the ozone layer. The same was

Festival workshops between 10pm and 4pm.

Saturday September 3: Celtic concert as part of the Bearsden Festival in New Kilpatrick Parish Church at 7.30pm.

Tuesday September 6: Ceòl 's Craic AGM in the Glasgow Gaelic School. Thursday September 8: From Small Lochs to Great Lakes, from Glasgow Uist and Barra Association, in the Gaelic Bookshop, Mansfield Street, 7pm-8pm.

Friday September 9: Clydebank Highlanders' opening ceilidh in the Napier Hall at 7.30pm.

Saturday September 17: Gaelic Day in Irvine Royal Academy as part of the East Ayrshire Gaelic Forum. Saturday September 17: Glasgow Sky Association Opening Concert in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street.

Pub scene

Park Bar. Friday September 2: Robert Nairn and Donald Macrae.

Saturday September 3: Heron Valley. Sunday September 4: Trail West (4pm-6pm).

Islay Inn. Friday September 2: Black Velvet. Saturday September 3: The Keelies. Wednesday September 7: Quiz night.

no doubt said about hydro electricity back in the day.'

Colin Chalky Whyte posted: 'The people who hate them will be begging for wind turbines when the power in their houses shut down. We need wind wave power so stop moaning.'

Maddy Johnstone wrote: 'They should be grateful for clean energy.'

Fiona Miller reasoned: 'Yes, of course we would like to see the hills unobstructed but we need energy to live and this is one of the cleanest ways of making it, let's get used to them.'

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Language in letter was inappropriate

Sir, I read and generally agreed with the letter from Donald Morrison (The Oban Times, August 18). His condemnation of the named persons scheme as the wrong policy to deal with the very real issue of protecting children and his lauding of the Supreme Court for having the good sense to declare the data-sharing provisions to be in contravention of human rights and therefore the legislation to be illegal, were spot on.

I was, therefore, surprised to read such a vehement attack on Mr Morrison's motives and his views from Donald Morris (The Oban Times, August 25). Mr Morris's letter is an exercise in the most extreme vitriol I have come across in your columns.

For someone who claims to be 'involved in child protection policies', his lack of moderation and restraint are quite inappropriate. His language betrays a vested interest, however tenuous, in the named persons scheme, and that is one of the main criticisms of the scheme and its proponents.

Anyone who questions the model is attacked as putting their own interests before the safety and welfare of children.

This is how everyone from the first minister to the deputy first minister and all those who have been involved have dealt with any criticism, and Mr Morris is no different.

The parents and others who see the scheme as being the wrong tool to achieve the stated objective of safety and protection for our children are every bit as concerned, and perhaps even more, to see that children are safe and protected.

The basic tenet of any public service is that it should be efficient and effective and, in a world of scarce resources, that inevitably means it must be targeted where it is most needed.

The difficulty the care agencies have is not so much one of identifying the children who are at risk as applying the necessary resources to protect those who are, and recent tragic cases demonstrate that they do not achieve that. The named persons scheme's universal approach is bound to result in scarce resources being applied wastefully and would therefore have a negative impact on outcomes.

The dishonest response of the Scottish Government ministers and other vested interests who have attempted to spin the Supreme Court decision as some sort of victory, when it is patently a humiliating defeat, actually shows themselves up as being more concerned with 'we know best' than with child welfare.

Alan Thomson, The Old Barn, Strontian.

Hotel staff helped to rescue our holiday

Sir, We travelled to Oban on Saturday,

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

RINN MI TOILEACHAS MÒR ris an naidheachd mun e-sgoil 'a ga stèidheachadh ann an Steòrnabhagh gus cothrom a thoirt dha sgoilearan feadh nan Eileanan Siar pàirt a ghabhail ann an làn-churraicealam foghlaim tro chlasaichean air-loidhne. 'S e an innntinniche buileach gum bheil caochladh dhùbhlain a tha nan trioblaidean dha comhairlean eileanach gan coinnèachadh leis an inneachd ùr seo.

Tha duilgheadasan air seirbheisean solarachaidh foghlaim feadh Alba a' lorg luchd-teagais ann an sgìrean dùthchail, agus a bharrachd air sin tha e air leth cosgail foghlaim a libhrigeadh dha àireamhan beaga chloinne ann an àiteichean iomallach. Uaireanan tha seo a' ciallachadh gum feum clann sibhal astaran fada chun sgoil gach latha neo fuireach air falbh bhon dachaighean, ann an ostailean sgoile, tron t-seachdain. Tha gach roghainn daor, doirbh, agus nuair a chuirear gainnead luchd-teagais ris tuigear an seòrsa duilgheadas a tha ma choinneimh chomhairlean gach latha is iad a' feuchainn ri deastanasan foghlaim a choileanadh.

Le coimhearsnachdan sgapte agus iomallach tha leithid seo de dhùbhlain

August 6, en route to Barra. There were six of us and a dog and we were the victims of the really bad weather as the ferry was cancelled until the Monday, August 8.

We had driven from North Wales, setting off on Friday night, so were all exhausted when we arrived in Oban, especially my three-year-old granddaughter.

A lot of the hotels were full but the Caledonian managed to accommodate us all, including the poor car-sick dog.

We would like to thank the staff at the hotel for everything they did to make us very warm and comfortable, especially Kayleigh on reception.

We had thought our holiday was ruined but it was rescued by these wonderful people and we travelled to Barra on the Monday and had a great time as usual.

So thanks go to the Caledonian Hotel and the staff at CalMac for their help in keeping us informed and getting us to Barra despite what was no doubt a very stressful weekend of work getting passengers to their destinations all across the ferry network.

We will be back again next year and this time are going to stay at the Caledonian for a rest before travelling onwards by ferry.

Jayne Cartledge, Shotton, North Wales.



The raising of the Jacobite standard in the film *Bonnie Prince Charlie*.

Fascinating history of famous clan banners

Sir, Reference was made in last week's *Oban Times* ('Sun stars at great Glenfinnan Gathering') to the clan banners carried out to the field by the stewards at the opening ceremony.

These have an interesting history and were used in 1946 in a British historical film called *Bonnie Prince Charlie*, which was directed by Anthony Kimmins for London Films depicting the 1745 Jacobite Rising and the role of Bonnie Prince Charlie within it.

Filed in Technicolor, it starred David Niven (as Bonnie Prince Charlie), Jack Hawkins (Lord George Murray) and Margaret Leighton (Flora MacDonal). It was one of the few roles Niven played in his career without his moustache.

Filming took place at Glenfinnan and at Shepperton studios in London. Soldiers in the British army were hired as extras but complained they were not paid. The film ended up taking two years to make and was not a success. It cost £600,000 and took in only £175,311 at the box offices.

Ailean Caimbeul

nas bitheanta dha na comhairlean eileanach na tha air tìr-mòr agus tuigear gu furasta cho soirbheachail 's a bhios siostam libhrigidh anns am bi neach-teagais ann an sgoil neo ionad iomchaidh eile a' bruidhinn ri sgoilearan nan coimhearsnachdan fhèin tro ghòireas loidhne. Seo an seòrsa feallsanachd air an deachaidh Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eileanan a stèidheachadh agus 's fhada bho thòiseach a' beachdachadh air ciamar a ghabhadh an aon mhodh-teagais obrachadh gu math na Gàidhlig.

Ach mar a bha riamh fìor, bha cosgais na chnap-starra, ach a-nise leis an inneachd gu bhith air a chleachdadh airson seirbheis foghlaim anns na h-eileanan san fharsaingeachd, bidh cothrom aig curraicealam foghlaim tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig feum a dhèanamh deth cuideachd. Tha mi a' cuimhneachadh air còmhraidh le ball de Chomhairle a' BhBC bliadhnaichean air ais is i a' faighneachd dhìom ciamar a ghabhadh cosgaisean stiùidio ann an Port Rìgh, Beinn na Fadhlà, is an t-Oban a dhìon. Fhreagair mi gun robh comas aig an uidheamachd cànan sam bith a fhrithchealadh agus mar sin gur e leasachadh a bha seo air goireasan

Niven later recalled the movie without affection: 'Bonnie Prince Charlie was one of those huge, florid extravaganzas that reek of disaster from the start. There was never a completed screenplay, and never during the eight months we were shooting were the writers more than two days ahead of the actors. In confusion, we suffered three changes of directors. At one point I cabled Goldwyn, [the owner of the production company], "I have now worked every day for five months on this picture and nobody can tell me how the story ends. Advise". He didn't. He didn't even bother to answer.'

Francis Cameron-Head of Inverailort, the convener of the first Glenfinnan Gathering, provided the historical background and when the production team had finished filming he asked for the banners in return. Later as he and his family, who had also provided some of the props, watched the film, they were amused to see that when the boat carrying Bonnie Prince Charlie landed on the beach at the head of Loch Shiel, it was secured by a piece of blue plastic rope and the wicker hamper, they had produced, which contained the prince's lunch, still had 'Lochaber Laundry' stamped on it. So much for historical accuracy.

The attached photograph shows the raising of the Jacobite standard ceremony as it appeared in the film. The site is near the old Royal Observer Corps post high above the loch chosen to obscure the famous monument built in 1815.

Iain Thornber, Lochallan.

Not surprised by council's decision

Sir, Why the surprise at our councillors being anti-minority residents ('Vote to fight hate crimes defeated', *The Oban Times*, August 25)? We will see more caring and consideration in the new *Transformers* movie than from our non-transforming national and local politicians.

Holyrood's 1990s further education policy locks out numerous disadvantaged people from better-paid jobs. They also failed to block DWP policy changes that ended support for many disabled workers in isolated communities. Last month, the independent case examiner found Jobcentre Plus guilty on four counts out of five of maladministration towards my blindness when they blocked support.

Our wonderful local authority has not caught up with 1995 anti-discrimination laws. Oban library has no automatic doors to help mobility-impaired users and mums with pushchairs. The badly named Albany Street Access Centre has computers for the public to use but no screen magnification app or voice for the partially-sighted and dyslexic.

So to be fair to the council, if they had voted for genuine equality and diversity, they would now be prosecuting themselves.

Mike Foster, Pulpit Hill, Oban.

Ailean Caimbeul

nàiseanta craolaidh. Chòrd sin rithe! Agus tha sgeulachd an e-sgoil 'a' còrdadh riumsa cuideachd air sgàth 's gum bheil coltas ann gun sgoil an seòrsa seirbheis feadh Alba, gu sònraichte mar mheadhan air coimhearsnachdan iomallach a fhrithchealadh. Mar a tha fios againn tha "eileanan" beaga Gàidhlig feadh na dùthcha a tha feumach air taic teagais, agus le gainnead luchd-teagais chuspairean àrd-sgoile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, tha fhios gun dèan leithid seo feum mòr. Meal-an-naidheachd air na math an e-sgoil gu bith agus gach soirbheachadh leotha ga toirt air adhart!

CONGRATULATIONS to all involved in launching the e-school initiative in Stornoway. I wish the project well and I am confident it will effectively address many challenges which islands authorities face in fulfilling education commitments. This concept has been a long-standing aspiration for delivering Gaelic medium education at secondary subject level, and as it expands across Scotland GME should benefit enormously.

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

Press policy

WE AT The Oban Times endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

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

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses

must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not

be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

Lochaber puts on a great show

IT WAS another successful year at the Lochaber Agricultural Show on Saturday.

Friday's bad weather didn't dampen the spirits, as the skies cleared on Saturday (August 27) for the annual show.

Committee member John Weller told *The Oban Times*: 'The show looked really good and was well attended at the weekend. It was a nice dry day in the end, so perfect really.'

'We had about the same number

of stock entries as last year, which is good, and I think that the stalls had a successful day all round.'

John has been on the committee for almost 10 years, and his wife is the show secretary. He added: 'There about 12 to 15 core members on the committee, but there are lots of people working behind the scenes to make the day a success. Committee members' family and kids all get involved.'

Full results at www.obantimes.co.uk.



Robert Wright from Ardgour with son David, took home a number of trophies, including the Inverloch Castle Cup.



Dale Scott of Leys Castle farm with champion Highland heifer.



John Nudds's sheep were award-winners at the show.



Ally Nudds steadies a multi-award-winning lamb belonging to his brother John.



It was a fab day for 13-year-old Sam MacKenzie's sheep.



Pipa Ferguson, from Fort Augustus, with Deben Anastasia, pony reserve winner.



Ruby of Sunnynook with rider Kirsty Mann won the overall championship.



From Sandra Bergman, Myread Sim, Sam MacDonald, Jean Campbell and Evelyn MacDonald celebrate the opening of the Gerrie Costick exhibition. 17_t36gallery1

Unique work on show in Taynuilt tearoom

AN EXHIBITION of embroidery at Robin's Nest tearoom in Taynuilt was earmarked by its designer to be sold off for charity.

But the small group of people who have known about the work of Gerrie Costick believe it should be kept together as a body of work due to its uniqueness and exceptional nature.

Jean Campbell from Taynuilt first came across Gerrie when he moved to Taynuilt to live in a property she rented out.

Mrs Campbell said: 'Gerrie was in this area for about five years. His wife gave him special permission to come to the west coast to work on his embroidery for three years and he stayed longer.'

'I think that he had embroidered for many years but had always been doing something else at the same time. Being in Taynuilt allowed him to concentrate on his embroidery.'

'He was very disciplined. He sewed seven stitches a minute and he worked six hours a day apart from Sunday. He worked for two hours, then a break, the another two hours and a break with a final two hours.'

'One of his larger pieces (not on show) took 14 months to complete.'

'He had no phone, or mobile phone to interrupt him. All his correspondence was done by letters through the post. He did have a television - but that was it. He is a very talented artist and a friendly, gregarious person. Everyone who met him, liked him. He was very popular in Taynuilt.'

Gerrie studied medieval his-

tory at Trinity College, Dublin and it was his Irish accent that sparked his friendship with former art teacher Evelyn MacDonald and her writer and photographer husband Sam who live in Glen Lonan.

Sam talked to the crowd gathered to launch the exhibition. He said: 'This work is special and unique and should, in my mind, be kept together as a body of work.'

'To lose such exceptional work from this Jewish man from Dublin who came to Taynuilt to embroider would be a real shame.'

'We are exploring possibilities for the collection and in the meantime it is being shown for one of the first times in Taynuilt.'

'I would encourage everyone who has an interest in embroidery to come and see it.'

Evelyn added: 'I am no expert in embroidery but there is something deeply moving about this work and to see the detail and design, not to mention the progression in Gerrie's abilities, is something that should not be lost.'



Advertorial

Being a part of local heritage in our community



DUNOLLIE is a heritage site, a collection of buildings, artefacts, archives and heritage resources, a partnership of people, a visitor experience, a new brand and a fast growing innovative and exciting mixture of projects.

Dunollie's Vision is "To be Oban's jewel; an internationally celebrated centre for Scottish culture and heritage and home of the worldwide Clan MacDougall".

Dunollie's Mission is "To conserve, develop and share our cultural and natural heritage for the benefit of the local, national and international community".

The whole operation is overseen by The MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust, a limited company with charitable status.

Being on the board of trustees provides opportunities to help influence the future of this exciting project and its impact on the community.

There are different jobs within the Trust board each with its own responsibility. The work load is kept to a minimum for Trustees, concentrating on decision making and forward planning.

The Trust delegates development and day to day operation to the subsidiary company Dunollie Projects Ltd, a social enterprise, which has the responsibility of providing public access and opportunities surrounding the heritage assets. This is mainly achieved through a high quality museum in Oban - Dunollie Museum Castle & Grounds managed by an enthusiastic and able core team of six with additional seasonal staff.

Carol Evans trustee said "being a trustee of the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust has given me a unique opportunity to be part of an ever evolving and growing experience that is second to none in Argyll".

Trustee Vacancies (Voluntary)

The MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust

A unique opportunity presents itself for you to be at the heart of this organisation supporting heritage and the local community by growing a range of exciting initiatives around conservation of a world class collection of buildings, artefacts and archives;

Why not

- contribute your skills and experience to making a lasting difference to the conservation of some of Scotland's finest and most important heritage?
- gain unique experience for your own interest or to develop your CV, for a career in the heritage, tourism or the third sector?
- contribute to provision of a whole range of exciting educational and social benefits for people both locally and further afield.

If you are interested in becoming a trustee of The MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust

Please e-mail info@dunollie.org or you can download an application from our website www.dunollie.org

Applications should be returned to The MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust, North Wing, Dunollie House, Oban PA34 5TT or e-mailed to info@dunollie.org by Friday 9th September 2016.



Charity Number: SC028091

Advertorial

A wealth of know-how on tap



The team at City Plumbing Supplies.

FROM boilers, copper tubing and renewable technologies to bathroom suites and towel rails all from the top brand names, City Plumbing Supplies have everything you need to complete the job at work or at home.

They know in your business, time really is money, and that you can't afford to wait for products, which is why City Plumbing hold stock of a wide range of essential products that you need on a daily basis, and can source most other products from their central distribution centre within a day or two. Or if you're building or improving your home, City Plumbing in Oban is here to help you from design to delivery, complete with a bathroom showroom for inspiration and ideas.

City Plumbing's friendly, specialist staff are their best asset and their knowledge and expertise will ensure you always get the right products and advise when you need it. Make sure you visit your local branch in Oban on a regular basis and make use of this

wealth of industry know-how.

You can drop in to meet the four-strong team, branch manager Mark Wickham, assistant branch manager Harry Russell, showroom sales manager David McClure and salesperson Jason Wyllie, at 7E Glengallon Road in Oban, or call them on 01631 567640, between 7.30am and 5pm on Monday to Friday, and from 8am until 12noon on Saturday.

City Plumbing Supplies have a nationwide network of over 180 branches, so wherever your work takes you, you should always be near a local branch. Almost all of these branches have state-of-the-art bathroom showrooms, which have been designed to inspire both you and your customers and provide the facility for the products to be experienced first hand.

Their showroom and showroom manager are there as an extension to your business, so talk to City Plumbing about how they can take some of the time-consuming design and product selection work off

your hands.

And if that's not enough to make City Plumbing your first choice plumbing and heating merchant, they offer a delivery service which is available to all their trade customers and will ensure you get your orders delivered in full and at a time that suits you.

City Plumbing provides a complete service from start to finish. Visit Oban's local branch to find brochures and advice, or you can view and order all available products from the comfort of your own home via their websites www.cityplumbing.co.uk and www.the-bathroom-showroom.co.uk.

Look out too for City Plumbing's charity fundraising events, from sponsored skydives and extreme cycling challenges to marathons and charity balls. Last year City Plumbing Supplies raised in excess of £300,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust in over 130 events nationwide, bringing its current total to £1,000,000.

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TIMESLINE

Police appeal for information

POLICE are appealing for anyone who was in the Glen Nevis area around 11.45pm on Saturday August 28, specifically near the cattle grid at the youth hostel.

Officers would also like to trace and speak to a man described as around 6ft in height and about 40 years old, wearing a blue polo shirt with jeans. The man had a Labrador dog and may have had a silver estate-type vehicle with a Spanish flag sticker on the rear window.

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101.

Skye otter group heads for China

A SKYE-BASED international otter survival fund is gearing up to head to Asia next week to champion the animals.

With 2016 the year of the otter, the group has organised a training workshop in China for 30 participants to learn about identification, ecology, distribution, field signs and threats. The group has already organised similar programmes in Cambodia, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Africa.

Disruption from road closure

MOTORISTS are warned that the A82 will be closed for five nights about a mile north of Aberchalder Bridge, between Invergarry and Fort Augustus. BEAR Scotland advised the road would be closed from Sunday November 20 for five nights from 7pm to 7am.

Arena

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



The best laid plans of musicians and men.....

For this week's offering I had planned a boating theme as requested by my literary bosses here at *The Oban Times*. However, a last-minute booking to cover a cancellation at the Shrewsbury Folk Festival meant a change of weekend and change of article. Our anticipated voyage - Dunstaffnage - Tiree - Mingulay - Barra - Vatersay - Toddy - Obaig - will hopefully be undertaken in the coming weeks.

After two great gigs at The Cowal Highland Gathering on Friday night and Saturday evening we headed south of Glasgow to rendezvous at Bothwell Services where the minibus was loaded and cars were moored. Off we went down the M74 at full throttle, heavily laden with instruments, baggage and eight musicians. Long journeys in close proximity with band mates are an integral part of most bands' existence and it is one of the best and worst parts of life as a musician. Thankfully for us the craic was good and even on little sleep everyone's humour remained fair to moderate.

We had two slots to cover and it was a great honour to be filling in for Shooglenifty who unfortunately had to cancel because their drummer, James MacIntosh, suffered a serious leg injury. We all wish him a speedy recovery. The festival was fantastic, the organisers were lovely and the audiences were amazing. Another highlight was the array of delicious food on offer, the stand-out culinary experience being the White Porridge Van or as we christened it Bhan Bhàn a' Bhrochain. The brochan in the van was excellent, and I

would recommend a Brochan Van at every festival!

Accents are very interesting and it was amazing to hear the choruses of our songs being belted out at full volume by thousands of Shrewsbury revellers. The choruses of *The Island*, *Western Ocean* and *Walking on the Waves* sounded very different and the novelty was hilarious! 'Will ya dance and retooonn to the eyeland of the Yoooonng.....'. We were grateful that the possible mutual 'language barrier' was easily hurdled - 'Love (of Music) conquers all!'

We left Shrewsbury at around midnight and the journey home involved some dodgy night-time navigation by Norrie MacIver that in a marine setting would definitely have ended in having to let the flares off and a shout to the coastguard. I'm sure he took us on a jaunt through Wales! Regardless, we eventually found the M6 and retraced our path North arriving home 'jetlagged' mid-morning on Monday.

Highland music is experiencing a strong renaissance and the show of Highland bands headlining at major festivals throughout the world last weekend is testament to this. Skerryvore were leading the way at the Mad Gael Festival in Madison, USA, Mànnan were at Tonder Festival in Denmark and Skipinnish were lucky to be covering a headline slot at Shrewsbury. This indicates the richness of the tradition, the pioneering work by bands like Runrig and Capercaillie, the power of the Fèis movement and the universality of music.

We are lucky and grateful to be part of it.

Victory Hall bursts with blooming colour



A view of a very busy Victory Hall in Benderloch. 17_t36victory1



Eileen Hill had to be called from the kitchen to take her prize for baking. 17_t36victory3



The Needham family seems particularly adept at eggs and other home industries. 17_t36victory4



Perennial winner at the show, is Jessie Wormil whose dedication to the show was commended, she was presented her trophy by Michael Russell. 17_t36victory2



Mary Craik was presented her award by Michael Russell MSP. 17_t36victory5

WIN

A DELUXE ONE NIGHT DINNER, BED AND BREAKFAST STAY FOR TWO AT DORNOCH CASTLE HOTEL



Step into a night of luxury in this historic Castle situated in the centre of Dornoch and overlooking the town's stunning 13th Century Cathedral. The Castle has been carefully converted into a hotel to ensure that it retains many original features. It has been decorated to a high standard

to ensure that it combines traditional décor with modern comforts. The Dornoch Distillery will soon be creating a hand crafted, organic 'old style' whisky and gin right on the grounds of the Dornoch Castle, inside the former Fire Station which was built in 1881.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: **When was the Fire Station Built?**

Redeemable from October 2016 - April 2017 (excluding the festive period)

To enter, send your answer, name, address, telephone number and email address to Competitions, Wyvex Media, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh, EH5 2DL. Closing date is September 30, 2016. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Scottish Country Dancing Taster Class (FREE)
Mon 5th Sept
 Church of Scotland Centre, Oban
 8pm - 9.30pm
 Men, women, teenagers all welcome
Contact Sue: 563103
Joan: 770254

Oban U3A
Tuesday 6th September 2016 at 10.30am
 Studio Theatre and cafe area, Corran Halls, Oban
 This monthly meeting is when you can join or rejoin for the year. Also it is your opportunity to sign up for new groups or rejoin groups to which you have already been going. There will be coffee/tea as usual.

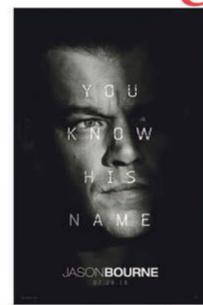
Straight from the Edinburgh Fringe 'Special Delivery'
 Live performance by Tobermory Main Street Players
 Oban Phoenix Cinema
 Friday 9th September 6.30pm for 7pm
 tickets £5.00 from the cinema
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More info at www.threelochs.co.uk

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Finding Dory 2pm, Jason Bourne 7.30pm

The Nevis Centre An Aird, Fort William
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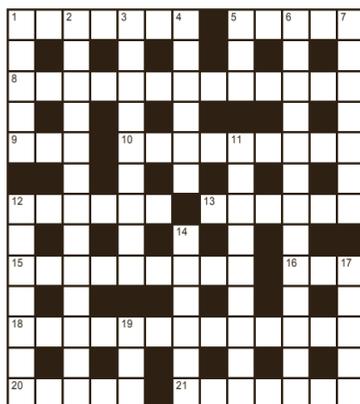
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- Across**
- Wet (7)
 - Boom heard from above (5)
 - Materially paltry (13)
 - Bird's beak (3)
 - Reciprocal to one more than yourself (4,5)
 - To bring about (6)
 - Bay (6)
 - Agreeable (9)
 - Breakdown of goodness (3)
 - First institutional place of learning (7,6)
 - Acclaim (5)
 - Study undertaken after receipt of a reward (7)

- Down**
- Bewail (5)
 - Flimsy (13)
 - Cheap plonk (5,4)
 - Observe (6)
 - Shiner (3)
 - Urban area (13)
 - Counted for diet (7)
 - Created when a tanker spills a load into the sea (3,6)
 - One who gets away (7)
 - Neaten (4,2)
 - Expressing end in grammar (5)
 - Painting (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Bookings flowing in for Tarbert's first Fèis

BOOKINGS are flowing in from as far afield as Oban, Taynuilt and Cumbernauld for Fèis Tairbeirt's first traditional music and dance workshop event being held in Tarbert, during the music festival, on Saturday September 17.

Organisers decided to run this first event during the Tarbert Music Festival weekend, partly because that would mean that lucky young participants would be coached by members of one of Scotland's best award-winning bands, Mànran.

'We are delighted that members of the band are involved in teaching at Fèis an Tairbeirt this year and really looking forward to Mànran's first performance at the Tarbert Loch Fyne music festival, said Gary Innes of the band.

'Argyll is one of Scotland's hotspots for traditional music festivals and never

fails to disappoint when offered the chance to party.

With the limited places filling up fast, organisers are recommending that young people aged eight-18 register as soon as possible. The day costs just £15 and includes a free T-shirt. Youngsters will be able to try out the fiddle, guitar, clarsach, whistle, percussion, accordion, Gaelic song and Highland dance, while more advanced musicians can join a band.

Three-to-seven-year-olds are not being left out either. They can take part, free, learning Gaelic songs and joining in a Gaelic Bookbug.

It's a great opportunity for youngsters from throughout Mid-Argyll and Kintyre.

For more information, contact Muriel MacKaveny on 07733 474688.



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16th - 18th SEPTEMBER



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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Blas Festival flies into Argyll with musical treats

ARGYLL and Bute Council funding is enabling the Blas Festival to spread its wings to the area between September 2 and 10.

On Friday September 2 Bunessan on Mull will be treated to songs from three Celtic nations in the guise of Aon Teanga (one tongue) with Scotland's Mary Ann Kennedy joining forces with Manx singer Ruth Keggin, Connemara seann-nòs singer Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin and Clare fiddler Ultan O' Brien for a show exploring common Gaelic roots.

On Friday September 9, the Corran Halls in Oban will ring to the tunes of box-playing legend Sharon Shannon from

County Clare. Nuallan, a group of pipers formed to explore the Gaelic style of piping brought to Canada from Scotland will join her. Gaelic singer Margaret Stewart will appear alongside piper Angus Nicolson and harpist Ingrid Henderson, amongst the finest exponents of Gaelic music and song in Scotland today. A group of young musicians from Scotland and Ireland taking part in the Guth nan Gael project and poet, Niall O'Gallagher, will complete the line-up.

A cèilidh in Islay's Ramsay Hall on Saturday September 10 will end the Blas Argyll foray, where family connections will be to the fore in the shape of Glenelg

brothers Iain and Murdo Cameron, both of whom were brought up surrounded by cèilidh music, joined by Mòd Gold Medallist Margaret Ford and her daughter, Joanne, a former member of the Lochaber Cèilidh Trail.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for community and culture, Councillor Robin Currie, said: 'The Blas festival celebrates the rich culture and heritage we have here in Scotland and is a great way of promoting Gaelic. I am delighted that the Council's contribution has enabled the event to expand into Argyll this year.'

The full Blas Festival programme is available at www.blas-festival.com with details of how to buy tickets.



Celebrating Highland Culture

BLAS festival 2016

September 2-10 Sultain www.blas-festival.com

Friday 2 September | Dihaoine 2 Sultain
Bunessan Village Hall, Mull | Muile @ 7.30pm
Aon Teanga Scottish, Irish & Manx song with Mary Ann Kennedy Ruth Keggin, Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin & Ultan Ó Brien
Local Box Office 01688 302211

Friday 9 September | Dihaoine 9 Sultain
Corran Halls, Oban | An t-Òban @ 7.30pm
Sharon Shannon | Margaret Stewart Trio
Nuallan | Guth na nGael | Niall O'Gallagher
Local Box Office 01631 567333

Saturday 10 September | Disathairne 10 Sultain
Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen | Ìle @ 7.30pm
Cèilidh Dance featuring Iain & Murdo Cameron | Margaret & Joanne Ford
Local Box Office 0844 888 9991

Thoiribh sùil air www.blas-festival.com for further details



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Friday 2 - Thursday 8 September

DAVID BRENT: LIFE ON THE ROAD | 15 | 116 MIN
Fri: 20:45, Sat, Sun: 20:00, Mon: 20:45, Tue: 21:00, Wed: 20:45, Thu: 21:00

Parent and baby screening: Tue: 11:30
Directed, written by and starring Ricky Gervais, David Brent: Life on the Road catches up with David Brent, former star of hit series The Office. In Life on the Road, Brent decides to chase his dream of becoming a rock star and hits the road with his band, 'Foregone Conclusion', for a self-financed tour of the UK.

FINDING DORY | U | 123 MIN

Fri: 16:30, Sun: 15:00, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 16:30
3D: 12:00
Disney-Pixar's 'Finding Dory' reunites everyone's favourite forgetful blue tang, Dory, with her friends Nemo and Marlin on a search for answers about her past.

KIDS CLUB: ENCHANTED | PG | 115 MIN

Sat: 11:30
Children's Classic. A princess, who is prepared to be wed, is sent away to New York by an evil queen, where she falls in love with a lawyer.

NERVE | 15 | 116 MIN

Fri: 18:45, Sat: 20:50, Sun: 17:00, Mon: 18:45, Tue: 21:00, Wed: 18:45, Thu: 21:00

A high school senior finds herself immersed in an online game of truth or dare, where her every move starts to become manipulated by an anonymous community of 'watchers.'

PETE'S DRAGON | PG | 122 MIN

Fri: 16:00, Sat: 14:30, 18:40 Sun: 12:30, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 16:00

Pete, following the death of his parents in a car crash when he was four, escaped to the forest and became best friends with a dragon, who raised him — but Pete and the dragon now face unprecedented threats to the way of life they've come to know and love. Remake of the 1977 film.

SILVER SCREEN - JASON BOURNE | 12A | 145 MIN

Sun: 14:30
Silver Screening - 'Last Chance to See' - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £2.50! Tea and cake £1.50
Jason Bourne, now remembering who he truly is, tries to uncover hidden truths about his past.

SUICIDE SQUAD | 15 | 150 MIN

Fri: 21:00, Sat, Sun: 17:15, Mon: 21:00, Tue: 18:15, Wed: 21:00, Thu: 18:15

A secret government agency run by Amanda Waller, named A.R.G.U.S creates a task force comprising super villains, the 'Suicide Squad'. They are assigned to execute dangerous tasks in exchange for shorter prison sentences.

THE BFG | PG | 137 MIN

Fri: 18:15, Sat: 14:00, Sun: 12:00, Mon, Wed: 18:15
A girl named Sophie encounters the Big Friendly Giant who, despite his intimidating appearance, turns out to be a kind hearted soul who is considered an outcast by the other giants because unlike his peers refuses to eat boys and girls. Based on the novel by Roald Dahl. Film directed by Steven Spielberg. Stars Mark Rylance, Rebecca Hall, Bill Hader.

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS | U | 120 MIN

Sat: 16:30, Tue, Thu: 18:45
Taking place in a Manhattan apartment building, Max's life as a favourite pet is turned upside down, when his owner brings home a sloppy mongrel named Duke. They have to put their quarrels behind when they find out that an adorable white bunny named Snowball is building an army of abandoned pets determined to take revenge on all happy-owned pets and their owners.

THE SHALLOWS | 15 | 106 MIN

Sun: 19:15
A young woman who is dealing with the recent death of her mother is surfing on an isolated beach and gets stranded 20 yards offshore on a buoy. What lies between her and the shore is a huge great white shark.

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MONDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1700 Drivetime With Marcus, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen

TUESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 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, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves

THURSDAY: 0800 Morning show, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with Stephen, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Cèilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY: 0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 -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: 0800 Breakfast Show, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Croscher, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

SUNDAY: 0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Sunday Brunch, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott



Arena

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

Literary stars are set to shine at Lismore festival

LISMORE Book Week begins on Monday with a theme of Scottish and Gaelic culture.

The 10-mile-long island, meaning 'great garden', lying in Loch Linnhe at the end of the Great Glen, has played an important part in the West Highlands' prehistory and history, and has an ancient and unbroken tradition of Gaelic literature.

Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre is hosting eight events from Monday until Friday, September 5 to 9, starting at 10am on Monday with a workshop on writing and illustrating a story with Jennifer Baker and Sarah Campbell, authors of a children's book *The Magic Tartan Trampoline*, based on island adventures. Afterwards at 1.30pm, actor, poet and performer Catriona Lexy Campbell explores Gaelic literature and drama.

Poet Alan Riach, professor of Scottish literature at Glasgow University, will present his translation of the great Gaelic poet Alasdair Mac Mhaigstir Alasdair's epic song of homage to ocean, ships and sailors, *The Birlinn of Clanranald*, at 2.30pm on Tuesday.

The next day Scottish novelist James

Robertson, author of *And the Land Lay Still* and *The Testament of Gideon Mack* will introduce his latest book, a mad-cap Highland adventure, at 2.30pm on Wednesday, before an evening session at 7.30pm in conversation with Alan Riach.

On Thursday at 2.30pm, Robertson will combine readings and poetry with the music of folk singer Mairi Campbell, followed by a literary dinner based on Maw Broom's menu.

Argyll College English tutor Marian Pallister, author of *Cruachan: The Hollow Mountain*, is holding an open mic day and workshop on Friday at 2.30pm, when you can bring your own poems, stories and favourite writings. The week ends with music and words at the evening ceilidh at 7.30pm, where you are invited to 'bring your instruments, your voice, yourselves'.

Week-long tickets cost £25, while individual events cost £6. There will be late ferries to Port Appin on Thursday - contact the heritage centre or ferryman on 01631 730356 for details and booking - and new businesses the Lismore bunkhouse and taxis are also on hand.



Novelist James Robertson will give talks.



Folk singer Mairi Campbell.

Entries for flower show follow a growing trend

A CALL made in 2015 for more entries and competitors at the Taynuilt Horticultural Show was responded to by the whole community with a rise in numbers and quality of the exhibits this year.

Organisers said they had a 'great day with entries well up on last year. Highlights were that many more children's entries this year - we're grateful to the Taynuilt school staff for encouraging the children to enter'.

Gemma Carswell won the six to 12 years' section

and also the Fleming Cup for the best exhibit in the children's section with her Garden on a Plate.

The real surprise came as Gareth Hall, a first-time exhibitor at the show, won the Neil Jackson Memorial Cup for the best exhibit in the Amateur Horticultural Section and also the rosette for the best exhibit in the show.

Gareth is an organic grower and participated in the new organic section of the show, with some spectacular vegetables on display.



The trophy winners at Taynuilt. 17_t36taynuilt4



Taynuilt's celebrity, 100-year-old Caroline Jamieson, presents Gemma Carswell with the Fleming Cup for her achievements in the children's classes. 17_t36taynuilt1



Caroline Jamieson presents Gareth Hall with the Jackson Memorial Cup for best exhibit. Gareth was a first time exhibitor, and is an organic grower. 17_t36taynuilt2



Caroline Jamieson presents Ruby MacDougall with her children's prize. 17_t36taynuilt3

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Summer dining Lochaber

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FLOATING on the beautiful Caledonian Canal, the Eagle Barge Inn provides the perfect setting for a fantastic seafood meal or specialist curry. The only floating restaurant and bar on the canal, the 120ft barge was built in Holland in 1926 and weighs in at around 200 tonnes. The barge was converted into a restaurant which now offers a unique dining experience for those who want to dine on the beautiful Caledonian Canal. Stationed at Laggan Locks, near Invergarry, the Eagle Barge has a full selection of ales on tap, and 62 whiskies on offer. It offers a lunch time menu from noon to 3.30pm that does not require a booking, and two evening dinner menus. The evening meals are from 5.30pm to 8.30pm and

must be pre-booked before 3pm on the day you wish to eat, as all of the evening meals are cooked to order. The specialist dish is a seafood fare which is made of crab leg, crab claws, langoustines, mussels, peppered mackerel, lobster, squid and clams, all served on a bed of steaming turmeric rice. The Eagle Barge also offers a range of specialist curries, including korma, balti, rogan josh, tikka masala and jalfrezi. It is unique in the fact it boasts some of the hottest curries in Scotland - if you choose, of course. Curries can go from mild to wild to suit your taste. With a warm fireplace, comfy leather sofas in the bar area and a diverse menu, the Eagle Barge Inn offers something for everyone.



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Bodach

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Get in touch with your stories at bodach@obantimes.co.uk

Little has changed in the conducting of funerals

FUNERALS do not often attract the attention of anyone beyond family and friends, so photographs of these occasions are rare. This one, taken at Ardfern, is extraordinarily atmospheric and could be a still from an art-house film. It is real enough though, and captures the reality and solemnity of the moment in stark monochrome.

Most people accept death as an inescapable element of the natural order. Most people also accept that loss can be sad and difficult. Dealing with the immediate consequences of death can be emotionally challenging for those left behind, and sometimes quite daunting if they are faced with making arrangements in a remote Highland or island location. Some people leave clear instructions about what is to happen to their remains, but some families have no guidance at all and must choose from a limited set of options.

Until very recently, almost all funeral services were conducted in a church. Most still are, and usually a parish minister or priest will officiate, even if the deceased had no particular affinity with the church, the clergy or even religion. If the service was in a crematorium, it would most often have been conducted by an

official representative of a particular church. The Highlands and Islands have plenty of churches dedicated to the Christian faith: Church of Scotland, Free Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic Church, Scottish Episcopal Church, United Free Church, Baptist Church – but not much in the way of provision for followers of Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism, Hinduism or Sikhism. The concerns of agnostics and the beliefs of atheists were disregarded altogether.

We have all attended funeral services conducted by churchmen and churchwomen who never knew the deceased. They comforted the families and composed complimentary accolades. They delivered speeches in a dignified and professional manner, but they could never generate the warmth and affinity of a close contact. Many grieving families are understandably too upset to contemplate saying goodbye in such circumstances; others consider themselves too shy or modest to assume the responsibility and the minister or the priest or whoever provides welcome and learned support.

In the past couple of decades eulogies and affectionate tributes delivered by family members and

friends have become more commonplace, and even encouraged by some clerics. It makes a difference, and for some people actually helps them come to terms with loss and grief. It is not so unusual now to hear applause and even laughter in response to these heartfelt acknowledgements of a loved one's achievements, idiosyncrasies, attributes and failures. They were human, after all.

Humanism is increasingly popular, but it is not always a practical consideration. The Humanist Society of Scotland has 115 registered celebrants, but only five of them are based in the Highlands and Islands. They too will do their best to celebrate a life and share special memories, but humanist services will not include acts of worship like prayers, hymns or readings from scripture.

Religious and humanist services can easily accommodate music, poetry and passages from favourite works of literature. Only last month I attended the funeral of a friend. It was a religious service, but the family and the minister recognised that there were mourners in attendance who were followers of different faiths and of none. The simple and elegant solution was to allow a few moments of quiet reflection for people to

remember the deceased in ways that were appropriate for them and their beliefs.

Interestingly, in legal terms, anyone can conduct a funeral service. There is no special training or qualification required; no set length of service, no standard format. Friends or family members often make particularly good celebrants, even if they are not used to speaking in public. If you have loved someone or been a close friend to them you are bound to give a convincing account of their life. It is perfectly normal and acceptable to feel emotional, but everyone I've known who has done this has managed to complete the service – or their part in it – with dignity.

Living where we do, options for the final committal of our mortal remains are limited to burial, cremation or, in special circumstances, burial at sea. Those of us who would like to be composted, exposed to scavenging wildlife or otherwise recycled must hope for changes in the law. In the meantime, I encourage those of us left behind to think carefully about who says what about those we lose. It can make all the difference.



First gathering marks a huge milestone in the future of Gaelic

ARGYLL and Bute Council's first ever dedicated Gaelic Gathering took place in Oban on Saturday and marked a huge milestone in the future of the language.

More than 70 people attended, including representatives from the Scottish Government and Bord na Gaidhlig. The event provided an excellent platform for networking and developing Gaelic in local communities, in schools and among businesses in the area.

The council's spokesman for community and culture, Robin Currie, announced that a virtual Gaelic forum will be developed to build on the momentum gathered from the day and share all the exciting Gaelic things that people are doing every day in Argyll and Bute.

Councillor Currie said: 'This is a new chapter for Gaelic in Argyll and the dawn of a new era

of collaborative working to get the language and culture that we are so proud of more prominent in Argyll and Bute.

'It is a major initiative for Argyll and Bute and I'm determined that it will be successful. Many of those who attended are part of organisations that could really make this work. It is a great initiative to bring the grassroots and the agencies together and keep our language alive and thriving.

'We need to do more to keep Gaelic alive. As well as hearing it spoken in our Gaelic primary schools and Mods, we need to hear more of the language in the community.

'We want more people learning Gaelic and more people speaking Gaelic in Argyll and Bute. The task is crystal clear and we are starting from a strong base. I look forward to watching the future of Gaelic go from strength to strength.'

Eightsome reel in the audiences on tour

ANNUALLY since 2010, Oban-based Fèis Latharna has been running the Argyll Ceilidh Trail, a three-week tour of Argyll and the Isles for eight of the area's finest young traditional musicians.

The 2016 tour took in a total of 18 gigs, including some fantastic new venues along with some return visits.

The aim of the ceilidh trail is to provide the young musicians with the opportunity to experience work as professional traditional musicians while promoting local traditional music and Gaelic culture.

This year, four of last year's band were to be joined by another four selected in an audition at the end of the 2016 Easter Fèis week. The competition was tougher than ever with 13 excellent applicants for just four spaces.

The 2015/2016 group were:
Rachel Campbell (Oban), accordion and vocals.

Morven MacFadyen-Donald (Seil), flute and vocals.

Ross Christie (Kilchrenan), guitar and mandolin.

Ruaridh Litster-Campbell (Arduaine), piano and cajon.

The new 2016 additions were:
Emma Baird (Taynuilt), vocals and guitar.

Holli Scott (Dunoon), fiddle and vocals.
Alistair MacLean (Oban), bagpipes and whistles.

Andrew McAllister (Campbeltown), guitar and bagpipes.

The band had three training weekends and an intense week of professional tuition provided by Fèis Alba in the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music in Plockton before going out on tour.

A particular feature this year were the eight island locations that were included and

which made for some interesting logistics but were well worth it. The organisers were delighted to have the support of CalMac, which generously provided sponsored tickets for multiple sailings.

These island trips, which included Coll, Tiree, Mull, Luing, Lismore, Gigha, Islay and Arran, could not have been viable without CalMac's continued support.

There were so many highlights to this year's tour so it is impossible to pick a favourite but the group particularly enjoyed their finale night in Skipinnish Ceilidh House in Oban, where they were overwhelmed with the enthusiastic crowd which included locals and many visitors to the town.

The ceilidh trail is only made possible through the continued support of sponsors Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Argyll and Bute Council, Creative Scotland, HIE and Caledonian MacBrayne.

Summer dining



Argyll & the islands

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The Argyllshire Gathering 2016



The Duke of Argyll and Matthew Anderson take the salute as Oban High School Pipe Band parades past.

Record numbers flock to games as sun burns event into the memory

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

THOUSANDS gathered from across the world to compete and socialise at Oban's 145-year-old celebration of Highland culture and traditions last Thursday. 'We've been blessed with a fantastic day,' the Argyllshire Gathering's senior steward, Robin Nicholson, told members at the start. 'We're hoping for a spectacular march to keep the tourists happy.'

He thanked MacQueen Bros Ltd and Argyll and Bute Council for 'without their support we would not be able to hold the games', and paid tribute to Duncan Currie MacIntyre, a member of the Argyllshire

Gathering and St Columba's Cathedral, who died in July. Once the march of the Stewards reached the games field at Mossfield, the competing pipers halted to remember the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

Angus MacColl, Benderloch, played the retreat march *The Battle of the Somme* by the Ballachulish Pipe Major William Lawrie, who fought in the horrendous battle with the 8th Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Reflecting on the day, games steward Matthew Anderson said: 'We're very pleased with the turnout, but also the competitions. We've got 50 to 60 dancers, and I think 45 from

Canada. You couldn't have better weather.'

Piping steward Torquil Telfer said Oban was 'a top venue for the top players in the world'.

Mr Nicholson agreed: 'The crowds at the march were better than I can remember for many years. There were more pipers than I recall, reflecting the continuing success of the piping competitions. The trade stands have been particularly successful this year, and the heritage tent has grown year on year.'

Thursday's and Friday's ball benefited from a £200,000 renovation of the Argyllshire Gathering Hall on Breadalbane Street, completed earlier this year.

Three records were broken

on the day – one by Lismore, now Blair Atholl, man Lorne Colthart, 24, and the other by field and track athlete Allan Hamilton, 24, who hopes to make it to the 2020 Olympics.

Lorne said he was 'delighted' to have thrown the 56lb weight further than before. He broke the record he set in 2014.

Allan, from Edinburgh, broke a record set in 1911 by Hugh MacAskill of Kilmartin, in the long jump, securing an extra few centimetres to the record. Later in the afternoon, Allan tried to break the Scottish high jump record, but instead managed to only break the ground record by one centimetre, jumping 199cm.

Full results at www.obantimes.co.uk.



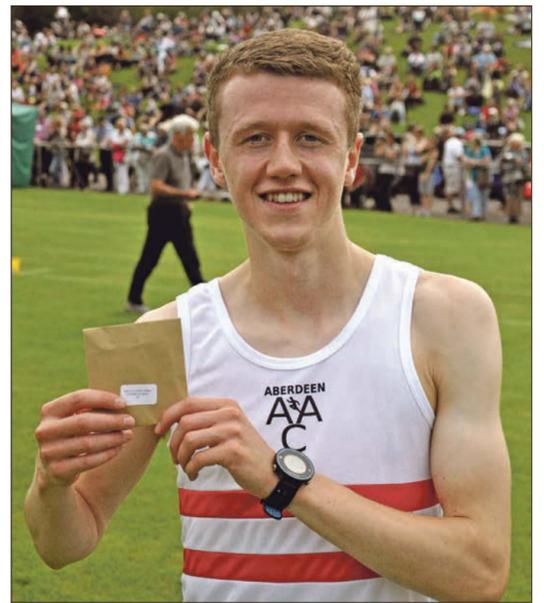
Oban's Emma Thompson took first, Sian Henderson, Isle of Mull, was second, with Julie Didcock, Oban, taking third.



World champion Scott Rider competed in the heavy events.



The stand was packed as thousands flocked to the games.



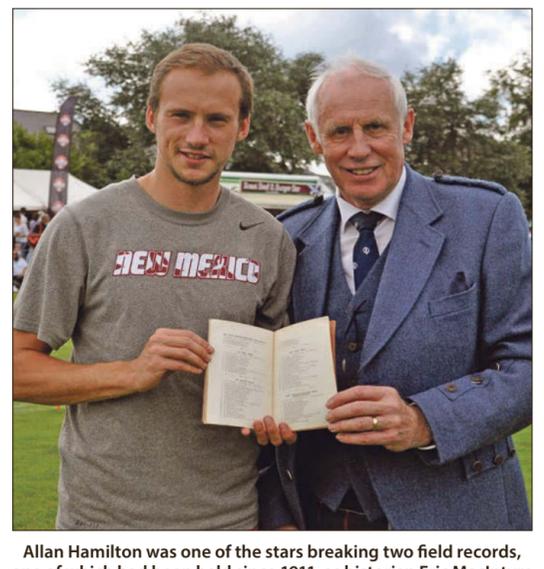
Fresh from training in Rio, Rory Muir, Kinross, won the men's 100m.



Dunbeg's own Stewart Inglis shows his skills on the long jump.



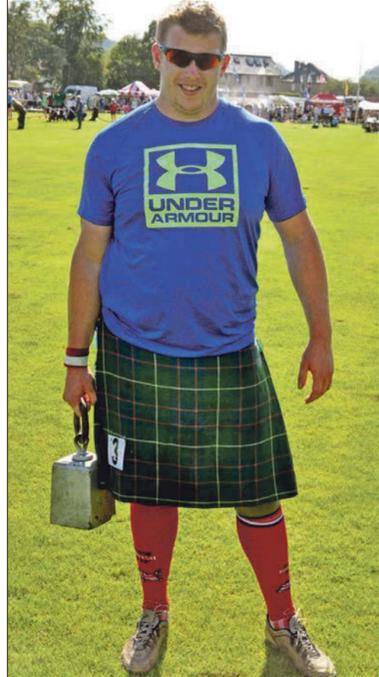
Doting parents at the finishing line with cameras.



Allan Hamilton was one of the stars breaking two field records, one of which had been held since 1911, as historian Eric MacIntyre shows as he had the programme for that year's event with him.



Ladies who visited the gathering took part in the popular tug of war.



Lismore's Lorne Colthart with the 56lb weight. He smashed the record by 2ft and 3 1/2 inches.



Sarah, Charlie and Steve Sabin-Treby from Colchester.



Sophie Campbell, Rachel Haynes, Geoff and Doug Campbell and Amy Woodhouse.



Kalifa, a barbary falcon owned by Paul Finnegan. Finn Falconry puts on a display every Sunday at Inverawe.



Peter Kemp and Donald Shell were at the St John's Cathedral stall in the Heritage tent.



PC Darren Miller and Sgt John Stobo.



Iain Hill from Ellenabeich and Simon Orton from Easdale.



Mahad Ahmed, 20, from Glasgow took third place in the high jump.



Alison MacVicar, from Oban, wins the women's hill race, finishing the event in style.



The athletics races attracted men from all over the UK to take part.



The Duke of Argyll with Matthew Anderson taking the salute from world champion piper Angus MacColl.



Angus MacColl plays William Lawrie's retreat march *The Battle of the Somme*.



Oban High School's Emma Baird, Nathaniel Petre, Selina Keppie, Chloe Johnston, James MacIntyre and Rachel Campbell.



Kilmartin's Jan Brown, Kay Owen, Julia Hamilton and Grace MacLeod.

Fitting tribute to Argyll piping hero

THESE words were spoken by scholar and historian Eric MacIntyre in commemoration of the Battle of the Somme at the Argyllshire Gathering.

'Pipe Major William Lawrie, Your Grace, members, ladies and gentlemen, today the Argyllshire Gathering is proud and humbled to play its part in honouring the victims of the Battle of the Somme 100 years ago. In particular, we would like to remember one of Argyll's and this gathering's most famous sons, the great piper William Lawrie.

'Willie Lawrie began to learn the

pipes from his father, but moved on to be taught by the legendary John MacColl, still commemorated in the march to this field from the town each year.

'Willie won the gold medals at both Oban and Inverness in 1910, a rare achievement still, and proceeded to win all the major prizes in piping.

'He went to France in 1915 with the 1/8th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and became Pipe Major.

'He was present at the Somme, the bloodiest battle in British military history, and composed his celebrat-

ed retreat march *The Battle of the Somme*. But, sadly, as his 8th Argylls friends took Beaumont Hamel in the snows of November 1916, Willie was invalided home and died in Oxford on November 28 1916.

'Today, to carry on the link and the tradition, we have Angus, great-grand-nephew of John MacColl, to play Willie's *Battle of the Somme* for us. And so, to honour Willie Lawrie and all the Argyllshire men who died, we welcome our own modern Willie Lawrie, the celebrated local piper Angus MacColl.'

The Argyllshire Gathering 2016

PIPERS from Toronto Police Pipe Band won both the gold and silver medals on Wednesday, when the world's best bagpipers competed at Oban's Corran Halls and Skippinsh Ceilidh House.

Ian K MacDonald, a 46-year-old police officer with the Toronto Police Service, from Whitby, Ontario, won the Highland Society of London's gold medal with the bonny tune *Mary's Praise*. Ian, Pipe Sergeant in the Toronto Police band, described his 'total elation' in finally winning the top prize he has competed for since 1994.

The gold medal winner then leads the competing pipers in the March of the Stewards the next day, at the far right of the front row, while at the far left marches the silver medal winner – this year Nick Hudson from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who teaches piping at the College of Wooster in Ohio. 'It came as a bit of shock. This is my second year playing,' said the delighted American, who plays beside Ian in Toronto Police Pipe Band.

Their fellow band member, Pipe Major Sean McKeown, joined them at the front of the procession, beside 14-year-old Finlay Cameron of Roy Bridge, who won the College of Piping Silver Salver in the MacGregor Memorial Competition. Argyll's own Stuart Liddell of Inveraray won the coveted Senior Piobaireachd Trophy for the second year in a row, and Alasdair Henderson of Dunoon won the former winners' MSR, after winning both the A-grade march and strathspey and reel finals last year at his first attempt.

Thursday's Gathering saw a new Robert G Hardie Memorial Trophy awarded to young pipers under 22 years of age. Competitors must submit three marches, three strathspeys and three reels, and play them in one set in any combination demanded by the adjudicators. The trophy's first winner was Calum Brown of Aberdeen.

Full results at www.obantimes.co.uk.



March of the Stewards with, left to right, gold medal-winner Ian K MacDonald of Ontario, Sean McKeown also of Toronto Police Pipe Band, MacGregor medal-winner Finlay Cameron of Roy Bridge and silver medal-winner Nick Hudson of Pittsburgh, USA.



A good field of runners heads out for the hill race.



Local march, Strathspey and reel winner Aaron Hossain with assistant piping steward Jamie Mellor.



Toot Toot, living up to his name. Former Mull police officer Neil Walker was back in Oban to compete in the piping competitions. Mr Walker now lives in Australia.



March of the Stewards with the Royal Regiment of Scotland mascot Cruachan IV, a Shetland pony.



Dancers from Oban, Australia and Canada competed well into the afternoon without skipping a beat.



The March of the Stewards nears the finishing line in the games field.

Pint-sized mascot guzzles his beer

A SMALL but famous lance corporal joined the March of the Stewards this year after greeting the Queen at Balmoral.

The miniature mascot of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, a Shetland pony called Cruachan IV, trotted between the competing pipers and Duke of Argyll in the procession from Station Square to the games field at Mossfield Park.

The bay gelding was fresh from celebrating his eighth birthday the day before, and from welcoming the Queen's arrival at Balmoral Castle. Cruachan IV's keeper, Pony Major



Wilkinson, said: 'He's Her Majesty's wee pal.'

The pony has just returned from ceremonial duties at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and the Mussel-

burgh Riding of the Marches. The history of a Shetland pony as a regimental mascot dates to 1929, when Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, presented Cruachan I to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. When the Argylls became the fifth battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland in 2006, Cruachan became the mascot for the whole regiment.

The Duke of Argyll rewarded Cruachan IV with a pint of ale, guzzled at a galloping speed. Fans can also follow L Cpl Cruachan IV's adventures on Twitter.

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Fine weather ensures annual farm open day is a success

By Ewen Campbell, SRUC's Kirkton and Auchtertyre research farms manager

THE shepherds have had their hand-shears out clipping a few stragglers that evaded us at the main gather as we have had the ewes and lambs in again for weaning. All lambs were looking well and this year, as I said last month, they seemed to have been less affected by Plochteach (yellowies).

We also profited from the warm weather last week to finish our silage. We managed to make just under 400 bales, which will go a long way towards feeding our cows this winter.

We will be getting it analysed in the next few weeks to assess its quality. This will tell us how much concentrate we will need to feed the cows along with the silage to meet their dietary requirements. This year we have all our own equipment for silage, so were able to do most of it ourselves. This greatly helped, apart from when the baler broke down and we had to get the contractors in.

After a busy July, with our string of international visitors, we have also held our free annual farm open day at Kirkton/Auchtertyre, targeted at sheep and cattle farmers.

The topic of the day was all about improving the performance and health of hill sheep and cattle, and was an opportunity for those local farmers and crofters to discuss with myself and my colleagues the issues affecting them.

The day started early, with



Frank Malone explains how to spot check your sheep for disease, above, and John Holland with the farm drone.



presentations from myself and my research colleagues at Kirkton/Auchtertyre, together with invited specialists, including vets from SRUC's SAC consulting veterinary services, the Moredun Research Institute and Edinburgh University.

We covered management and health issues in both sheep and cattle. Our new EID weigh crate and double sheep conveyor has made sheep handling a much simpler affair. My colleagues Claire Morgan-Davies and Harriet Wishart, as well as Dave McBean from the Moredun

Research Institute, have used this backdrop to discuss the financial savings made and also how these new facilities help with the new targeted selective treatment (TST) approach to treating parasites such as worms.

We also talked about our past grassland experiments, which involved different methods of reseeding pastures, and our actual grazing management.

Information on how these affected the economics, the grass mixtures used, the soil pH and emissions of greenhouse gases

limiting conditions in sheep and how to check sheep for diseases such as caseous lymphadenitis (CLA) and ovine pulmonary adenocarcinoma (OPA).

Our PhD student Ping Zhou, with her co-supervisor Neil Sargison of Edinburgh University, also explained her research into the differences in performance of Scottish blackface and the Welsh llynn sheep breeds that are here on our farm.

The cattle were not forgotten either. In the cattle shed, our Inverness-based colleague Franz Brulisauer, of SAC consulting veterinary services, described his investigations into abortions and stillbirths in beef suckler herds. He had some very unusual props to help him with his presentation, which we all found very informative and interesting.

Philip Skuce, of the Moredun Research Institute, outlined the factors affecting the increased risk from liver fluke parasites on hill farms and what can be done about them, while SRUC expert Ian Pritchard reviewed the best approaches to improve the efficiency of suckler cow herds.

It was a very busy day with all these presentations and updates. More than 50 people attended from as far as Aberdeenshire, the north of England and the Isle of Muck. We also had some members of the farming press and have received good coverage of the day in a number of national newspapers. The fantastic weather helped make this open day a success too.

Tenants meet to discuss views on managing Crown Estate

NFU SCOTLAND'S Crown Estate tenants' working group met this week to compile its submission to the Scottish Government consultation on the interim management of the estates.

The union, which last year brought together a working group comprising representatives from each of the four rural estates held within the portfolio, has expressed concerns about some parts of the portfolio being broken off, which it feels would be detrimental to the wider rural estate.

The decision to devolve the Crown Estate to Scotland came about following the Smith Commission report, with responsibility for the process falling to the Scottish Government.

Following an extensive period of stakeholder meetings, the consultation, which is now closed, sought views on an interim management structure for the estates.

Scottish Government officials will reflect on responses to this, before further decisions are taken regarding both interim and longer term management of the portfolio.

NFU Scotland's president Allan Bowie, who attends the main Scottish Government stakeholder advisory group on behalf of the tenants, commented: 'The union has been firmly pressing the views of the agricultural tenants, who feel strongly that the estate should

be kept as a whole during the transfer process and beyond.

'The agricultural tenants agree that an interim body managing the Crown Estate in the first instance is a positive step. However, there should be a review process built into this.'

'Our tenants tell us that there must be recognition of the valuable contribution that the agricultural holdings make to the wider Crown Estate. They provide an invaluable base for the rest of the portfolio, as well as huge benefits to their environs and the wider local communities.'

'The union's working group was also very supportive of the interim proposals in the consultation, which suggested there could be a place for dedicated sub-committees within the new management structure and this is very encouraging. NFU Scotland will be pushing strongly for agricultural tenants to have a key voice in this.'

'It is clear that this sort of approach will provide a structure that is open and transparent, and allows a clear understanding of how key management decisions are made.'

'This is a new dawn for the Crown Estate and there is real opportunity in the direction of travel that the Scottish Government seems to be considering. NFU Scotland will continue to consult with its working group, and press strongly on matters it feels should be given priority.'

NFUS call for clarity in meeting with Mundell

NFU Scotland has used a meeting with Secretary of State for Scotland David Mundell MP to stress the importance of providing as much clarity and certainty to the farming and crofting sector as preparations for the Brexit negotiations get under way.

The union welcomed the opportunity to engage in early discussions with Mr Mundell at East Lothian Produce, Haddington, on Wednesday August 17. East Lothian Produce is a growing and packing business producing sprouts, cabbage,

parsnips and potatoes. Top of the agenda at the meeting was the UK government's commitment to agricultural funding up to 2020, and how its distribution will meet the requirements of Scotland's farming industry.

As well as reiterating the 10 commitments it wishes the UK government to take forward for agriculture following the Brexit vote, the union also addressed country of origin labelling and labour issues.

As Scotland's voice within the UK cabinet, the union urged Mr Mundell to bring together all

four constituent governments to drive a positive and constructive agenda.

Allan Bowie, president of NFU Scotland, said: 'In this highly politically-charged debate, it is vital agriculture does not become the bargaining chip as new trade deals are sought and our future relationship with Europe is negotiated.'

'Farming and crofting is the bedrock of the UK's food and drink industry – the biggest manufacturing sector we have. Getting the future agricultural policy right affects more than

just farmers and crofters. It will be critical if we are to maintain and grow the hundreds of thousands of jobs in food and drink manufacturing.'

'NFU Scotland has set out the key priorities, as agreed with the other UK farming unions, that seek to secure the best possible deal on future investment, trade, access to labour and agricultural support. It's vital early work gets under way now, kick-started by government but with participation from the whole supply chain to put agriculture on a strong footing in negotiations.'

Advertising feature

Bell Ingram can help farmers and landowners to navigate a way over uncharted territory

THE recent news that the current farm subsidy regime will continue for a further four years will have given farmers and landowners a window in which to try to mitigate the probable significant reduction in the farm subsidy regime, says Bell Ingram.

The views of the politicians charged with negotiating Brexit does not augur well for a farming system that is predicated upon subsidies. However, New Zealand removed subsidies and by all accounts the agricultural sector has thrived and it would seem more than likely that in upland areas such as Argyll any future payments to farmers and landowners will be in the form of grants for conservation rather than subsidies for farming.

It is against this background that Bell Ingram is working with a number of clients on strategic plans to diversify away from agriculture and into other profit centres.

Just because a farm is rural does not mean it cannot be a

well-run, diversified business incorporating activities that have no relationship to agriculture.

The renewable energy sector has in the past few years benefited from significant subsidies and, while Bell Ingram has been working with clients on hydro and wind power, it is now beginning to work with clients on anaerobic digestion, energy barns and off-grid solutions.

Off-grid is one of the most exciting and potentially lucrative areas, particularly for private house developers, which as yet has not seen its full potential realised due to the lack of battery capacity. If Elon Musk's Giga factory in Nevada eventually produces batteries that are cost-effective and have significant storage power, the opportunities, not only for the rural population, but also urban population, are significant.

Bell Ingram's agricultural department is currently working with clients on imaginative micro-farming strategies to ex-

amine their farming enterprise and hone it down in a manner that focuses on the pure profit element of the enterprise, giving the farmer direct access to the market, which will enable them to have greater control over not only their turnover, but also their costs.

In these uncertain times, when it is likely that banks will start charging customers for holding their money, it is of paramount importance that secure income streams are harnessed.

The private rented sector continues to show strong demands, although rental growth is somewhat static on the West Coast.

The potentially catastrophic impact of the current proposals under the proposed private tenancy legislation is yet to be fully realised, with many landlords possibly withdrawing from the market, thus depriving people, particularly in rural areas, of affordable housing.

There has been a considerable upturn in the demand for mobile phone mast sites, with

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Local Toyota dealer, Helensburgh Motors, has been honoured for achieving the highest levels of customer service in the 2016 Ichiban Awards.

The awards are contested by around 2,300 Toyota retailers across Europe, with the winners selected for demonstrating exceptional customer satisfaction performance in both their sales and after sales operations. The name ichiban is taken from the Japanese phrase okyasuma ichiban, meaning customer first.

Managing Director, Gary Mulvaney said: 'This first Ichiban award for Helensburgh is the result of the hard work, determination and commitment to customer care by every member of our team. For a small company such as ours it is an honour to be recognised at a European level.'

Helensburgh Toyota has represented the Toyota brand since 1977 and employs 20 eight members of staff across their two sites in Helensburgh. It is currently ranked the top dealer in Scotland for customer care and is UK No2 in the 180-strong network.

Gary, accompanied by his wife Janet were presented with the award at a ceremony in Rome. Celebrations continued with the whole team being taken for a 'thank you' meal and refreshments at Masala Twist. Finally this week, the Helensburgh Motors team were delighted to welcome Toyota's president, Paul van der Burgh and After Sales Director Richard Balshaw, who visited to thank each member of staff personally and present them with a gift.

Helensburgh Motors is proud to be an independent company serving Argyll and Bute and Dunbartonshire. It is delighted to now be supporting Subaru customers for all their needs. Facilities provided are new and used cars sales, servicing, parts and body repairs in its BSI Kitemark Accident Repair Centre.

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AYGO x-cite 5 door 1.0 VVT-i Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 56.5 (5.0), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 68.9 (4.1). CO₂ Emissions 95g/km. All mpg and CO₂ figures quoted are sourced from official EU regulated laboratory test results. These are provided to allow comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

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Successful candidates will have suitable experience or qualification(s) in an environmental assessment discipline. They must have excellent report writing and IT skills, along with an independent and adaptable approach to their work load. A full, current driving licence is also essential for this role.

Please note that there are two positions available, one being fixed-term and the other permanent. Therefore please state in your cover letter which position you wish to apply for.

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To apply, please contact:
Natalie Randamy, Senior HR and Training Assistant
The Scottish Salmon Company
8 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7JA
Tel: 0131 718 8547 natalie.randamy@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date for applications: Monday 5 September 2016
www.scottishsalmon.com



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16 September 2016.
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Argyll College wishes to recruit the following posts, based in Lochgilphead:

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All applications should be made on the application form found on the vacancies section of our website www.argyllcollege.ac.uk

The closing date for applications is Thursday 15th September 2016

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or by e mail to mail@simmers.co.uk
www.simmers.co.uk

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If you cannot access the website please contact the recruitment team:
01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 9th September 2016

Interviews will be held in Oban on Wednesday 28th September 2016

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For further information and to apply, please visit
www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/current-vacancies

Both positions are permanent and full time covering the Argyll & Bute local authority area.
Closing date for applications is Sunday 11th September 2016.

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CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

J MacGillivray
 55, 56 & 59 Banavie, Kilmallie
 0.262 ha - Existing house site
 70594

J MacGillivray
 55, 56 & 59 Banavie, Kilmallie
 0.180 ha - Existing house site
 70595

J MacGillivray
 55, 56 & 59 Banavie, Kilmallie
 0.205 ha - Existing house site
 70596

J Maclean
 206 Acharacle Fillans Cottage, Ardnamurchan & Sunart
 0.21 ha - Site for a dwelling house
 77046

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 30/08/2016 - Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mrs Jessie Cameron has registered her croft 207 Acharacle (Burnbank), Ardnamurchan & 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 the 10th May 2017.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C 2965.

APPLICATION FOR APPORTIONMENT ACHNAHA COMMON GRAZINGS

Mr Alasdair MacLachlan, Carrraig, Kilchoan, Acharacle, Argyll, intends to lodge an application for apportionment of approximately 25.99 hectares for the purpose of creating a hill park for management of his farmed deer herd.

Mr Alasdair MacLachlan, Carrraig, Kilchoan, Acharacle, Argyll, has a copy of the application which can be inspected by any person interested.

Any comments on the application should be lodged with the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW before 29th September 2016.

A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

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The Highland Council
 Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
16/03722/FUL	Land 135M NE of Knock House, Lochaline, Morvern		Construction of water treatment works and formation of access
16/03768/LBC	Bank House, Leven Road, Kinlochleven		Change of use of former bank and offices to residential including internal alterations (revised scheme to 15/02970/LBC)
16/03645/FUL	Site 90M North West of 1 Torr An Eas, Glenfinnan		Erection of house
16/03526/FUL	Land 305M SE of Reidh-An-Daraich, Inverie, Knoydart		Erection of house and installation of treatment plant
16/03712/FUL	Site 160M SW of The Pier, Fort William		Extension to existing pontoons

Time period for comments is 14 days, 16/03768/LBC is 21 days
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
 Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
16/02281/PP	Erection of boat builders shed with associated yard	Land West Of Culcharron Benderloch Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
16/02278/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 13/01994/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank)	Land North East Of Lonban Cottage Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6TB	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
16/00778/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, detached garage and installation of septic tank	Aintuin Farm Land North Of Achnadrieh Lodge Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6QW	Sub Post Office Dervaig
16/02226/PP	Erection of 15 metres high lattice telecommunications tower and associated works	Land Adjacent To CTI Torosay Telecommunications Mast Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure
16/02080/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Land South East Of Ardmaddy House Ardmaddy Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

COUNCILLOR'S SURGERIES

Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
 Councillor McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 2nd September 2016 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 1.30pm - 4.00pm.
 He can be contacted by email - Roderick.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567854.

Councillor Kieron Green (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)
 Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on Friday 16th September 2016 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.
 He can be contacted by email - Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 562444.

Scottish Government
 Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (DRUMNADROCHIT TO FORT AUGUSTUS) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) ORDER 2016

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 14(1)(b) and (4) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984(a), temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road from its junction with the A831 Drumnadrochit to Cannich Road south westwards to its junction with the B862 Glendoe Road, Fort Augustus, a distance of 31.2 kilometres or thereby.

The Order, which is required to facilitate the movement of a large vehicle and load on that length of Trunk Road, will be in operation from 3rd September 2016 until 12th September 2016. It is anticipated that the restrictions will be in place only as required in the early hours of 3rd September 2016, or as a contingency the early hours of the 4th September, 10th or 11th September 2016 and will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs.

The Order does not apply to vehicles while being used in connection with the placing of the required signage or vehicles being used in an emergency for fire brigade, coastguard, ambulance or police purposes.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

The alternative routes for traffic during the prohibition will be signposted. Detailed descriptions can also be obtained at BEAR Scotland Limited, BEAR House, Inveralmond Road, Inveralmond Industrial Estate, Perth, PH1 3TW.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <http://www.transport.gov.scot/road-and-traffic-orders> For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.transportscotland.org.uk

F BROWN
 A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
 Transport Scotland, Buchanan House,
 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

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House building figures and research 'clearest indication government must act'

As the government's latest house building figures show an increase in new starts but a drop in completions, CIH deputy chief executive Gavin Smart says the government must act in the Autumn Statement.

Gavin Smart, deputy chief executive of the Chartered Institute of Housing, said: 'The government's latest house building figures confirm there is still a lot to do to meet the level of supply we need. 'It's an encouraging sign that

the number of new starts is up, but we are still not building anywhere near the homes we need and with every passing quarter the target of a million new homes in the lifetime of this Parliament becomes harder to achieve.

'In recent weeks research has shown us that home ownership is at a 30-year low, private renting is at a 40-year high and homelessness continues to steadily rise. 'The latest house building figures, taken together with

research demonstrating the challenges our housing market now faces, are the clearest indication that the government must act in the Autumn Statement to make sure more homes are built and the organisations ready to build them are supported.'



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A wonderfully situated detached 5 bedroom bungalow which offers huge scope for improvement in a convenient rural position on the Isle of Tiree.

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ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Long Term furnished accommodation in or around the Oban/Connel Benderloch areas required by professionals from September. Please contact Box No: 22, The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB

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The Old Post Office, Salen
Guide Price **£375,000**



Kilmaluag Cottage, Glenbar
Offers Over **£360,000**



Barbreck Farm, Kilchrenan
Offers Over **£350,000**



Innean Mor, Southend
Offers Over **£300,000**



The Anchorage, Isle of Tiree
Guide Price **£190,000**



Plots, Isle of Luing
Guide Price **£95,000**



South Argyll and the Isles
Niall Macalister Hall | 01583 431215
niall.macalisterhall@ckdgalbraith.co.uk



North Argyll and the Isles
Nicky Archibald | 01631 700205
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UK rental market strengthens post Brexit

The number of rental homes in the UK has climbed in recent months after the Brexit vote, largely because many people are now choosing to rent property rather than buy, which is enticing would-be sellers to put their homes onto the rental market.

Compared to the same time last year, the levels of stock in the UK rental market are up 23 per cent. This is partly down to the fact that there has been a swell in post-Brexit property to rent, but also because of the activity earlier in the year, wherein the three per cent Stamp Duty levy was imposed on landlords, meaning that many bought properties they would otherwise have waited to purchase, just to beat the additional price from April onwards. Average rents paid north of the border rose by 5.4 per cent over the year as acceptance of renting grows.

Here in Argyll, we are seeing a very busy rental market, with rents slowly increasing and demand sky high, as more people decide to rent. This is especially true for those with the backing of specialist agents such as West, who can help landlords access those people looking for properties, whilst ensuring that only those tenants thoroughly referenced are considered for tenancies. Call us today and let us help you make the most of your rental property.

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Falls Crescent, Connel



- Spacious Detached
- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms + WC
- Partial views of Loch Etive
- Popular village location
- Garden
- Integrated Garage
- EPC Rating - C(78)

£300,000

3 Falls Crescent - A modern and spacious detached house located in the popular village of Connel in Argyll. The property offers bright and spacious rooms, practical layout and glimpses of Loch Etive and the hills beyond.

Fountainhead, Bunessan



- Detached 1 & 1/2 storey house
- 4 Bedrooms / 2 Bath
- Stunning far reaching views
- Excellent B&B potential
- Elevated position above Bunessan

OIEO £215,000

Tagwood Built approximately 10 years ago this property offers modern and spacious rooms with fantastic sea views across Bunessan and beyond. The property comprises a spacious central hall which leads to the open plan lounge, dining area and kitchen. The lounge boasts far reaching views over Bunessan and the Ardmearach Peninsular beyond.

Drimvargie Terrace, Oban



- Top Floor Flat
- 3 Bedrooms / Bathroom / Shower Room
- Stunning panoramic views
- Close to Oban town centre
- Spacious rooms
- EPC Rating C73

NEW TO MARKET OIRO £170,000

3, 9 Drimvargie Terrace - A stunning top floor flat boasting three spacious bedrooms and far reaching views over Oban Bay. The flat is accessed via a carpeted communal stairwell, a large front door opens onto the spacious central hallway.

Tenga Beag, Salen



- 3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom
- Set in approx. 1.9 acres of woodland, orchards and
- Unique opportunity secluded position in Aros Glen
- EPC Rating - G10

SOLD AT CLOSING DATE STCM OIEO £165,000

Tenga Beag offers a rare opportunity to purchase a unique property in a beautiful secluded situation within approx. 1.9 Acres of private gardens - consisting woodland, orchards and gardens. The house itself comprises a large full height kitchen, lounge and dining area which is bathed in natural light provided by plentiful windows.

Uisken, Bunessan



- Extended Traditional Grade B Listed Cottage
- Beautifully restored cottage
- 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- 0.25 acres private garden
- Remote situation with village amenities close by
- EPC Rating - D67

OIRO £255,000

Braigh - Offers a rare opportunity to purchase a lovingly restored traditional Grade B Listed cottage with modern annex. The cottage was originally thatched and formed part of the historic settlement of Knocknafenaig, the ruined remains of which can be seen surrounding Braigh.

Abbey View, Fionnphort



- Spacious Detached 1 Storey House
- 5 Bedrooms/3 Bathrooms/WC
- Popular Island Location
- Stunning Views of Iona
- B&B / Rental Potential
- EPC Rating - D(66)

OIRO £265,000

Abbey View - A generous detached 5 bedroom 1 and a half storey house enjoying stunning views across the Sound towards Iona, the Abbey and Treshnish Isles. Built approx. 15 years ago, the property is nestled in a row of houses within Fionnphort on the Ross of Mull.

Burnsall, North Connel



- Spacious Detached House with Annex
- 6 Bedroom / 5 Bathroom / Gym
- Stunning views of Loch Etive
- Large Private Garden
- Driveway parking for multiple vehicles
- Highly sought after location
- EPC - E32

OIRO £480,000

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PERSONALS

Happy Birthday Uncle Leo



We all hope you have a lovely birthday on 6th September Love All the family from Scotland & Nottingham
 xxx

Happy Birthday George



45 wonderful years on Friday, September 2. Love from George junior, Georgie, Georgina and friends.
 xxx

The Pink Ladies Day Organisers would like to thank the Loch Fyne Oysters Three Peaks Challenge team for their incredible feat and for raising over £4,000 for this amazing cause. Thank you so much! Nicky & The Pink Ladies



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ENGAGEMENTS

CAMPBELL - McMANUS - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of David, son of Ruby and Alasdair, Taynuilt and Charlotte, daughter of Owen and Joanna, Tayinloan.

NEIL - SCOTT - Pauline Neil is delighted to announce the engagement of her only daughter Shona Isobel to Robert John, son of Mrs Karen MacLean and Mr Robert Scott.

GOLDEN WEDDING

CAMPBELL - At St. Columba's Parish Church, Glasgow on August 19, 1966 by the late Rev. Angus MacKinnon, Alastair to Mary née MacIssac. Bruachgorm, Torfandu, Fort William.

MACINTYRE - MACMILLAN - At Ballachulish United Free Church on September 5, 1966 by the Rev. Peter MacPhail, Andrew to Maureen. 7 Millpark Ave, Oban.

DEATHS

CAMERON - On August 24, 2016, peacefully at Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, Gregor Finlay Cameron, in his 70th year, beloved husband of Mary Kennedy, much loved father of Nicola, Finlay, Gregor and Daniel, dear father-in-law of Keith, Mandy and Kirsty, and a dearly loved papa of Caitlin, Sarah, Finlay, Kristian, Douglas, Isobel and Daisy. A much respected friend and former work colleague. Sadly missed by all his family. Funeral service at Glenorchy Parish Church, Dalmally, (today) Thursday, September 1 at 1.00pm, interment thereafter at Glenorchy Cemetery, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Flowers welcome, donations if desired to Glenorchy Church.

GOW - Peacefully at home, surrounded by her family on Monday August 22, 2016, Elma Gow (née Shearer) aged 85 years, a loving and much loved mum of John, Leslie, Ann, Eileen, Fiona, Andy, Elizabeth and Tina. Sadly missed by all her loving family. Funeral service will be held on Thursday September 1, 2016 at 1pm in Duncansburgh-MacIntosh Parish Church thereafter to Inverness Crematorium on Friday September 2 at 2pm. All friends welcome to attend.

KENNEDY - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on August 27th, 2016 in her 73rd year, Ann Janet (née Gillies), beloved wife of Alexander, dear mother of Eileen and David and much loved Granny to Sophie, Jenny and Jamie. A dear mother-in-law to Lucy and friend to many. Funeral service will take place at Oban Parish Church on Monday September 5 at 1pm thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

MACCALLUM - Peacefully, in the loving care of the Belford Hospital on Tuesday August

23, 2016, Grace Cameron MacCallum, aged 91 years. Loving sister of the late Alastair and David MacCallum. Much loved and sadly missed by all the MacCallum family. Funeral Service will be held on Monday, September 5, 2016 at 12 noon in Duncansburgh-MacIntosh Parish Church, Fort William; thereafter to Glen Nevis Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations, if desired, to Save the Children can be given at the church door. All friends are welcome to attend. Enquiries to John McLellan Funeral Directors 01397 702128

MACLEOD - Catherine Sutherland Macleod (née Maclean). Much loved wife of the late Murdo and beloved mother of Kirsten, Fiona and Iain, died peacefully at home surrounded by her family on August 23, 2016. The service was held at Kilchrenan Parish Church on Wednesday August 31. Donations to Marie Curie welcome.

MCALLUM - Suddenly in Spain on August 25, 2016, after a short illness, Alexander Donald (Alasdair), aged 82. Formerly of Taynuilt, beloved husband of Elizabeth and loving brother of Ann. Sadly missed.

NOBLE - Angela Maria Boni, on August 29, 2016, in hospital, beloved wife of Jim and of the late David MacLean, devoted mother of Diane, mother-in-law to John and, proud gran to their three children.

REID - Peacefully at Canmore Lodge, Dunfermline on Thursday August 25, 2016, Eveline, aged 100 years, beloved wife of the late Jack, a much loved mum to Eveline and Alison, a loving gran and great-gran. Dearly loved by all.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - Rob, Lill, Dave and Michelle wish to thank all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy by way of cards, letters and

telephone calls since the sad loss of our Mum, Elizabeth, on August 7, 2016. Special thanks to staff of Lynn of Lorne for their care and compassion, Rev. George Cringles for conducting a most comforting service and others who assisted at Kilnilver Church and Cemetery. Thanks also to Knipoch Hotel and Hamish Hoey and Sons and those who attended the service and generously gave to the retiral collection which will be donated to Lynn of Lorne Care Home.

GAULD - The family of the late Robert wish to thank all that attended the graveside, for cards and sympathy received, a special thanks to the staff of wards B and I at Lorn and Islands Hospital, carers and staff at Torosay Court for all their care. The Rev. Chris Fulcher for her comforting service and Ian of D & A Munn for support and kindness shown and the Rowantree Hotel for refreshments.

MACLACHLAN - The family of Fodie would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their support and kindness over the past few months. Special thanks to the staff of Ward 1 Belford hospital Fort William for all their care. To Duncan Gunn, Appin for all funeral arrangements and for his help and support over this difficult time. A collection of £350.00 was raised for the Belford trust.

MEMORIAMS

BARNHAM - In loving memory of Val, a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and friend to all, who died September 3, 2013.

Forever in our hearts, love always - Barney, Rebecca, Matthew, Louis and Oli x

CAMPBELL - Treasured memories of Colin, who died on September 5, 2015. Greatly missed by many, but especially by his wife Lorna, his four daughters, fourteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

MUSIC NEVER DIES.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of a dear wife, mum, nan, sister and friend, Susan, died September 1, 2014, aged 63 years.

We never thought of losing you Maybe that's what's wrong You always seemed a part of us That would go on and on So dearly missed

- Kenny, boys and family
CRAVEN - In memory of our brother Billy, who passed away September 3, 2009. Always remembered, never forgotten.

- Marleen and Allan
FORRESTER - Cherished memories of Jim, dearly beloved husband of Joan, father father-in-law, grandfather, who died September 2, 2002. Forever in our thoughts.

- Joan and family, 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
- Frank, Annmarie, Jodi, Stephen, Tara

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my husband Billy. In the quiet of the evening I sit and think of you No more saying I love you No more holding hands Miss you every day Billy RIP.

- Clare xx
MACDONALD - 15th Anniversary of Lena MacDonald.

Always in our thoughts.

- Ian, John, Donald, Kenneth and families.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of our darling mother Mary, who passed away on August 31, 2014 and our darling father Angus, who passed away September 4, 2015. Your lives were a blessing Your memories a treasure You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure

- From your loving children, grandchildren and great-grandchild Greyson.

Marie, Neil, Neil Jnr and Sophia, (Dalmally and Australia).

Mags, Peter, Victoria and Argyll, (Lochgilphead). Catherine, David, Cameron, and Donald (Ross-shire, Lochgilphead and America). Iain, Fedra and Connor, (Lochgilphead). Angus, Lorraine, Iona, Duncan and Rowan, (Ford) xxxxx

MACKINNON - Treasured memories of a dear husband, father, father-in-law and gramps Alexander (Andy) who died August 30, 2009.

Loved and remembered always - Kay, Colin, Sandy, Kath, Mairi and Kirsten

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS
Oban Times
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Obituary - Richard Evans
- 1964-2016



IT IS with great sadness that RSPB Scotland has reported the death of Richard Evans, aged 52, who was the society's first Mull officer.

Many people on Mull will remember Richard's calm and gentle approach to his work and the local community particularly around Lochdon where he lived.

A scholar of eagle place names and an expert adviser on complex developments impacting on birds, Richard Evans uniquely contributed to nature conservation. The national white-tailed eagle reintroduction programme and our understanding of the history of Britain and Ireland's eagles owe much to Richard's ingenious work.

Richard moved to Mull in 1994 and over the ensuing eight years led the endeavours to secure the white-tailed eagle population there. When he arrived the national population in Scotland numbered just over 20 pairs, but when he left it was double that, with the largest population on Mull.

Richard led efforts to guard nest sites and guide tourists eager to see the birds, and early discussions with farmers over how to resolve rows over losses of lambs to eagles.

It was on Mull in 1996 that he met his wife to be, Solveigh, an isotope geochemist who was researching the geology and tectonics of the Loch Don area of Mull. Richard saw Solveigh with a friend in a field close to a sea eagle nest and, concerned with his duties of protecting the nesting birds from disturbance, promptly approached to tell them both they were not permitted to be so close to the birds. They married in October 2002.

He also moved to Edinburgh that year to begin work as a site policy officer and latterly as senior conservation policy officer for RSPB Scotland.

During a sabbatical foray to the National Library of Scotland, Richard made what proved to be an ingenious discovery. He realised that it should be possible to adduce the former British and Irish ranges and population sizes of white-tailed eagles and golden eagles through pouring over historical maps giving often obscure Germanic and Celtic references to locations bearing their names.

In 2012 he published a scholarly paper with Phil Whitfield and Lorcan O'Toole which traced the changing distribution of these raptors over three millennia. They were able to show that around 1,500 years ago both eagles were widespread, occupying many lowland parts, with possibly up to 1,400 pairs of sea eagles and 1,500 pairs of golden eagles in the British Isles. The paper was 'commended as outstanding' by the Watson Raptor Science Panel, which awards an annual

prize for the best paper on raptors published in Europe.

Tragically, Richard died following a cardiac arrest whilst cycling to work. Just days before he was immersed in supporting the beginnings of the Heritage Lottery funded project to reinforce south Scotland's golden eagle population.

A proponent of this ambitious work, he was guiding the project team to sites where eagles held dominion centuries ago. The sight of these great birds soaring under the gaze of excited eyes would be a wonderful legacy.

Softly spoken and understated, jovial, perceptive and tactically clever, and determinedly non-institutional, Richard was admired and loved by colleagues and friends - as much for his humanity as for his deep intelligence. He is survived by Solveigh, son Aneirin, and his parents.

A non-religious service to celebrate his life will be held on the September 9 at 3pm at the Lorimer Chapel, Warriston Crematorium, Edinburgh, EH7 4HW.

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WEDDING

Rutherford - Lowrie
The wedding of Michael Rutherford - eldest son of Scotland and British Lions rugby internationalist John Rutherford - and Miss Susan Lowrie took place in the Western Isles Hotel, Tobermory, Mull, on Saturday July 30. The happy couple are pictured signing the official register after the ceremony, flanked by best man Ian Johnston and chief bridesmaid Sarah Craig.

GRADUATION

Lewis Campbell MacLeod
Graduated from the University of Aberdeen on June 14, 2016 with a MA First Class Hons in English. Lewis is the eldest son of Brian and Lynne MacLeod, Tobermory. Lewis is a former pupil of Tobermory Primary and High School. Lewis is now delighted to have been elected as the Communities Officer at Aberdeen University Students Association.

GRADUATION

Kirsty Thompson
Graduated with Bachelor of Music (Hons) from Aberdeen University. Daughter of Sheena and Gary Thompson. Kirsty is a former pupil of Dalmally Primary School and Oban High School.

Kim Carnie
Graduated from Strathclyde University LLb in Law, First class (Hons). Kim is daughter of Frances and Drew Thomson, granddaughter of Jean Carnie and the late Archie Carnie and great-granddaughter of Bella Francis. She attended St. Columba's (GMU), Oban, Glasgow Gaelic school, Plockton High School and the Nicholson Institute, Stornoway.

Cheryl Nicole Bugar BVM&S MRCVS, recently graduated with Distinction from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Edinburgh University. Cheryl is the daughter of Linda and John Bugar, Morvern Hill, Oban. She is the granddaughter of Mary and the late James MacCormick, Killandrist, Isle of Lismore and Annie and the late Fred Bugar, Kilmore. Cheryl attended Rockfield Primary School and Oban High School.

Sasha Kelso Porter
Graduated with Master of Pharmacy (with Merit) from Strathclyde University on Thursday June 23, 2016. Daughter of John and Barbara Porter, granddaughter of the late Albert and Sylvia Butt, Oban, and Henry and Doreen Porter, Stewarton, Ayrshire. Sasha is a former pupil of Rockfield Primary School and Oban High School. Sasha is working her pre-reg year at Boots in Kilmarnock.

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THE ARTEMIS MACAULAY CUP FINAL

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3
MOSSFIELD STADIUM, OBAN
THROW UP AT 2PM

INVERARAY

KINLOCHSHIEL

ONE of shinty's showpiece occasions takes place at Mossfield this weekend as Inveraray and Kinlochshiel meet in the Artemis Macaulay Cup final on Saturday.



INVERARAY may be playing in shinty's second tier but this is their second final of the season. They lost out to Kyles Athletic in the Gregor Cameron Consultancy Glasgow Celtic Society Cup final, so they have been preparing hard for this encounter.

after missing the earlier part of the season, is a boost for player/manager Ruaridh Graham's selection options.

Captain Allan MacDonald is now free of suspension and will likely lead the attack. However, Lewis Montgomery is out after suffering a hand injury while representing the South U21 last weekend.

Kinlochshiel will be taking part in their first senior final. Their main absentee is former Beaully defender Conor Cormack, who is out with a hand injury.

The main selection choice for manager Colin Fraser will surround who takes Cormack's place. Calum MacLean and John Don MacKenzie are both options,

as is pulling Finlay MacRae back from full centre into the back line. 'Shiel are captained by David Falconer.

Kinlochshiel's position sitting in second place in the Marine Harvest Premiership means they will go into the final as favourites.

However, Inveraray are the team with the

cup final experience and they will be ready to take advantage if the north west side are not at their best.

Throw up at Mossfield is at 2pm and Evan MacRae is the match referee.

For those fans who can't make it to Mossfield, the match will be broadcast live on BBC2 Scotland from 1.45pm.

Road to the Artemis Macaulay Cup final

First round, Saturday April 30
Oban Camanachd 2, Inveraray 3

The surprise result of the first round was Oban Camanachd's 3-2 defeat to Inveraray at Mossfield. Willie Neilson got Oban Camanachd off to a great start when he netted with a low strike from 15 yards after three minutes. The home side only stayed in front for a couple of minutes though. Inveraray had a corner which was played to the front post. The ball took a deflection off an Oban defender before falling for Fraser Watt who shot into the net.

Inveraray edged in front on 18 minutes when Lewis Montgomery sent a shot into the bottom corner. Neilson got his and Oban Camanachd's second on 33 minutes when he poked the ball home.

Alan MacDonald grabbed the winner on 63 minutes when he struck the ball into the far corner.

Kinlochshiel 7, Fort William 1

Kinlochshiel recovered from going a goal down to beat Fort William 7-1 in their contest at Kirkton. Fort William took the lead on 18 minutes when Daniel Stewart shot into the far corner.

'Shiel levelled on 28 minutes when Duncan 'DA' MacRae sent a great waist-high drive home and then bulleted home a loose ball on 31 minutes.

The home side notched a third a minute before the break when John MacRae nipped in to force the ball home. Kinlochshiel went 4-1 up on 56 minutes when John MacRae grabbed his second.

Kinlochshiel added a fifth on 68 minutes as Jordan Fraser netted with a good strike.

DA MacRae completed his hat-trick on 74 minutes and sent a glorious drive high into the net for his fourth goal to make it 7-1.

Quarter-final, Saturday June 11
Bute 2, Inveraray 3
(after extra time)

Inveraray reached the last four in a hard-fought 3-2 win after extra time over Bute at the Meadows.

Inveraray got off to a great start and led 2-0 early in the game. They went ahead on five minutes when

Allan MacDonald volleyed home a David Robertson corner. MacDonald got his second on eight minutes. Bute responded well and Iain McDonald pulled a goal back just a couple of minutes later and the comeback was complete when Duncan Davidson capitalised on some poor defending.

The extra time period was very tight but Inveraray got the breakthrough on 100 minutes when Kevin Queen made another good save but young Lewis Montgomery pounced to knock the rebound home.

Quarter-final, Saturday June 25
Skye Camanachd 3, Kinlochshiel 4

Kinlochshiel reached the semi-finals with a 4-3 win over Skye Camanachd at Pàirc nan Laoch, Portree. 'Shiel who went in front on 10 minutes when John MacRae forced the ball home from close range.

James Pringle drew Skye level on 18 minutes with a smart shot but John MacRae netted his second from a corner on 28 minutes.

A superb half-volley from Jordan Fraser flew into the top corner of the net to make it 3-1 on 37 minutes but Skye's James Pringle made it 3-2 with an opportunist finish from inside the D on 52 minutes. Oliver MacRae drove home to make it 4-2 on 59 minutes.

When 'Shiel defender Mark MacDonald turned a cross from the left into his own net, it made it 4-3 with 66 minutes played.

It took a great Scott Kennedy save at the death to deny Danny Morrison to keep the visitors in front.

Semi-final, Saturday July 23
Kinlochshiel 3, Lovat 0

Kinlochshiel made it through to their first senior final after they beat Lovat at Braeview Park.

Kinlochshiel made the breakthrough on eight minutes when the alert Keith MacRae ran in to tap a rebound into the net.

There was a scramble at the edge of the D following a 'Shiel corner on 41 minutes. The ball spun up in the air and John MacRae knocked it into the net.

Keith MacRae put the result beyond doubt on 77 minutes when he collected the ball 15 yards out before drilling a low shot under the diving keeper.

Kyles Athletic 2, Inveraray 3

Inveraray overcame the odds to beat Kyles Athletic 3-2 at Mossfield to book a place in the final. Kyles took the lead after 18 minutes when Robbie MacLeod turned the ball home.

Allan MacDonald equalised on 21 minutes with a back-hand rocket shot but Gordon Whyte put Kyles back in front on 27 minutes from the penalty spot.

The tie was very even and it was Inveraray who levelled for a second time with a terrific move involving all four forwards. David Robertson, who had come on at the interval along with Lewis MacNicol in place of player/manager Ruaridh Graham and Ally MacDonald, switched the play to Lewis Montgomery, who controlled the ball and played an accurate pass to Allan MacDonald and he coolly fired home to make it 2-2 with 65 minutes gone.

The winning goal came five minutes from time when Allan MacDonald sent a dipping, swerving 25-yard effort past a helpless John Whyte to make it 3-2 and complete his hat-trick.

There was late drama when Kyles were awarded a third penalty. Referee Lachie Wood penalised the Winterton side for a kick, on the advice of the goal judge. Inveraray were unhappy with the decision but Robbie MacLeod fired the hit straight at MacLachlan who stopped the ball and played it out for a corner.

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Narrow defeat for Mull rugby team

Shawlands 21
Isle of Mull 17
BT West Division 4

Rugby

ISLE of Mull Rugby club kicked off their 2016/17 season with a tough match against Shawlands RFC, which ended in a close-fought defeat.

After hosting their extremely popular annual Sevens tournament during the summer, the boys from Mull underwent an intensive pre-season training programme that included two victories in friendlies against Howe of Fife Knights and Estates XV. Mull travelled with 15 players to Dumbreck, Glasgow for the 12.30pm kick-off.

The island side, sporting new strips for the season, dominated the first half, with a lot of pressure in the Shawlands half.

A try from Stuart Crichton put the visitors 5-0 up after 30 minutes but despite dominating the first half, they couldn't increase the advantage as the teams changed ends at half-time.

The second 40 minutes saw

the hot weather and lack of substitutes take its toll on the islanders, as the home team scored two tries.

Mull replied with a try from David Downham, with the score remaining at 14-12 to Shawlands with 10 minutes remaining. A nail-biting finish saw both teams score tries. Mull's James Gibbons finished off an excellent team effort to get over the line but the game finished 21-17 to Shawlands.

Coach Fergus Whyte said: 'It was frustrating that we didn't manage to kick our league campaign off with a win, after dominating for most of the game.'

'However, a bonus point secured away from home and no injuries is a fair start against a side who are one of the favourites for promotion this year.'

Mull's first home game of the season is this Saturday at Garmoy against Clydesdale RFC, kick-off time, 3pm.



Isle of Mull RFC proudly sporting their new team kit.



Competitors and prizewinners after the Oban Town Dinghy Regatta.

Fair winds for Oban Town Dinghy Regatta

OBAN Town Dinghy Regatta was contested last weekend at Oban Sailing Club by 11 dinghies in two handicap classes.

Nancy Blacks sponsored the event in the form of gift vouchers as prizes.

Two races were sailed on Saturday afternoon in light winds after a short postponement, which saw the wind swing through 180 degrees twice in about 20 minutes. Both Fast Class races were won by Andrew Chapman in his Laser Zzaapp, followed by Andrew Petrie also in a Laser.

The Slow Class saw two different winners. The first race one was won by Ewan Shearer in a Pico from Mandy Peden and Irena Chapman in a Feva, with these positions swapping

for race two. Archie White in his Topper, Red Rocket was third in both races.

Sunday dawned with fine sunshine and a glassy calm with perfect reflections on the water of Oban Bay. The race officer postponed the start and waited, and waited, but very little wind appeared, so after some of the juniors played on the water capsizing dinghies and being towed around behind one of the safety boats, an early lunch was called with the hope for wind in the afternoon.

Sea breeze

Finally a sea breeze was seen to be developing further down the Sound of Kerrera and a course was set.

The breeze grew to a good force 3-4 for a while and three

competitors and prizewinners after the Oban Town Dinghy Regatta.

competitors and prizewinners after the Oban Town Dinghy Regatta.

competitors and prizewinners after the Oban Town Dinghy Regatta.

Results: Fast Class - 1 Laser -

Sailing

Andrew Chapman; 2 Fireball - Chris and Ewan Dowd; 3 Laser - Andrew Petrie. Slow Class - 1 Feva - Mandy Peden and Irena Chapman; 2 Topper - Archie White; 3 Pico - Kat Dowd.

Best performance

The Best Novice prize, which is given to the best performance by a sailor who has been sailing for less than 18 months, was awarded to Calum Garvin who raced singlehanded in a Feva.

The club's grateful thanks went to sponsor for the weekend Nancy Blacks, which donated gift vouchers as prizes for the winners.

Finbar picks up gold and bronze medals at English National Championships

Athletics

LAST weekend in Bedford saw the finale of the major junior outdoor track and field competitions with the English National Championships.

Oban brothers Paddy and Finbar Dunne travelled south with a small team of their club mates from Inverness Harriers, who had achieved the extremely high qualifying standard.

The best that British junior athletics could offer was on display over two blisteringly hot days with every event fiercely contested.

However, the opposition was not too hot for younger brother Finbar who blasted his way to

triumph taking the gold medal back to Scotland in the under-15 boys' discus.

Finbar lay in second place going into the final and pulled off a personal best throw of 43.70m to win the championship.

The day was not over and with no rest, he threw himself straight into the shot put competition. Yet again, a personal best throw of 14.21m ensured a place on the podium and a bronze medal.



Finbar Dunne, centre, on the podium after receiving his gold medal.

Joe Toal Sixes – rescheduled date

IN 1982 Joe Toal was playing for Lochaber Camanachd against Fort William when he suddenly died during the game at the age of just 25. Each year Lochaber Camanachd Club holds a six-a-side tournament in honour of his memory and dedication to the club.

Lochaber invites all clubs to put forward a team or two for the 2016 tournament, which will take place at Lochaber shinty pitch on Sunday September 18 starting at noon.

Shinty

The tournament is free of charge and there will be hot drinks and snacks available from the clubhouse on the day.

Contact Aileen Campbell at aileenrecampbell@hotmail.co.uk or on 07760 155313 before Wednesday September 14, as this is the last entry date for teams.



With the new season fast approaching, Oban Hockey has joined clubs throughout the country in a weekend hockey fest, inspired by the success of the GB ladies team at the Rio Olympics. This Sunday will see an afternoon of hockey fun and games on the High School all-weather pitch at Oban. The day is set up for new players of all ages and those who may have played before.

Oban Hockey has been running for over 6 years now, and together with Mull Hockey, has brought this exciting sport back to the west coast.

After the success of the GB hockey team in Rio, Oban Hockey club has teamed up with British hockey and would like to invite you to join Hockey Fest, this Sunday 4th September at Oban High School 3G sports pitch (PA34 4JB).

What to expect??

- ✓ An opportunity for all ages and abilities to learn a new sport or improve their skills.
- ✓ Fun, games and a chance to make new friends.

The event will run from 14:00 – 17:00. Hockey equipment will be provided. For more information contact dannie.onn@btinternet.com Or join us on FB.



Alan Lawrie, right, of Kinlochleven who won the Charity Singles at the Fort William Railway Bowling Club when he beat Bill Clark in the final. Anthony MacMillan Photography

Lorne lose out to East Kilbride

'Improvements must be made to the lineout that failed to function for the majority of the game'

Oban Lorne	8
East Kilbride	13
BT West Division One	

OBAN Lorne kicked off the 2016/17 season in West Division 1 last Saturday by welcoming East Kilbride RFC to Glenclruitten, the first game in several years between the two clubs.

The visitors, who have just been relegated from National League 3, brought with them a strong squad and a large following of supporters to swell what was a big home crowd.

The Green Machine were confident ahead of the game with training sessions going very well over the past few weeks and a number of new players settling in well to the squad.

Oban fielded a familiar pack to last season with the addition of number eight Connor McDougall replacing the injured player/head coach Corrie Louw. The backline, however, had an unfamiliar look with Rodolphe Bertrand at stand off, Alessandro Franzo at outside centre and Tom Harrison starting on the wing. Oban Lorne's new captain Craig Wright started at full back.

Kick-off was delayed by 30 minutes after problems with the East Kilbride team bus.

It is not often that Oban Lorne's forward power is matched but this was certainly the case on Saturday as the opposition fielded a very big pack that made the opening exchanges of the game very physical. This meant that Oban

were without their usually dominant scrum and driving maul that made retaining possession in the first half very difficult.

East Kilbride dominated and controlled the majority of the opening 20 minutes or so and had a huge amount of possession and territory in the Oban Lorne half. Both teams traded missed penalty attempts as the visitors continued to pile on the pressure.

Oban made a promising break up field after 20 minutes with Jack Baxter finding space in midfield. With two unmarked support runners outside him the big second row elected to step inside rather than pass much to the crowd's frustration. Despite this, the home time took the lead as a result from this phase of play as stand off Bertrand slotted over a drop goal from close range making it 3-0 to Oban.

EK upped the gears after this and looked hungry to score the first try of the game. They were undone on a few occasions with some heroic Oban tackling, in particular from centre Alessandro Franzo. The visitors looked certain to score after the half hour mark if it had not been for a poor handling effort from their hooker on the tryline. The away side did reply with a penalty to tie the scores at 3-3.

Oban Lorne head coach Louw made a couple of tactical changes in the build up to half time with scrum half Dom Ma and prop Connor Ferris making way for Finlay Carmichael and Carl Lay.

Both sides played out an error



East Kilbride on the attack during last Saturday's game at Glenclruitten.

strewn close to the first half with handling errors becoming the norm for each side whenever the ball went wide.

Oban made a further change at half time with winger Rufus Stones being replaced by powerful runner Callum MacLachlan.

Last ditch tackle

East Kilbride were still in control of the game at the start of the second half and were unlucky not to score with Oban being saved by a last-ditch tackle from Tom Harrison.

The pressure from the visitors eventually paid off as one of their big second rows scored the first try of the game to take a 10-3 lead.

Things were not looking great for Oban Lorne at this stage of the game with a tiring pack and the team struggling to gain little, if any, significant possession of the ball.

With East Kilbride looking to extend their lead replacement Oban Lorne winger turned the game on its head after 60 minutes with a superb solo try.

MacLachlan took possession of the ball in his own 22 and embarked on a storming run up the touchline, beating off several defenders to score a magnificent try and take the home side back into the game.

This gave the whole Oban team a huge confidence boost, backed by what was now a very noisy support.

The Green Machine were now the dominant force and all of a sudden were looking very dangerous in attack. A great sidestep from Alessandro Franzo resulted in the Italian centre diving beneath the posts from what looked to be the second Oban try of the game.

A fantastic tackle over the line by the EK defence resulted in the try being held up.

From the resulting scrum a Dave McCabe pass into space for MacLachlan to gather was fumbled and sent into touch.

The big winger would almost definitely have scored against a nervous defence.

Despite the Oban onslaught the visitors managed to clear

their lines and used their National League experience to force a penalty in the Oban half to lead 13-8.

Oban continued with their confident attacking play and pressed for a winning try. Prop Tommy Sutherland crossed the line with 10 minutes to go but this effort was disallowed much to the frustration of the home support as the referee was unsighted in the grounding of the ball.

With minutes remaining Oban replacement winger Vasco Borisov found space on the right wing and made a darting run for the tryline. To the Oban support's delight the player touched the ball down in the corner as Oban had looked to have tied the game at 13-13.

However, the joy was short-lived as the East Kilbride touch judge dubiously made a delay in raising his flag protesting that Borisov had stepped into touch. The try was disallowed and East Kilbride managed to clear.

Eventually the visitors held on

Rugby

for a hard fought 13-8 win.

Over the 80-minute period nobody could deny East Kilbride the win after their dominance of possession and overall control of the game. The Green Machine were left extremely frustrated with crossing the line three times to no avail.

Despite the narrow loss there were plenty of positives for the home side, particularly that of the backline play and the overall defensive effort throughout the match.

Improvements must be made to the lineout that failed to function for the majority of the game. East Kilbride showed on Saturday that they will almost certainly be challenging at the top of the league this season and Oban Lorne wish them well for the season ahead.

The Oban side will look to get their first win of the season next weekend away to Allan Glens. Kick-off is 3pm in Bish-obriggs.



Both teams face the camera before the game

Sneaky win for the golden oldies

A RECENT international football match held in the Czech Republic on the eve of Oban man Michael McCuish's wedding saw players from Scotland, Sweden, Taipei, Czech Republic and Dunbeg take the field.

Strip

Michael was presented with a replica Crusaders strip by some of his former team mates from the very early days of the Oban Sunday League.

The golden oldies team were three pints up before a ball was kicked showing a severe lack of

drinking experience from their younger opponents.

After the youngsters went 13-2 up, it was decided the golden goal would determine the overall winner.

This winning goal was scored after a blatant foul and, as the teams were arguing, Roddy McCuish slotted the ball home and declared the game over.

Both the father of the bride and the father of the groom were delighted to be on the winning side.

Andy Campbell just shaded man of the match award from

Football

former Saints favourite Neil McIntyre, who went through the whole game without spilling a drop and from current Saints full back Jaime Graham, who kicked every ball and everyone on the park

Former Crusaders' coach Roddy McCuish said after the game: 'The young boys acquitted themselves well but experience told in the end and that was the theme for a very memorable and enjoyable weekend in Prague.'

Top marks for Rebecca at pony club championships

Horse riding

REBECCA Scott from Oban represented North Argyll Pony Club in the recent novice eventing section at the pony club championships at Cholmondeley Castle in Cheshire.

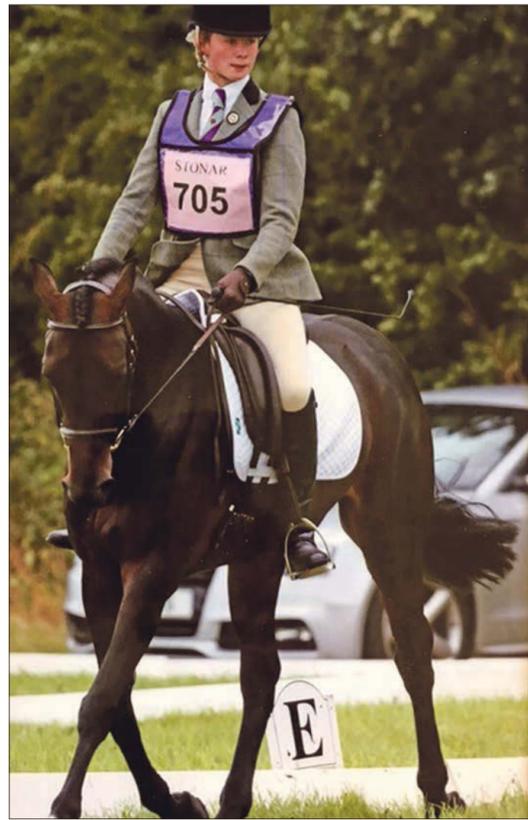
The championships include top riders from clubs around the UK.

Rebecca managed to obtain the joint highest score in a field of more than 230 competitors.

However, in the fickle world of eventing, she was pushed into second place in her section for being three seconds faster on the Cross Country phase than the other joint leader. Rebecca scored a personnel best and was also the highest placed Scottish Pony Club member over the six novice eventing sections.

Rebecca, 15, attends Oban High School and started riding when she was three and a half.

She has been a member of North Argyll Pony Club since she was five and is also a junior member of Oban and District Riding Club.



Rebecca riding in the dressage event.



Glenclruitten

NEIL Carmichael had a very successful weekend at Glenclruitten, winning the Cameron Trophy with net scores of 65 + 60 = 125. He also won the President's Prize with a score of 65 - 5 = 60.

Philip Murphy and Alan Jamieson were runners-up in the Cameron Trophy with net scores of 131.

On Saturday the Stableford finals and monthly medal take place.

Tobermory

MEN'S section - fourth round of the Centenary Trophy - 1 David Honeyman 94-28-66; 2 Tim Gardiner 74-07-67; 3 Tom Nunn 80-12-68.

Shell Cup - 1 Calum MacLean 39 points; 2 Graham Davidson 36 points; 3 William MacCrone 35 points.

Nine-hole Stableford - 1 Brian MacRae 18 points; 2 Ewan MacCrone 15 points; 3 Richard Inglis 15 points.

Argyll and Bute get off to a winning start

Rugby

BT West Division 4 Glasgow East 15 Argyll and Bute 50

ARGYLL and Bute RFC opened the 2016/17 season with a convincing 50-15 win over Glasgow East. The Argyll team were looking for an improvement on last season's campaign where they finished fourth in the league.

Clashes between these two teams last season were in Argyll's favour with large home and away victories.

Tries for Argyll came from Alex Maslakovics, Radu Maskimov, Gin Tas, Ed Maskauskas, Daniel Broderick and Steven Parr.

The result puts Argyll top of the league after the first round of matches.

This Saturday Argyll and Bute welcome second-placed Shawlands RFC to Oban.

Shawlands narrowly defeated Isle of Mull RFC 21-17 at Dumbreck on Saturday. Kick-off is 3pm at Glenclruitten.

Oban Saints' youth results and fixtures

Youth football

DUMBARTON Riverside 0, Under 13s 2. Innes MacDonald scored both goals for Saints. Tass Thistle 6, Under 14 1; Under 15s 0, Dumbarton United 4; Port Glasgow Boys 1, Under 16s 4. On target for Saints were Cameron Kerr (2), Scott Mossman and Kenneth Black. Under 17s no game.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Carbrain; Renton Craighero v Under 14s; Campbelltown Pupils v Under 15s; Under 16s v Drumsagard; Under 17s no game.

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This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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S MacDonald Argyll Road Fort William

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.
You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.
Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

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.
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.
Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



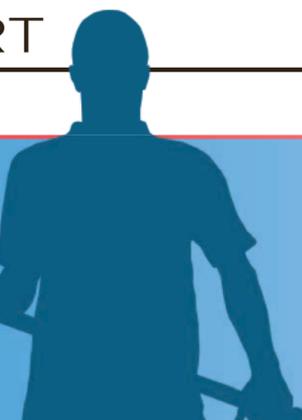
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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures



The North and South under 21 teams line up before last Saturday's Caol Cup match played at the Jubilee Park, Ballachulish. Photos: Neil Paterson

North edge out South to lift Caol Cup

Caol Cup

South U21 1
North U21 3

The North recovered from losing an early goal to beat the South 3-1 in their 2pm throw up at Jubilee Park, Ballachulish.

With Scotland U21 manager Allan MacRae taking a keen interest, the South were managed by Ian MacDonald and, with Callum McLeod unavailable, Lovat defender Drew Howie looked after the North squad.

Oban Celtic's Ally McKerracher captained the South with Lovat's Michael MacKenzie captaining the North.

The South got off to a great start when Daniel MacVicar put them ahead after just a couple of minutes. MacVicar capitalised on a slip in the home defence to crash a backhand shot into the roof of the net to make it 1-0.

The closest the North came to a first half leveller was a Charlie MacDonald strike which came back off the crossbar.

The second half was just 10 minutes old when Craig Morrison pulled the North level. Morrison was first to react to a rebound and he just managed to tap the ball home to make it 1-1.

Two goals from Charlie MacDonald late in the match gave the North the win. MacDonald put the North ahead for the first time in the match on 77

minutes when he got onto a cut-back to send a low backhand drive into the net to make it 2-1.

Inverness forward MacDonald sealed the win on 81 minutes to ensure the North retained the Caol Cup.

Inveraray's Lewis Montgomery suffered a hand injury in the match which could rule him out for the rest of the season.

North U21 captain Michael MacKenzie was presented with the Caol Cup by Camanachd Association Director Keith Loades.

The match was useful preparation ahead of the Shinty / Hurling international between Scotland U21 and Ireland U21 at the Bught Park, Inverness on Saturday 22 October 2016.

South U21 from: Scott MacLachlan (Inveraray); Andrew MacDonald (Oban Celtic); Ross MacRae (Kyles Athletic); Michael MacKinnon (Oban Celtic); Ally McKerracher (Oban Celtic) (captain); Jamie Gilles (Taynuilt); Ryan MacVicar (Col Glen); Lewis Montgomery (Inveraray); John MacNulty (Glasgow Mid Argyll); Daniel Madej (Oban Celtic); Fraser Watt (Inveraray); Daniel MacVicar (Oban Camanachd); subs Cameron Sutherland (Ballachulish); Ross MacMillan (Oban Camanachd); Kyle Macmartin (Kyles Athletic); Jack Mitchell (Aberdour); Angus Thorburn (Aberdour); Arran Dunn (Bute).

North U21 from: Callum MacDonald (Lochaber); Ewen Campbell (Beaulie); Rory MacKeachan (Kingussie); Blair Morrison (Caberfeidh); Michael MacKenzie (Lovat) (captain); Barry MacDonald (Lochaber); Danny Kelly (Lovat); Innes Blackhall (Kilmallie); Craig Morrison (Caberfeidh); Neil Stewart (Newtonmore); Oliver MacRae (Kinlochshiel); Charlie MacDonald (Inverness); subs Duncan MacKinnon (Lochaber); Euan Lloyd (Glenurquhart); Will Cowie (Skye Camanachd); Rory MacGregor (Kingussie); Calum Morrison (Beaulie).

Match Referee - Iain Kennedy.

Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup final

Lochaber Ladies 4
Skye Ladies 2

Lochaber won the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup for the first time when they beat Skye Camanachd 4-2 before an enthusiastic crowd at An Aird.

There were some concerns that the match wouldn't go ahead following heavy rainfall in Fort William during the previous 24 hours which led to the postponement of the Friday evening MacMaster Cup semi-final tie between the Oban Camanachd and Kingussie U14 teams. However,

these concerns were cast aside on Saturday morning and the pitch, which will host next month's Camanachd Cup Final between Oban Camanachd and Newtonmore, was in excellent condition.

The players were piped onto the field before being introduced to Steve Bracken from sponsors Marine Harvest and Women's Camanachd Association president Lisa MacColl.

This 10-a-side match was played for 40 minutes each way.

Lochaber made the better start and they attacked the Skye goal from the throw up.

Lochaber took the lead on seven minutes. They were awarded a free-hit on their left wing. Christy MacIntyre played the set-piece wide to Kirsty Delaney, who sent a dangerous, ball bouncing into the D and, with the Lochaber forwards rushing in, the ball ended up in the net.

Skye came more into the game and, after a period of pressure, it took a superb save from Lochaber goalie Aileen Campbell from Lorna MacRae to keep her side in front. MacRae hit a rasping shot from the left which Campbell did superbly well to save above her head with her caman.

Skye went close again when Caitlin MacLean got into a good position following a flowing move but Regan Porter made a superb challenge and the Islanders had to settle for a corner.

Skye levelled on 27 minutes and it was Lorna MacRae who collected an Ilana Paterson pass from the left and ran in on goal. Her initial shot from just outside the D was saved with her feet by Aileen Campbell but MacRae ran in to force the rebound over into the net from almost on the goal line.

It only took Lochaber three minutes to get themselves back in front and it was Kirsty Delaney, who had gone close a minute earlier, again on target. Amy Disher took the ball out of the air in midfield and played it forward to Delaney and she held off her marker before blasting the ball home to make it 2-1.

Skye pinned Lochaber back from the start of the second half. But a combination of some great defending from Hannah Dougan, Regan Porter and former Ardnamurchan player Mairi Duncan, aided by the impressive Aileen Campbell in goal, and some near misses from the Skye forwards of Caitlin MacLean, Lorna Macrae and Jenna Beaton denied The Marine Harvest National Division 1 winners a second leveller.

The nearest they came was a blistering drive from Caitlin MacLean, which came back off the frame of the goal and Jenna Beaton sent the rebound



North captain Michael MacKenzie receives the Caol Cup from Camanachd Association director Keith Loades.

just past the post.

Skye substitute Abby MacLean made an immediate impact as she forced a magnificent save from Aileen Campbell, who turned the ball away with her caman just under the crossbar with almost an hour played.

Skye had been pressing hard but they were hit by a sucker-punch when Lochaber worked the ball down the right side on 69 minutes and Kirsty Delaney was again on hand to complete her hat-trick to make it 3-1.

Skye didn't let their heads drop though and a lovely passing move saw Caitlin MacLean and Abby MacLean combine to set up Lorna MacRae, who ran directly at the Lochaber defence and she beat Aileen Campbell with a low shot to the keeper's left to make it 3-2 with 74 minutes played.

Skye needed another goal in the remaining six minutes to force extra-time but, when the goal came, it came at the other end just a couple of minutes later. Skye were unable to fully clear a corner and Kirsty Delaney took advantage to send the ball high into the net.

Skye keeper Sarah Jane Ferguson got her hand to the ball but she was unable to keep it out of the net.

There was still time for Aileen Campbell to make a superb stoppage time save from a back-hand shot from Caitlin

MacLean.

Referee Evan MacRae's final whistle sparked joyous scenes in the Lochaber camp whilst there was disappointment for Skye who played their part in an enthralling final.

A four-goal haul would normally have secured Kirsty Delaney the player of the match award but the number of fantastic saves made by Lochaber goalie Aileen Campbell meant that she was the deserving recipient of the coveted accolade.

The red and white ribbons were tied on the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup and the trophy and a presentation caman were handed over to a delighted Lochaber captain Rebecca Masson by sponsor Peter Gow.

Speaking after the final whistle, Lochaber's four-goal Kirsty Delaney couldn't hide her delight.

'It's all very emotional,' she said. 'We'd like to thank Skye for a great game and they kept at us all the way to the final whistle.'

'I've been scoring a few goals this season but I didn't expect to score four times today.'

However, if the ball falls in the right place then you're going to hit it.'

Skye captain Jenna Beaton was then presented with their first ever Marine Harvest National Division 1 title which they secured with a 9-0 win over Aberdour a couple of weeks earlier.

Marine Harvest Challenge Cup final

Lovat Ladies 7
Strathglass Ladies 1

Five goals in the opening 16 minutes helped the Lovat Ladies to a first senior success as they lifted the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup with a 7-1 win against Strathglass Ladies at An Aird.

Lovat got off to the perfect start when Laura Gallacher put them ahead in the opening minute.

Fiona Urquhart added a second on five minutes and a third on 11 minutes.

Lovat's explosive start continued as Laura Gallacher got her second on 15 minutes whilst Fiona Urquhart completed her hat-trick a minute later.

It was a stunning start to the final but it's to Strathglass' credit that they didn't fold and Chloe MacLeod pulled a goal back on 29 minutes to make it 5-1 at the end of the first 35 minutes.

The second half was only three minutes old when Lovat's Nicki Grant added a sixth.

Lovat's Laura Gallacher had by now dropped back into a deeper position to protect the Balgate side's lead and Fiona Urquhart rounded off the 7-1 win with a goal a couple of minutes from time to give the



Oban Celtic's Daniel Madej, left, playing for the South takes on North captain and Lovat player Michael MacKenzie.



**Camanachd Cup
Macaulay Cup
MacTavish Cup
Celtic Society Cup**

**Sutherland Cup
Balliemore Cup
Strathdearn Cup
Bullough Cup**

Lovat Ladies their first senior triumph.

Deek Cameron was the match referee.

Four-goal Fiona Urquhart was selected for the player of the match award and Lovat captain Caroline MacLean was presented with the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup by Steve Bracken from Marine Harvest.

After the match, Lovat's Gemma Bell said: 'We're absolutely delighted. The girls all played really, really well and it was a convincing win.'

'We've worked hard for this so we're really happy. We wanted to get a few goals early on and settle into the game and we did just that. It's so good to see so many people here. There's a great support from Lovat and the other teams involved in the finals and I think it's helped not having the men's fixtures played today.'

WJ Cameron Cup final

**Lovat U17 3
Inveraray U17 1**

Lovat U17 lifted the WJ Cameron trophy with a 3-1 win over Inveraray in their 11am throw up at the Jubilee Park.

This competition is for development clubs and it was played 10-a-side on a full pitch.

Lovat went in front on 39 minutes when Cameron MacMillan was first onto a rebound after a Mitchel Leslie shot was saved by the Inveraray keeper.

MacMillan, who had been an injury doubt before the match, sent a low back-hand drive into the bottom corner of the net to make it 1-0.

Scott MacKenzie made it 2-0 on 43 minutes when he hit a long ball into the area from the half way line. The ball took a bad bounce, deceiving the keeper, and ended in the back of the net.

Lovat added a third on 65 minutes when the ball came in from the right wing and Cameron MacMillan played in young Joe Embleton, who slipped the ball wide to Ruairidh Buchan and he finished off the move with a low shot into the net from a tight angle.

Campbell Watt gave Inveraray some consolation when he made it 3-1 on 68 minutes but it was Lovat's day and their captain Cameron MacMillan was presented with the WJ Cameron trophy.

Des McNulty was the match referee.

MacMaster Cup semi-finals

**Fort William U14 2
Skye Camanachd U14 4**

Skye Camanachd U14 are through to the MacMaster Cup Final after they beat Fort William U14 4-2 at Braeview Park on Friday August 26.

Ross Gordon on three minutes had Skye 2-0 ahead at the break.

Abby MacLean got her second to make it 3-0 on 49 minutes and although David Duncan pulled a goal back for Fort William on 52 minutes, Ryan Macaskill restored Skye's three-goal advantage when he made it 4-1 on 65 minutes.

A Victor Smith strike a min-



Valerie Fraser Cup winners Lochaber Ladies. Photos: Iain Ferguson

ute from time made the final score 4-2 but it's Skye who got through to the final.

**Oban Camanachd U14 P
Kingussie U14 P**

Skye will have to wait to see who their MacMaster Cup Final opponents are as the semi-final meeting between Oban Camanachd U14 and Kingussie U14 was postponed as heavy rain left An Aird unplayable on Friday evening.

The MacMaster Cup Final will take place ahead of the Camanachd Cup Final between Oban Camanachd and Newtonmore at An Aird on Saturday September 17 2016.

Friendly match

**Oban Celtic 2
Kilmory 3**

Oban Celtic and Kilmory, both riding high in their respective divisions, played a friendly match at Ganavan.

The Oban side were 11 players short; seven of whom would have been in their starting line-up, but the game proved to be a good exercise for both clubs as they are both pushing for silverware this season.

The game finished 3-2 in Kilmory's favour.

Kilmory's scorers were Alex Cunningham twice and Hal Jones. Daniel MacMillan and

Kenny Wotherspoon netted for Oban Celtic.

After the match, Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon said: 'It was a good exercise for our make-shift side. We had four players representing the South U21s today - Daniel Madej, Andy MacDonald, Michael MacKinnon and Ally McKerracher, who captained the South team.'

'The other absentees had made other arrangements as no game was scheduled for this weekend the match gave me a chance to cast my eye over a number of our fringe players.'



Right: Skye's Catriona Gibb and Lochaber's Hanna Dougan chase the ball during last Saturday's cup final.



Action from the W J Cameron Cup final between Lovat and Inveraray which Lovat won 3-1. Photo: Neil Paterson



South goalkeeper Scott MacLachlan, who plays for Inveraray, can only watch as Craig Morrison of Caberfeidh finds the back of the net for North's equaliser.

Oban side step up preparations for Camanachd Cup final

OBAN Camanachd continue their build-up for shinty's blue riband event, the Camanachd Cup final, with a re-arranged fixture against Kyles Athletic due to be played at Tighnabruich last night (Wednesday).

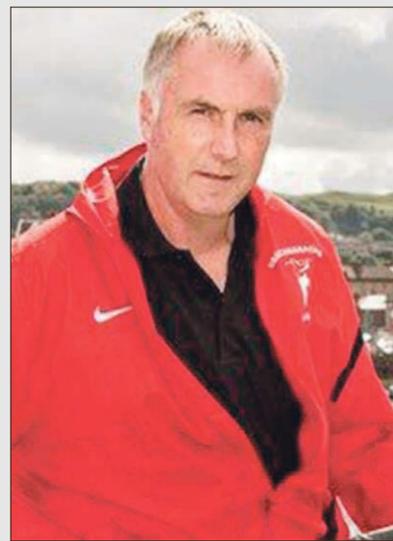
With no game last weekend this will be a welcome fixture in preparation for shinty's big day on September 17.

Both Camanachd and Kyles can still win the Premiership title although Newtonmore are clear favourites to retain the title for the seventh year in a row and closing in on the record of 10 consecutive wins by Badenoch rivals Kingussie.

Meanwhile the Oban side continue to prepare with twice weekly fitness sessions as the big day looms.

Team manager Ian Hay said: 'We are working on all aspects of our game to ensure we are fully prepared for the final although as part of the build-up we want to do well in the league which we still hope to finish well.'

Last weekend the club held a successful golf competition at Glencruitten Golf Club with 18 four-man teams taking part with proceeds going to the hospice and various youth organisations in the town.



Oban Camanachd manager Ian Hay



Fixtures

Artemis Macaulay Cup Final
Kinlochshiel v Inveraray
Evan MacRae - 2pm
at Mossfield Park, Oban.

Marine Harvest Premiership
Newtonmore v Skye
Innes Wood
Kyles Athletic v Glenurquhart
Deek Cameron - 1.30pm

Marine Harvest National Division
Bute v Inverness
David Mitchell
Caberfeidh v Kilmallie
Calum Girvan - 3pm
Glasgow MA v Beaully
John Angus Gillies

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Glenurquhart v Strathglass
Graham Cameron
Lovat v Newtonmore
John Wood
Skye v Fort William
Brian MacKay
Kingussie v Beaully
Neil Ferguson

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Caberfeidh v Lochaber
Iain Kennedy - Noon
Lewis v Inverness
John Matheson
Lochcarron v Glengarry
Martin MacLean

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Dunoon v Aberdour
Ross Brown
Glasgow MA v Kilmory
Jim Innes - Noon
Tayforth v Bute
Ewan MacDonald

Camanachd Association Youth Fixture
Friday September 2
MacMaster Cup Semi - Final
Oban Camanachd v Kingussie
Willie MacDonald - 6.45pm
at An Aird, Ft William

Results

Saturday August 27
Caol Cup - under-21 representative match
North U21s 3-1 South U21s

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Aberdeen Uni 6-1 Kilmallie

Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup final
Lochaber 4-2 Skye

Marine Harvest Challenge Cup final
Lovat 7-1 Strathglass

Camanachd Association youth results
National under-14 competition - MacMaster Cup semi-finals
Fort William 2-4 Skye
Oban Camanachd P-P Kingussie
Unplayable field

Marine Harvest under-17 development league - W J Cameron Trophy
Lovat 3-1 Inveraray



Saints pick up all three points against 'Clyde

'We played reasonably well, but were giving the ball away too easily at times'

Oban Saints	4
Inverclyde	2
SAFL Premier Division	

OBAN Saints warmed up for their crunch Scottish Amateur Cup first round tie against Finart with a hard-fought league win against old rivals Inverclyde at Glencruitten last Saturday.

Manager Alex Craik named 10 of the starting 11 that had let a two-goal lead slip against Motherwell Thistle the previous week with Dene Cassells dropping to the bench in favour of Craig Campbell.

Inverclyde's new black and red strip was too similar to Saints' navy blue ensemble forcing Saints secretary David Buchanan to dig into the kit bag for the 2014 double winning kit of white shirts, black shorts and white socks.

The visitors kicked off, attacking the Mossfield end with only four of the team that lost 4-1 on their last visit to Glencruitten remaining. The much-changed 'Clyde line-up, including five of

the new signings that have taken the Greenock club to the quarter final stage of the Scottish Amateur Football League Centenary Cup, were quick to settle in an even opening five minutes.

Saints were first to threaten in the fifth minute when Donald Campbell sent a cross from the right into the 'Clyde box looking for Craig MacEwan. 'Clyde skipper Greg Wilson got to the ball first but sliced his attempted clearance behind for the first corner kick of the match.

Thumping
The Saints defence was carved open in the seventh minute with new signing from Dunoon Amateurs Guy Finnegan rounding off an excellent move from the left with a thumping finish past a hopelessly exposed Thomas McCulloch to give the visitors the lead.

A 10th-minute foul on Myles McAuley by Steven Morris just inside the visitors' half gave Saints the chance to combine the dead ball accuracy of Willie Gemmell with the aerial threat of Craig Campbell. The pair duly delivered but unfortunately

Football

there was no Saints player on hand to capitalise off Craig's well-won knock down and 'Clyde keeper Michael Ptolomey was able to gather comfortably.

From Ptolomey's clearance Clyde threatened again on the left wing with goalscorer Finnegan drawing a good tackle from Marc MacCallum to halt the move on the edge of the Saints box.

Saints equalised in the 17th minute from a well-worked move on the left. Willie Gemmell threaded a pass through the inside left channel which Craig MacEwan allowed to run past him for the overlapping Jamie Graham. The visitors appealed for offside against Craig MacEwan but referee John Scott allowed play to continue.

Graham drove on towards the bye-line and sent a low cut back to Willie Gemmell, who fired a first time shot into the bottom corner past Michael Ptolomey's left hand.

The home side increased their lead on the half-hour mark when Donald Campbell pounced on a moment of hesitation in the Inverclyde back four. He robbed Fraser Gunn 10 yards inside the 'Clyde half and sent Ross Maitland off on a run up the right wing leaving left back Robbie McAlpine trailing in his wake.

Maitland produced another excellent delivery picking out Craig MacEwan at the back post, who beat Christopher McGivern and Greg Wilson turning the ball into the net to give Saints a 2-1 lead at the half-time break.

A cheaply-conceded free kick in the 57th minute gave Robbie McAlpine a chance to put the ball into the danger area which he gladly accepted. The left full back whipped an excellent delivery into the box meeting Greg Wilson's well-timed run past a static Saints' defence to



Willie Gemmell is congratulated by his teammates after scoring against Inverclyde last Saturday. Match report and photos: Derek Black

head the ball into the net for the equaliser.

This was just the wake-up call Saints needed and they struck back almost immediately from the restart. Craig MacEwan and Donald Campbell linked up well on the edge of the visitor's box with MacEwan's quick pass sending Campbell in behind the defence and through on goal.

Keeper Ptolomey once again got his angles spot on coming out at his near post to close Campbell down and turn the ball behind for a corner.

Campbell also got on the end of Ross Maitland's corner from the right with his downward header causing all sorts of confusion in the 'Clyde defence which David McArthur capitalised on to sneak the loose ball in at the back post to restore Saints' lead.

The goal kick started a much-improved spell for Saints where Craig MacEwan was unlucky to see a lob beat the keeper but bounce off the top of the crossbar and Ross Maitland's follow-up overhead kick land safely in the Michael Ptolomey's arms.

Jamie Graham's afternoon as a makeshift left back came to an end just after the hour mark when he was replaced by Scottish Amateur International left back Scott Maitland. Scott was immediately into the action making a strong run up the left

wing before fizzing a dangerous cross into the box which Craig MacEwan was unfortunately unable to divert on target sending a difficult chance wide of Michael Ptolomey's right hand post.

Thomas McCulloch scuffed a seemingly straight forward clearance off the shins of Guy Finnegan before recovering in the nick of time to pluck the ball from the toes of the 'Clyde danger man much to the relief of the home support.

Under pressure

At the other end Paul Kerr popped up in an unlikely position climbing well at the back post to head a Ross Maitland cross wide under pressure from Christopher McGivern.

Manager Alex Craik made his second change of the afternoon replacing Ross Maitland with Dean Smith at the same time dropping Donald Campbell a little deeper to form a four-man midfield. Initially the change did little to shift the pattern of play with Saints still wasteful in possession leaving the visitors hopeful of snatching an equaliser.

Relief, however, was close at hand with a well-worked move from Saints' own box leading to the killer goal in the 86th minute.

Thomas McCulloch threw the ball out to David McArthur with the Saints right back able to car-

ry the ball forward unchallenged to the half-way line. McArthur found Craig MacEwan, who in turn laid the ball off to Donald Campbell for a defence-splitting pass for Dean Smith to spin in behind the 'Clyde defence only for Fraser Gunn to clip his heels before he could get a shot away.

Referee John Scott immediately pointed to the spot from where Donald Campbell sent Michael Ptolomey the wrong way with an emphatic finish.

Thankfully there was no repeat of the previous week's dramatic late collapse and Saints comfortably saw out the remainder of the match before Mr Scott's final whistle brought an entertaining afternoon to a close.

Manager Alex Craik was happy with the result but not with the performance. He said: 'We played reasonably well, but gave the ball away too easily at times with sloppy passes which is something we need to sort out.'

Next up for Saints on Saturday is a tough Scottish Amateur Cup first round tie away at former Scottish Amateur Football League rivals Finart, who currently lead Caledonian League Division 1B with maximum points from their opening two matches. The game will take place at the Glasgow Green 4G pitch with a 2pm kick-off. Referee is James Gallacher.

Shinty to lose chief operating officer

Shinty

THE CAMANACHD Association confirmed that Chief Operating Officer Torquil Macleod is to leave the organisation at the end of November after more than six years in the role.

He moves to take up a new position as development manager with VisitScotland, Scotland's national tourism organisation, working in the Events Directorate based in Edinburgh.

The Camanachd Association board of directors will take time to review the current role of chief operating officer in the weeks ahead, after which the intention is to advertise the role and appoint a successor at the earliest opportunity.

Jim Barr, Camanachd Association president, said: 'The Camanachd Association is very sorry to be losing such an effective and dedicated chief operating officer, however, there was always the understanding that Torquil would move on at some point. Torquil leaves the association in a much stronger and sustainable position than he inherited, both administratively and financially.'

Torquil said: 'It has been a privilege to work with the Camanachd Association and wider shinty community for the past six years and I am extremely grateful to the board, staff and many volunteers who have supported me in the role. I will be sorry to leave; the time is now right for me to progress my career and I am pleased to have secured a new role with VisitScotland.'



Torquil Macleod



Craig MacEwan turns Ross Maitland's cross into the net to give the Oban side a 2-1 lead.

Record broken at Oban Sea Kayak Race



Mark Peters from Cornwall.

THE 2016 Oban Sea Kayak Race took place on Saturday in totally calm, warm conditions, which was in total contrast to the conditions experienced in the 2015 race.

A total of 47 racers took part in this year's event, which included ocean surf skis, racing kayaks, touring kayaks and a double kayak.

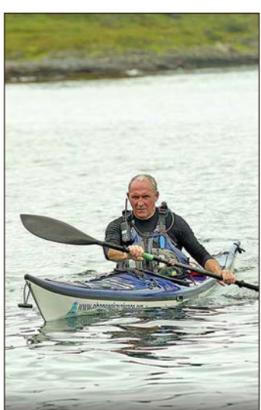
The entries came from far and wide, including a team of three women from Chicago, a surf skier from Spain and as far South as Devon and Cornwall.

The overall winner was Mark Ressel from Devon, who was de-

Sea kayaking

fending his course record time and title from 2015 and who went on to break his own record time by three and a half minutes in a time of 1:36:16. Calum Urquhart from Inverness, a two times winner of the title, came second with his club-mate Douglas Wilby coming in third.

Oban's Patrick Winterton came in fourth place. Another course record was broken on Saturday by Lizelle Kemp in a surf ski winning as ladies' champion in a time of 1:56:01.



Oban's Gus Brydon in action.



Competitors at the start of the Oban Sea Kayak race. Photos: Graham Milne

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TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday September 1, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am	pm		
Thu	05.43 3.8 11.48 0.7 17.46 4.0	** ** *	**	
Fri	00.25 0.9 06.14 3.9 12.25 0.7	18.18	4.1	
Sat	00.59 0.9 06.45 3.9 13.00 0.7	18.49	4.1	
Sun	01.32 1.0 07.14 3.9 13.33 0.8	19.20	4.0	
Mon	02.04 1.1 07.43 3.8 14.06 1.0	19.50	3.9	
Tues	02.36 1.3 08.12 3.7 14.39 1.2	20.19	3.7	
Wed	03.10 1.5 08.45 3.5 15.14 1.5	20.49	3.5	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

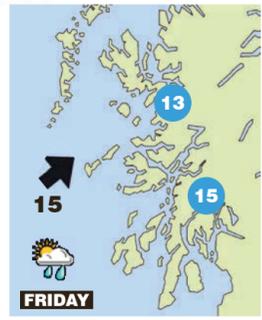
Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

WEATHER

Thursday	Cloudy Winds moderate south westerly Temperatures 13°C to 15°C.
Friday	Light rain showers Winds moderate south westerly Temperatures 13°C to 15°C.
Weekend Outlook	Heavy rain showers on Saturday Cloudy on Sunday Winds moderate south westerly Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.



FRIDAY

The Oban Times

FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Pool scoops grant boost



THE ARTEMIS MACAULAY CUP FINAL

INVERARAY

KINLOCHSHIEL

High death rate may be due to lack of end-of-life home care

ELLIE FORBES
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HIGH mortality rates at Fort William's Belford hospital could have been a result of insufficient end-of-life care in Lochaber.

Recent Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratios (HSMR) show that from January 2016 to March 2016 the Belford had an HSMR of 2.55 for deaths within 30 days of a patient being admitted to the hospital, while the national average is 0.97.

But Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Andrew Baxter has told *The Oban Times*: 'Perhaps these figures are more related to an elderly population, living in a wider remote rural area, meaning that it is often difficult to arrange suitable end-of-life care at home.'

'I do think we need to offer a wider range of choices in end-of-life care, which includes the option of being cared for at home or closer to home within a nursing home.'

'There will always be patients who will need to be cared for in hospital but if we got social care right it would also ease any pressure on the Belford.'

Dr Rod Harvey, medical director for NHS Highland, said: 'Several factors could have contributed to the spike in the mortality ratio, including more people being admitted for end-of-life care.'

Mr Baxter added: 'The headlines last week gave the impression the Belford hospital was some horrible death trap, without looking at the details behind the statistics and any causal link that might mean there is a higher mortality compared to other

areas. Many of us know from personal or family experience that the care and treatment at the Belford is first class.'

Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Brian Murphy added: 'I think the standard of care at the Belford is excellent, as are the staff who work there.'

And with a new Belford hospital to be built at the Blar Mhor site, Mr Baxter said it will 'give an opportunity to review health and social care across Lochaber as a whole, rather than focusing on problems such as home care and the recruitment of consultants and GPs in isolation'.

But no plans for the hospital have been seen yet. Mr Murphy said: 'A group was set up to take forward planning for the new Belford hospital but it'll take as long as it takes. As far as the community is concerned, it would like to see a new hospital tomorrow because the present hospital has outgrown its site.'

'I look forward to seeing a modern, consultant-led rural general hospital on the Blar Mhor.'

An NHS Highland spokesperson said: 'NHS Highland is working towards an initial proposal to take the project forward to the next stage. A steering group has been set up with a number of sub groups.'

'Due to the low volume of activity in a small hospital such as the Belford, small natural variations in the numbers of people who die following admission can have a big impact on the calculated HSMR.'

Dr Harvey said a detailed investigation was taking place which he hoped to be completed by mid September.

Show stoppers: pipers call tunes at Lochaber show



The Lochaber Schools Pipe Band were a hit at this year's agricultural show. The band performed on Saturday (August 27) for spectators following their 'usual busy summer season'. The pipe band also had their final high street parade of the summer on Tuesday night (August 30), at which there was a short presentation to members who have left school and are leaving the band as a result. Following Tuesday's performance things quieten down for the band, with just three or four more events to perform at before the October holidays. Picture special on page five.

TIMESLINE

Celebrations for Gaelic anniversary

LAST Thursday marked the 30-year anniversary of Gaelic education in Western Isles schools.

In 1986, four pupils embarked on their education in Gaelic, at Breaslete school on Lewis.

The school was given official Gaelic status last year and now more than 80 per cent of pupils are educated in Gaelic. Several events are planned during the coming academic session and there will be a Gaelic Day in November.

Islands group is now established

ISLAND communities will be brought together under an islands strategic group, it has been announced.

Islands Minister Humza Yousaf confirmed the new group during a visit to Skye and Raasay. The group involves Argyll and Bute Council. Full story, page two.

Flower show is all set to blossom

NETHER Lochaber flower and produce show will be held this weekend. The annual event will start at 2pm on Sunday September 4 in Nether Lochaber village hall. Entries for the show will be from 9am to 10am. Call Ann Marie Cameron on 01855 821231.

Drivers warned to expect delays

MOTORISTS are being warned to expect disruption on the A82 between Drumnadrochit and Fort Augustus this Saturday from around 7am as a result of a wide load.



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School could be first of its kind

PLANS for 'the first community-owned school in Scotland' are progressing.

Strontian residents decided to build their own school after they were told by the Highland Council there were not enough cash to replace the primary on the Ardnamurchan peninsula.

The Strontian Community School Building Ltd was then formed to raise the funds to build the school at a new location adjacent to Ardnamurchan high school.

And the group took another step towards success last week when the Highland Council's education, children and adult services committee approved the proposal, recommending

the council agree to the plans when it meets on September 8.

The chairman of the group, the Rev Donald McCorkindale said: 'I'm delighted the council committee has approved our proposal and we hope the Highland Council will agree with the plans when it makes its final decision on September 8. We are pleased we are progressing towards becoming the first community-owned school in Scotland.'

'People often ask why we are doing this, saying it is the council's responsibility. Yes, it's the council's responsibility to provide the education but not the building itself.'

'We have agreement in prin-

ciple for a land purchase, and once the council signs on the dotted line for the proposal in September we will be firming up tendering agreements.'

'We are looking into a design and build project, with a brief at the moment but no firm plans.'

Nursery teacher and mum from Strontian, Laura Wilson, 29, who is getting ready to send her four-year-old son to school next year, said: 'Children, teaching staff and parents have been waiting a long time to have the current school building upgraded. This project will give the children the environment they need to learn and thrive, and the teaching

staff the adequate space they also need. I'm very proud of our community.'

Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Andrew Baxter added: 'I am pleased officers recommended a community-built school to the council.'

'It offers a better solution for the building, with a bigger space for the children.'

'I think it's a win-win for the council and the community.'

Chairman of the education, children and adult services committee, Drew Millar said: 'The community of Strontian have come forward with very innovative proposals which are highly commendable.'

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Petition victory on pitch

A COMMUNITY petition to save an artificial pitch in Fort William has been victorious.

Wendy Lev, 34, from Banff Crescent, started the Keep the Upper Achintore Astro Open online petition in May and it now has 566 supporters.

And last week the Highland Council announced that repairs are to be made to the multi-use games area at Upper Achintore to allow the pitch to be brought back into temporary use.

Members of the education, children and adult services committee agreed last Thursday to release funds of around £10,000 for the pitch to be repaired.

Mum of three Wendy told *The Oban Times*: 'We are happy they are not closing the pitch and that the council has decided to spend £10,000 to keep it open.'

'The long-term plan for the ground is still in debate, but it's great that there is communication with the community about what they want, rather than just shutting the pitch all together.'

'I started the petition because my daughters encouraged me. I knew they would be upset if it was to close.'

'The kids took in a paper petition to Lundavra primary school, which their classmates signed, and they collected 252 signatures.'

'It's been really important for the kids because they feel they have been listened to and have been able to make a change.'

The council also said it would 'carry out community engagement to establish if a community management committee of local stakeholders will, in the short term, oversee the use of the pitch once repaired, and carry out housekeeping of the pitch'.

Wendy added: 'There is, hopefully, going to be a group set up to try to get funding for a new carpet surface for the pitch, but the council has listened to us and re-evaluated what it is going to do with it, which is great.'

Clarification

IN LAST week's *Oban Times* we published a story on the tragedy in which a cyclist died in a road accident on the A82 in Fort William. We would like to point out that the lorry in the photograph used to accompany the piece was not involved in the accident, but was merely caught in traffic when the police closed the road.



Celebrating the £275,000 in funding are pool manager Brian O'Rourke and lifeguards Jenna Gliddon, left, and Kayleigh Woods.

Pool is swimming in cash thanks to whopping grant

ELLIE FORBES
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THERE has been huge success for Mallaig pool as it has landed a whopping £275,000 towards its million-pound refurbishment programme.

Last week Highland Council approved the funds which will go towards the centre's £1.1 million appeal.

The money will be used for extensive refurbishments and the replacement of essential pool equipment, 'breathing some much-needed life into the facility'.

On hearing the news, which came last Wednesday (August 24), pool manager Brian O'Rourke told *The Oban Times*: 'I'm absolutely elated we got the funding.'

'We have been working on this for the past three years. It's been a long time coming.'

'We want to replace the pool's plant equipment. A lot of it is almost 23 years old, starting to

fail and generally inefficient. The building is also very draughty so we want to upgrade its insulation and thermal qualities.'

It was said at the meeting of the Highland Council resources committee in Inverness that the social enterprise could fail because the cost of running the plant was so high, as a result of its energy inefficiency.

Independent councillors for Caol and Mallaig Ben Thompson and Allan Henderson said: 'We are delighted to have secured funding for the Mallaig pool and leisure to the tune of £275,000 from the Highland Council's capital discretionary budget, despite the ceiling on the award of £250,000.'

'The £275,000 is vital in the centre's quest for funding to allow all of the project to go ahead. This commitment from the Highland Council gives the swimming pool and fitness centre board, as well as the fundraisers, confidence with

this ambitious upgrade. The centre has always been a good facility delivering the school curriculum and helping the whole of west Lochaber and the islands to improve health, safety and fitness, and it can now

“I'm delighted the council has agreed to fund this vital work”

Ben Thompson
Caol and Mallaig councillor

become a great facility. This is not the end of the journey but the beginning.'

The importance of the refurbishment has been reflected in the efforts of the local community, which raised more than

£10,000 towards the project in just six weeks.

Sue Currie, from Arisaig, said: 'I think the pool has been the most important building in this area to my family in the past 30 years. I want it to be reborn for us all.'

Abigail Jackson, from Mallaig, also said the refurbishment of the facility was 'essential to the area.'

She added: 'Everyone should learn how to swim, but it is highly important in a fishing village. Upgrades are necessary to keep it running and to keep people coming.'

Mr Thompson added: 'This couldn't have happened without a lot of effort from the board, staff and friends of the pool, as well as from the Highland Council staff who have helped and advised on the process so far.'

'The pool and leisure facility is a vital resource for residents and visitors of all ages. I hope this good news from the council

will further motivate the public to get behind the rest of this ambitious project to transform the centre.'

Fiona Baker, chairwoman of the Mallaig pool and leisure, said: 'We're absolutely delighted the Highland Council has recognised the value of Mallaig pool to the community and supported our refurbishment programme with an award of £275,000 of public funds towards our goal.'

'This is a culmination of three years of methodical and detailed groundwork by the team of enormously talented, dedicated and largely volunteer board and management to whom all credit must be given.'

'Over the next three months we await the response of a number of other funding agencies.'

'This project will only be entirely successful if we can now deliver the collegiate sponsorship necessary to match-fund this significant award. But this is a great boost.'

TIMESLINE

Synthetic pitch for Acharacle school

COUNCIL members have agreed plans for a synthetic playing field at Acharacle primary school.

Approval of a 90m x 45m playing area, the larger of two options available, was approved.

The project is set to cost £600,000 and will be funded from the Life Cycle Investment budget.

A report by the education, children and adult services committee said: 'The school opened in 2009 and has had limited play space available since then.'

'During this time, council officials have worked with community representatives and ward members to explore the feasibility of providing a larger playing area to meet the needs of the wider community.'



Fiona Hyslop.

Minister is set to visit Fort William

LOCHABER Chamber of Commerce is gearing up to welcome Fiona Hyslop MSP to Fort William.

The culture, tourism and external affairs secretary will be in Fort William on Monday September 5 for the opening of the pontoons, after which Lochaber Chamber of Commerce will be holding a small reception for members to informally meet the minister.

This will give people the chance to raise any queries with the Ms Hyslop.

Cervical testing views wanted

NHS HIGHLAND is looking for the views of lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) women about the cervical screening programme. An online survey has been designed to collect the views of LGB women, as evidence has suggested barriers may exist which deter them from having smear tests. NHS Highland wants to understand what can be done to improve this situation.

The survey is at www.survey-monkey.co.uk/r/NHSHSLGB0816.

Forest appeal lands £750,000 in funding

MONICA GIBSON
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AN APPEAL to save an 'enchanted forest' has hit the halfway mark towards its target thanks to a big funding boost.

Loch Arkaig pine forest is being sold by Forest Enterprise Scotland under the National Forest Land Scheme.

Woodland Trust Scotland is partnering Arkaig Community Forest - a small group of local residents who share ambitious plans to take over the 2,500-acre site which is in need of a bit of TLC after becoming degraded over the years.

The plan has been boosted by a £750,000 award from players of People's Postcode Lottery, taking the appeal halfway to the £4.5 million required.

Gary Servant, of Arkaig Community



Forest, said: 'We give heartfelt thanks to all People's Postcode Lottery players for this magnificent contribution. This money will help us secure the ecological regeneration of our forest and the economic regeneration of our community. This is a once in a

lifetime opportunity and it is fantastic to have this support.'

Clara Govier, from the People's Postcode Lottery, said: 'We are delighted that our players are able to support the work of the Woodland Trust across Britain, and to back the

exciting partnership of conservationists and community at Loch Arkaig.'

During the Second World War, the Loch Arkaig pine woods were a training ground for commandos but since then they have been degraded by historic felling, and planting with non-native conifers which will be slowly removed over the next 20 years. Beccy Speight, from the Woodland Trust, added: 'This is a fantastic funding commitment from players of the People's Postcode Lottery. Wherever players are in Britain, they will be supporting tree planting and protection of woods in their own area while helping secure and restore this venerable old forest at Loch Arkaig. From the tree at the end of the city street to the mighty pines of Arkaig, they are nurturing Britain's woods and wildlife for everyone to enjoy.'

Melanie is write person to lift memorial trophy

THIS year's winner of the Thomas Rae Memorial Prize for writing is Melanie MacLennan, from Lochaber high school.

The prize, donated by the parents of former pupil Thomas Rae, who tragically died young, is awarded annually for the best writing produced for a Higher English portfolio in Lochaber high school.

Melanie, 16, who enjoys writing in her spare time, is currently undertaking the Advanced Higher English course, which will allow her to develop her talent.

She hopes to go on to university next year to study journalism and creative writing.



Melanie MacLennan from Lochaber high school who won the Thomas Rae Memorial Prize for writing.

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Lochaber puts on a great show

IT WAS another successful year at the Lochaber Agricultural Show on Saturday.

Friday's bad weather didn't dampen the spirits, as the skies cleared on Saturday (August 27) for the annual show.

Committee member John Weller told *The Oban Times*: 'The show looked really good and was well attended at the weekend. It was a nice dry day in the end, so perfect really.'

'We had about the same number

of stock entries as last year, which is good, and I think that the stalls had a successful day all round.'

John has been on the committee for almost 10 years, and his wife is the show secretary. He added: 'There about 12 to 15 core members on the committee, but there are lots of people working behind the scenes to make the day a success. Committee members' family and kids all get involved.'

Full results at www.obantimes.co.uk.



Robert Wright from Ardgour with son David, took home a number of trophies, including the Inverloch Castle Cup.



Dale Scott of Leys Castle farm with champion Highland heifer.



John Nudds's sheep were award-winners at the show.



Ally Nudds steadies a multi-award-winning lamb belonging to his brother John.



It was a fab day for 13-year-old Sam MacKenzie's sheep.



Pipa Ferguson, from Fort Augustus, with Deben Anastasia, pony reserve winner.



Ruby of Sunnynesk with rider Kirsty Mann won the overall championship.

TIMESLINE

Police appeal for information

POLICE are appealing for anyone who was in the Glen Nevis area around 11.45pm on Saturday August 28, specifically near the cattle grid at the youth hostel.

Officers would also like to trace and speak to a man described as around 6ft in height and about 40 years old, wearing a blue polo shirt with jeans. The man had a Labrador dog and may have had a silver estate-type vehicle with a Spanish flag sticker on the rear window.

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101.

Skye otter group heads for China

A SKYE-BASED international otter survival fund is gearing up to head to Asia next week to champion the animals.

With 2016 the year of the otter, the group has organised a training workshop in China for 30 participants to learn about identification, ecology, distribution, field signs and threats.

The group has already organised similar programmes in Cambodia, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Africa.

Disruption from road closure

MOTORISTS are warned that the A82 will be closed for five nights about a mile north of Aberchalder Bridge, between Invergarry and Fort Augustus. BEAR Scotland advised the road would be closed from Sunday November 20 for five nights from 7pm to 7am.

Argyll Enterprise Week update...

31 Oct - 04 Nov 2016

Book your place

THE timetable for the first Argyll Enterprise Week has just been announced and the event is now open for bookings.

Argyll Enterprise Week is an exciting new event, bringing together businesses, social enterprises, entrepreneurs and anyone with an interest in enterprise.

The week, which is being hosted by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway, is packed with opportunities designed to inform, connect and inspire those taking part.

A wide range of free workshops, seminars, briefings, networking sessions and exhibitions are on offer between Monday October 31 and Friday November 4 in Oban, and with more than 25 partners involved and nearly 30 events taking place within the week, there should be something for everyone.

Key themes include funding sources, business support, exporting, digital, social enterprise, tourism, creative industries and food and drink.

Councillor Aileen Morton, policy lead for sustainable economic growth, explains: 'We are keen to encourage existing businesses and attract new ones to Argyll and Bute. The number and variety of events on offer within Argyll Enterprise Week demonstrates the strength of the support available to businesses in Argyll and Bute to help them realise their goals and ambitions.'

One of the keys to addressing the population and demographic challenges facing Argyll and the Islands is to have a vibrant, successful enterprise community providing world-class goods and services regionally, nationally and internationally.

David Smart, head of special projects for Highland and Islands Enterprise, says: 'Argyll and the

Islands is already home to some truly outstanding organisations. To build on this, Argyll Enterprise Week aims to share some of these success stories and to strengthen networks and relationships to drive new thinking and collaborations.'

'This is the first time that an event of this scale has been undertaken in Argyll and the Islands and I am excited about its potential to effect real positive change.'

For more information on the activities during Argyll Enterprise Week and to book a place at any of events, visit www.argyll-enterpriseweek.eventbrite.co.uk.

Booking is quick and easy – just click on the 'Register now' box, select the events you want to attend, click 'Checkout' and then enter your contact details.

Alternatively, call the Business Gateway team on 01546 604555.



David Smart of HIE with Argyll-based entrepreneur Sam Coley.



Evelyn McDonald, CEO, Scottish EDGE

One of the partners for Argyll Enterprise Week, Scottish EDGE is a private community interest company that offers funding and support to help entrepreneurs grow their businesses.

CEO Evelyn McDonald said: 'Scottish EDGE is delighted to be part of Argyll Enterprise Week and join a fantastic group of support organisations dedicated to supporting small businesses in Argyll.'

'We're hoping to encourage entrepreneurs in Argyll and Bute to find out how they can access the funding on offer from Scottish EDGE and to hear from previous winners.'

Originally run by Scottish Enterprise, Scottish EDGE is a competition aimed at identifying and supporting Scotland's up-and-coming, innovative, high-growth potential entrepreneurial talent. Businesses have to pitch to a panel of judges and the ones that demonstrate the most potential win a grant or loan to help them deliver their growth plans.

The competition has four categories; the main Scottish EDGE competition, where a business can win up to £100,000 as a 50:50 mix of grant and loans, Young EDGE, the dedicated application route for entrepreneurs age 18 to 30 and Wild Card EDGE aimed at pre-trading companies – up to £10,000 is available in each of these categories. In addition, two prizes of £150,000 or £100,000 are available in the science, technology and engineering category – Higgs EDGE.

The total prize fund is £1.3 million. In addition to the financial awards, all EDGE winners are provided with a package of support from business experts, including a business mentor, to help their business grow.

Daily guide to Argyll Enterprise Week

Monday: Launch event featuring key speakers from across the political, private and public sector involved in supporting business growth, including an address by Nicholas Ferguson CBE, chairman of the Argyll and Bute Economic Forum, plus a showcase of Highlands and Islands Enterprise and council initiatives supporting economic growth.

Tuesday: Funding seminars from SJ Noble Trust, Growth Deck, Developing Strathclyde Business Finance Ltd, Scottish EDGE, Argyll and the Islands LEADER and Argyll and Bute Council, as well as 'A Day with The Angels' – Investing Women Angels Ltd.

Wednesday: Business support Trade Fair; taster sessions outlining the support available for exporting, manufacturing, intellectual assets, digital and customer care training; workshops on *Cyber Security* and *Movies on Mobiles*; women in business discussion panel and networking event, as well as social enterprise film festival and question time panel.

Thursday: Social enterprise day co-ordinated by InspirAlba, featuring networking, plus workshops and dragons' den, plus workshops on *National Food and Drink Strategy Refresh* and *Market Insights and Consumer Trends* from Scotland Food and Drink, plus Supplier Development Programme procurement workshop.

Friday: Talks and one-to-one discussions with industry experts from Creative Scotland, ThinkSync Music and the Xpo-North organisers; Craft Scotland workshop; Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative's *Adventure Tourism* workshop; *The Oban Times*-sponsored speed networking event.



inspire - connect - inform

Join us in Oban for Argyll Enterprise Week. For more information and to book events visit argyllenterpriseweek.eventbrite.co.uk or call the local Business Gateway team on 01546 604555



Oban care home needs rebuilt but will not close

LOUISE GLEN
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A GUARANTEE that Eadar Glinn Care Home in Oban will not close was given by the NHS Highland locality manager at Oban Community Council on Monday night.

Annie MacLeod, locality manager for Oban, Lorn and the Isles, said the Oban care home service's strength was its staff – but the building itself would need to be replaced.

However, the large crowd at the community council meeting were told: 'There is no allocation in the budget for rebuilding at the moment.'

The community council raised a concern about the out-and-out closure of the care home – the only one in the area to be run by Argyll and Bute Council.

The fears were raised after the integrated joint board (IJB) of Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland made the decision to close two similar former council-run homes in Dunoon and on the Isle of Bute.

Councillor Kieron Green, incoming chairman of the IJB, said the issue of Eadar Glinn had to be on the agenda.

He said: 'There is no truth in the rumour that it is to be closed, but the building itself needs to be discussed. We need a newer, purpose-built facility in the town. We do need Eadar Glinn. Over time we are going to care for people with more complex needs and at the moment those needs cannot be accommodated with the best technology at Eadar Glinn.'

Oban Community Council

was told purpose-built hoists and en suite facilities could not be fitted in the current building.

After the meeting, locality manager Mrs MacLeod told *The Oban Times*: 'Eadar Glinn is retained in ownership by the local authority and it would be its decision to sell it.'

However, it would be the decision of the IJB.

Mrs MacLeod confirmed: 'Plans have so far not been developed. We haven't got anywhere near that. When we do, we will be consulting with

“
We need to pull together to deliver services in rural areas”
”

Annie MacLeod
Locality manager

as many people as possible and making sure that the community is fully engaged.'

Mrs MacLeod said the rising demand for care home beds means that losing a service in the area would not be an option. She said: 'We need some provision for elderly care.'

She added that the way the care home would be delivered would be widely consulted on among the community.

Using partnerships between the community and the health

board on Mull at Java as an example, Mrs MacLeod said: 'There is a fantastic facility on Mull with Bowman Court, enabling people to live independently but also having support available when required.'

Mrs MacLeod pointed to the community and health service being delivered in Appin, calling it a 'good news story'.

She continued: 'We need to pull together to deliver our services in rural areas.'

It was suggested that a collaboration between health and a social enterprise or private business would be the most likely option in the delivery of a care home in Oban.

Ms MacLeod said Eadar Glinn was on 'prime land', leading one councillor to suggest the sale of the land at the current site could be used for the rebuilding on a new site.

Veteran community councillor Duncan Martin said: 'The staff deserve a better place to work.'

Community councillor Jessie MacFarlane said: 'We should make the empty beds in the hospital into an old folk's place and let them pay. Could you not make it into a bed area for old people?'

Caroline Henderson, integrated joint board local area manager for Oban community, said: 'It is about changing the service to meet the needs of the community.'

'People want to be at home and cared for at home.'

Mrs Henderson said services were being developed in the community to meet the needs of patients and the vision was for more people to be cared for at home.

Big-hearted youngster leaves dad in his wake during charity cycle



Lewis and his dad Kevin before they set off on their challenge to cycle to Fort William.

17_136lewisaccuishi

THE WEE BOY from Benderloch did it!

Lewis MacCuish alongside his dad, Kevin, cycled the full 40 miles to Fort William in under four hours.

But he also smashed his fundraising target of £500, raising £650 for a Scottish children's charity.

And the eight-year-old was

all ready to cycle back again – but his dad had run out of 'puff'.

The pair were raising money for the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity, leaving from Lochnell Primary School in Benderloch at 7am on Saturday and making their way to Fort William.

With wellwishers there to

cheer on the pair of explorers, the first stop was to be the Creagan Inn.

Taking only three hours and 45 minutes, Lewis came into Fort William to successfully complete his challenge.

If anyone would like to donate to the youngster's fundraising, search the Just Giving site for his page, Lewis cycles 40 miles.

McCall Smith's new Tobermory tale sets sail for the Caribbean

SUSAN WINDRAM
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TODAY sees the launch of the second instalment in Alexander McCall Smith's new children's series, with the hero and heroine of the school ship *Tobermory* setting sail for a Caribbean adventure.

Entitled *The Sands of Shark Island*, the second novel in the *Tobermory* series is filled with exciting drama and finds Ben and Fee MacTavish navigating their way through an adventure that includes a mysterious nautical chart, some great baddies and a nail-biting island rescue.

While the latest exploits see the children travel to the Caribbean, the ship is based here in Argyll, where the adventures were first inspired by McCall Smith's love of sailing – as well as his love of Patrick O'Brian's naval historical novels, which inspired the Russell Crowe film *Master and Commander*.

Alexander McCall Smith said: 'I've been sailing for about 15 years. Most of my day-to-day sailing is here on the West Coast, but in the past few years I've been sailing in the Caribbean, so I do know a little bit about the conditions there and all the places mentioned in the new book are real places.'

'I'm also a great fan of Patrick O'Brian's naval historical books about Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin. I love those books. Those books were about friendship really, and friendship, I think, is one of the great literary themes.'

Friendship has certainly been the theme for many of McCall Smith's novels – the *No! Ladies' Detective Agency* in particular. It is something he very much enjoys writing about, which is why it is a central theme of his *Tobermory* tales.

'Young people love the idea of going off with their friends. We can all remember that. I remember as a boy the excitement of going off camping with friends, and later on travelling abroad with friends. What a lovely



Sandy McCall Smith and illustrator Iain McIntosh in Aros bay, off Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

thing to do, going off to have adventures with your friends. So that, I suppose, is one of the main things behind it. But there is also the idea of boarding school. For whatever reason, the idea of boarding school appeals to children, the notion that you are off in a world of your contemporaries in which there are adults present, but nonetheless the daily world is defined for you by your contemporaries.

'I suspect many of the children who read boarding school stories with delight would actually hate being at the real thing.'

Youngsters going off on adventures with their friends is not a new theme – Enid Blyton's stories about *The Famous Five* being a case in point. But Mc-

Call Smith's straight-forward storytelling in the *Tobermory* that series brings that theme bang up to date for young readers today.

'The world is very tame these days because nature is more controlled, so this notion of going off, having adventures with some danger at sea, is going to appeal. I think it's a great tragedy that children's lives are being so circumscribed and are so indoors. I understand why this has happened. It's very difficult for parents to let their children roam around, but that's why I think it's very important for people to have some sort of opportunity to get out in the real world and have fun.'

'I was in Tobermory harbour recently and there was a ship

full of young people and what fun they would be having. That adventure would be fundamentally life-changing for many of them...What a wonderful, wonderful thing.'

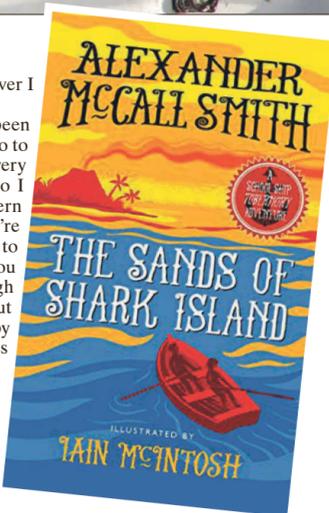
With his unquenchable sense of adventure and his love of friendship, it will come as no surprise to find that McCall Smith has many more stories where this latest tale has come from and so he plans to write more books in the *Tobermory* series.

'This second book is just about to come out but I've got the third one worked out. I know where they're going to go. They're going to Australia and there will be all sorts of excitement. That's the delight for me, being

able to take this wherever I want.

'Although I've never been sailing in Australia, I go to Australia just about every year with my books. So I know a bit about northern Australia where they're going to go. You have to write about places you know. You make enough mistakes anyway, but why compound it by writing about places you've never been to?'

■ *The Sands of Shark Island* is published today (September 1) and is available in all good bookshops.



TIMESLINE

Dates set for new waste collections

NEW dates for refuse and recycling collection have been confirmed.

General waste will be collected every three weeks starting from Monday October 3 in Kintyre, Mull, Islay, Jura and Bute; from October 31 in Mid-Argyll, Lomond and Helensburgh; and from November 28 in Oban, Lorn, Cowal, Lismore, Tiree, Coll and Colonsay.

Argyll and Bute Council said it is increasing recycling services to help households move to a three-weekly general waste collections, meet national recycling targets and save money for council services.

Recycling waste will continue to be uplifted every two weeks. Households with a blue recycling bin can request a second bin, and homes with recycling bags can request additional bags. Arrangements can be made for certain households to have a second general waste green bin – where there are five or more people, where someone has a medical condition that generates waste, or where families have children using nappies and all recycling options have been considered.

Lismore gears up for book festival

SCOTLAND is the theme of this year's Lismore Book Week, which runs from Monday to Friday next week in Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre. The festival features talks by James Robertson, Alan Riach on translating Alexander MacDonald's Gaelic epics, and music by Mairi Campbell and a workshop on how to write and illustrate by Jennifer Baker and Sarah Campbell. For the full programme, go to page 14.

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Sophie Houston, Murray Scott and Megan Day, with Iain MacIntyre and Ken Moncrieff.

Youngsters' words of wisdom win over judges

THE ROTARY Club of Oban held its annual Young Speakers competition at the Royal Hotel on Wednesday, June 15.

This competition is open to primary six and seven pupils, and 13 youngsters took part representing Dunbeg, Lochnell, Rockfield, St Columba's and Tainuill Primary Schools.

The young people are judged by members of Oban Speakers' Club and it was generally agreed that the standard was as high as in previous years with the participants giving very good and in some cases exceptional presentations over a wide-ranging list of subjects.

The winner of the competition was Megan Day, representing Tainuill, who spoke on The International Space Station/Tim Peake, with Murray Scott from Lochnell in second place talking about refugees, and third was Sophie Houston also representing Tainuill on the subject of the Zika virus.

In addition to the winners being awarded monetary prizes, all participants received a Rotary Dictionary 4 Life, together with a personalised certificate for taking part in the event.

The evening was brought to a close by comments from the event organiser, Rotarian Iain MacIntyre, who complimented all the young people on their speeches, followed by a few words from Rotary president Ken Moncrieff.

Leading the fight to protect interests after exit from EU

Argyll and Bute MSP **MICHAEL RUSSELL** explains his ambitions now he has been appointed Scotland's Brexit minister

JUST two weeks ago I spent an hour at SAMS in Dunstaffnage talking about Brexit.

I had been invited by concerned staff members because SAMS (the Scottish Association for Marine Science), like many highly regarded academic and research institutions, relies heavily on a free flow of ideas, money and personnel from Europe.

Everyone involved – researchers, students and teachers – wants and needs all this vital work to continue.

Membership of the EU over the past 40 years has made such collaboration absolutely normal and increasingly convenient. It has also, of course, contributed to even greater excellence and to the development of world-class science, which is often of huge practical benefit to our country and our planet.

SAMS is also a very important part of the economy of Argyll, particularly in Oban and Lorn. It underpins the ambition to make Oban a university town and to help increase population.

Now, however, there is huge uncertainty. The EU referendum resulted in England and Wales voting to leave the EU (though Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to remain) which has created a climate of insecurity and confusion with little or no information coming from those who created the problem.

Subsequent vague promises made by the UK government about higher education funding and some farm incomes fall far short of what people need just in order to go on doing their jobs.

I promised to return to SAMS at some stage in October and in the meantime to try to find out what might be possible.

I had not expected, however, to be thrust so quickly into the heart of that issue and to find myself, only days later, accepting an invitation from First Minister Nicola Sturgeon to become the Scottish Government's minister for UK negotiations on Scotland's place in Europe.

SAMS presents a particularly urgent problem. When I was



Michael Russell is appointed Brexit minister by Nicola Sturgeon.

there one member of staff asked me bluntly if she should bother to start the process of developing a complex funding application given that it covered a period of five years - well beyond what the UK government is claiming will be the total time taken to leave Europe. I think she should fill in the forms.

For a start, the First Minister has made it very clear that Scotland, having voted to remain,

must not be disadvantaged by whatever England decides to do.

While the new UK government has dithered, Nicola Sturgeon has acted. Within days she had set up a Standing Council on Europe with the participation of many of the key players and most knowledgeable individuals. She has offered strong reassurance to EU nationals living here, something I

echoed in a letter to every EU national on the electoral role in the constituency.

There are more than 1,000 European citizens contributing to our communities and the free movement of labour - one of the key four freedoms that underpin the European single market - is economically and culturally crucial for Argyll and Bute.

Ms Sturgeon has met politicians across the UK and Europe and has laid out five tests by which any eventual solution for Scotland has to be judged - those being the protection of our democratic and economic interests, continuing social protection, solidarity through pan-EU co-operation and ongoing influence on EU laws and policies.

Here in Argyll and Bute, farming and crofting rely heavily on financial support from the EU and the increasingly important food industries need access to European markets, including our whisky industry.

Even in fishing, perhaps the area locally where there has been most hostility to European

regulation, there are lots of unanswered questions about what Brexit will mean.

Many are beginning to realise that there are no guarantees from Westminster no matter what was said in the campaign. Our environment has been massively improved by European action and although that is sometimes cumbersome - as I know having been environment minister - it has led to cleaner seas and better protection for species that would have probably have disappeared without it.

And, of course, our reputation as a wonderful and welcoming place, which is vital to our tourism sector, has to be jealously guarded.

There is urgent work to be done to ensure that we all understand what is at stake and to make sure we can secure the very best from the present situation, which was not of our making.

That is what I am now tasked to do and I want to secure it for the whole of Scotland but, of course, also for Argyll and Bute.

TIMESLINE



Victory for pub has tails wagging

THE Lord of the Isles in Craobh Haven won the Dog Friendly Pub of the Year at the 2016 Scottish Bar and Pub Awards.

Wil Craig and Mollie Macfarlane, who took over the pub and restaurant in March 2016, collected the award at the 21st anniversary ceremony in Glasgow's Hilton Hotel.

Awards organiser Susan Young, who presented the Lord of the Isles team with their prize, said: 'The winners were voted for by customers and people in the trade, and each and every one deserved their accolades. Congratulations to them all.'

This year the Lord of the Isles also won the title Window with a view for Scotland.

Charity lunch will help feed children

CONNEL Parish Church is hosting a charity lunch in the Church Hall on Thursday September 8 in aid of Mary's Meals.

The lunch is the culmination of the volunteers' season of summer lunches, which they have hosted for quarter of a century, each Thursday from noon until 2pm to promote fellowship and raise funds for St Oran's Church.

Maria scales the heights of success

CHEF Maria Magda Illoiu of Tyndrum's Real Food Café has been shortlisted in the UK's top 10 young fish friers for the 2017 National Fish and Chip Awards, billed as the 'Oscars of the fish frying industry'.

Competitors faced a 'rigorous judging process' of exams and interviews, said the seafood authority Seafish which organises the award, and they will be subjected to further assessments at the National Federation of Fish Friers training school, until the 10 finalists are whittled down to five vying to be the 2017 champion.

The overall national winner will be announced on January 26, 2017, at the National Fish and Chip Awards annual ceremony in London.

Argyll bands top the class in Cowal

INVERARAY and District Pipe Band held off the challenge of Johnstone Pipe Band to be crowned winners of the grade one Cowal Pipe Band Championships, taking home the famous Argyll Shield at the Cowal Gathering.

The novice juvenile B went to Kintyre Schools, which also won the grade three and the grade three MSR. The novice juvenile A went to Oban High School, which also won the juvenile award.

Inveraray and District won the best band on parade.

In a less formal setting, Oban-based Skipinnish brought the house down when they headlined the show. They were joined by Tiree band Trail West.

While they were playing in the marquee behind the stadium, the heavy athletes and wrestlers battled it out for top honours in the stadium itself.



Neil Price and Peter Weir have promised to keep Kerrera marina open for 18 months.

Marina owners give pledge on future despite plans to sell up

OBAN Marina on the Isle of Kerrera will be open for business as normal for the next 18 months at least, its owner has promised, despite it going up for sale in May.

Peter Weir, managing director of The North Ledaig Co Ltd, which bought the marina on Kerrera's north tip in 2012, announced in January it was going back on the market for offers over £975,000.

The sale was 'as a result of many issues of which we were unable to control', he wrote on its website, listing problems with the spring water and diesel supply, ferries and wifi speed. But, despite much interest, so far it has failed to attract a buyer.

Mr Weir told *The Oban Times*: 'We needed to reassure boat owners and staff we will be carrying on for another 18 months to two years, guaran-

teed. We had to make that decision now because boat owners need winter storage from the end of September.'

Winter storage for 2016/17 will go ahead as planned, on the water and on land, the website assured.

Oban Marina offers 100 pontoons, 30 moorings and yacht services, and employs five staff in the winter, and two more ferry drivers in the summer, plus another dozen in its bar and restaurant, which Mr Weir hoped to reopen next year.

Mr Weir wrote that he had given staff 'reassurance their employment is secure and guaranteed until March 2018 and hopefully well beyond that and all the staff have given a clear indication they will be staying and working to give the marina a positive future. At the end of 2017, we will review what impact the

proposed transit marina in Oban has had on our business before taking a decision on our future.'

Marina manager Neil Price added: 'If it doesn't sell, we're preparing to take it on because we believe in this marina. I'm convinced it's going to be on the up and up now. We thank customers for their support and hope they come back to us.'

Mr Weir added: 'Most of our problems are being resolved, and we feel we have a bright future. We're trading as normal. The marina is open, and we guarantee it will stay open.'

He admitted it had been a 'hard ride' but promised it would continue and improve, with another ferry driver recruited for the 34-passenger private boat, and plans to increase the supply of water and diesel.

Head teachers could appoint librarians

A MULL councillor has come up with a plan to save librarians for schools who want them.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon has delivered on her promise to 'do everything she could' to save library posts throughout the Argyll and Bute Council area by asking the full council to agree head teachers had the authority to reinstate the posts, which were removed in the 2015 funding cuts.

Councillor Devon, who lives on Mull, where the community has vigorously opposed the removal of the librarian's post at Tobermory High School, said: 'I put a motion to the council that every school could make its

own decision about the future of librarians.'

Mrs Devon explained that she had read about the extra money coming in to the local authority from Education Secretary John Swinney MSP.

'This opportunity came about after money was freed up from a council tax banding change meaning a share of an extra £100 million would be made available for education in Argyll and Bute.

'I wanted my colleagues in the council chamber to be aware of the opportunities for members.

'In response, my motion was approved, meaning the council gave permission for head teachers to use the cash



Mary-Jean Devon.

to employ librarians if they deem it a priority.

'As with any decision, it should be the head teacher who knows their own children and school, and their informed decision on what to spend the extra cash on.'

Last week, Theresa Breslin, president of the Chartered Institute of Librarians and Information Professionals in Scotland, wrote to Argyll and Bute Council asking it to reverse its decision to remove 10 librarian posts.

Ms Breslin said: 'I would like to officially progress this matter and so I am formally requesting that a full council meeting is convened immediately and that all previous correspondence from all sources be presented to the councillors with a motion to reverse the decision and reinstate the posts of secondary school librarians.'

Referring to a £500,000 pot made available by the

local authority to encourage people and business into the area, Ms Breslin continued: 'I note also that Argyll and Bute is offering incentives to young families to become residents.'

'Deleting posts which provide a key component of education undermines this initiative.'

'School provision is a high priority when parents consider relocating. Argyll and Bute could become the only authority in Scotland failing to provide a dedicated library service within its secondary schools.'

'Perhaps some of this money could be allocated to fund the posts?'

POLICE FILES

AN 84-YEAR-OLD partially-sighted pilgrim, who went missing on the Isle of Iona, was rescued safe and well before being taken by helicopter 200 metres back to where she had set out from.

The woman, who was staying in Iona Abbey for a week's retreat with the Iona Community, told her rescuers she thought that from where she was she could see both the Atlantic Ocean and the medieval abbey.

The pensioner called emergency services to tell them she was lost and needed help to get back to her accommodation. When asked why she didn't attract the attention of the helicopter, she said she wasn't aware the 30-tonne aircraft was overhead.

Police Scotland thanked colleagues in the volunteer Coastguard, the retained fire service on Iona and the many volunteers who set out to look for the woman.

She was found on the west side of the island beyond the island's highest

peak Dun I. The woman had contacted emergency services at 11.55am and was delivered back to the abbey, unharmed, by 2.55pm.

A DISTURBANCE at a Skippinich Ceilidh House in Oban saw a 23-year-old Glasgow man spend the night in the cells until he was 'sober enough to be released'.

The man was charged with two police assaults and a breach of the peace.

A report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.

Police discharged pepper spray during the disturbance.

A SEASONAL worker who reappeared through a window in a public house on Mull after being shown the door by bouncers was arrested by police.

After spending a night in the cells, the 24-year-old had sobered sufficiently to walk home.



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Medieval cathedral discovered buried on the island of Lismore

79 drivers stopped in campaign

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

AN INCREDIBLE medieval cathedral has been found buried under the grounds of the existing church on the island of Lismore.

The structure will be on the same scale as other contemporary cathedrals such as Melrose, Dunfermline and St Andrews, and was discovered by archaeologists and volunteers during a community dig on the island.

The last dig, undertaken in the 1950s, had uncovered the skulls of ancestors, so it was with some trepidation that Claire Ellis from Argyll Archaeology undertook a community excavation funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, with a contribution from Argyll and Bute Council.

However, the week-long excavation discovered a huge-scale medieval abbey.

Lead archaeologist Dr Ellis explained: 'The cathedral may have been built in the late 12th, 13th or even 14th century and served the newly created diocese of Argyll.'

'Lismore was probably chosen because of its connection with St Moluag, who was a contemporary of St Columba. At the time, Moluag was a much more influential missionary so it is likely the cathedral was important in its central geographic location and ease of access by sea.'

'The walls of the nave are



Volunteers joined archaeologists for the dig that discovered the ancient cathedral.

substantial, with more than a metre in height surviving. White dressed sandstone, imported from Morvern, forms a drip course near the base.

'Fragments of white sandstone that would have lined a window have also been discovered.'

Dr Mark Thacker, from Stirling University, added: 'It

is clear that the cathedral was built by skilled stonemasons and would have rivalled other medieval cathedrals built at this time in Scotland.'

'Along with the existing choir [now the parish church], the cathedral would have been an impressive sight, some 40 metres long, standing tall and

gleaming white in the sunlight.'

The archaeologists have also discovered that the stone walls were cemented using a shell-rich mortar and they hope that samples of charcoal from the mortar can provide a series of radiocarbon dates, finally revealing when the nave was built.

Excavations in the 1950s also discovered a small structure built into the west end of the nave and interpreted it as a tower.

However, the recent excavation has shown that at least some of the wall has a soil/sod core, Dr Ellis said this was a rural construction technique, and one which would have been unlikely to have been able to support the weight of a tower. She said: 'Future investigation will aim to discover the purpose of this building.'

The excavation, by a team of a dozen volunteers, was a joint project of Lismore Parish Church and Lismore Historical Society (Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mor).

During the week-long exercise in late August, the dig attracted more than 130 visitors.

It is hoped that more funds can be secured in the near future to continue the excavation, something Dr Ellis said will ultimately reveal all the walls of the nave and associated structures so that 'the remarkable ruins of Argyll's medieval cathedral can finally be appreciated by all'.

A RURAL roads campaign being undertaken by Police Scotland has seen incredible results in its second week.

In Oban, 47 drivers were stopped and 'engaged with' on road traffic 'matters'.

Of those, 15 drivers were warned regarding various minor road traffic offences, 12 were issued with fixed penalty notices for traffic offences, one person was arrested for drink driving, one was reported to the procurator fiscal for dangerous driving and two people were reported to the procurator fiscal for speeding.

Campbeltown saw 16 drivers stopped and engaged with regarding various road traffic matters.

Five drivers were warned regarding various minor road traffic offences, one person was arrested for drink driving offences and one person was reported to the procurator fiscal for speeding.

In Mid Argyll, 16 drivers were stopped and engaged with regarding various road traffic matters.

Five drivers were warned regarding various minor road traffic offences, five were given fixed penalty notices for traffic offences, one person was reported to the procurator fiscal for dangerous driving and three people were charged with the offence of having no MoT.

The campaign will run until the end of September.



From Sandra Bergman, Myread Sim, Sam MacDonald, Jean Campbell and Evelyn MacDonal celebrate the opening of the Gerrie Costick exhibition. 17_t36gallery1

Unique work on show in Taynuilt tearoom

AN EXHIBITION of embroidery at Robin's Nest tearoom in Taynuilt was earmarked by its designer to be sold off for charity.

But the small group of people who have known about the work of Gerrie Costick believe it should be kept together as a body of work due to its uniqueness and exceptional nature.

Jean Campbell from Taynuilt first came across Gerrie when he moved to Taynuilt to live in a property she rented out.

Mrs Campbell said: 'Gerrie was in this area for about five years. His wife gave him special permission to come to the west coast to work on his embroidery for three years and he stayed longer.'

'I think that he had embroidered for many years but had always been doing something else at the same time. Being in Taynuilt allowed him to concentrate on his embroidery.'

'He was very disciplined. He sewed seven stitches a minute and he worked six hours a day apart from Sunday. He worked for two hours, then a break, the another two hours and a break with a final two hours.'

'One of his larger pieces (not on show) took 14 months to complete.'

'He had no phone, or mobile phone to interrupt him. All his correspondence was done by letters through the post. He did have a television - but that was it. He is a very talented artist and a friendly, gregarious person. Everyone who met him, liked him. He was very popular in Taynuilt.'

Gerrie studied medieval his-

tory at Trinity College, Dublin and it was his Irish accent that sparked his friendship with former art teacher Evelyn MacDonald and her writer and photographer husband Sam who live in Glen Lonan.

Sam talked to the crowd gathered to launch the exhibition. He said: 'This work is special and unique and should, in my mind, be kept together as a body of work.'

'To lose such exceptional work from this Jewish man from Dublin who came to Taynuilt to embroider would be a real shame.'

'We are exploring possibilities for the collection and in the meantime it is being shown for one of the first times in Taynuilt.'

'I would encourage everyone who has an interest in embroidery to come and see it.'

Evelyn added: 'I am no expert in embroidery but there is something deeply moving about this work and to see the detail and design, not to mention the progression in Gerrie's abilities, is something that should not be lost.'

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Advertorial

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DUNOLLIE is a heritage site, a collection of buildings, artefacts, archives and heritage resources, a partnership of people, a visitor experience, a new brand and a fast growing innovative and exciting mixture of projects.

Dunollie's Vision is "To be Oban's jewel; an internationally celebrated centre for Scottish culture and heritage and home of the worldwide Clan MacDougall".

Dunollie's Mission is "To conserve, develop and share our cultural and natural heritage for the benefit of the local, national and international community".

The whole operation is overseen by The MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust, a limited company with charitable status.

Being on the board of trustees provides opportunities to help influence the future of this exciting project and its impact on the community.

There are different jobs within the Trust board each with its own responsibility. The work load is kept to a minimum for Trustees, concentrating on decision making and forward planning.

The Trust delegates development and day to day operation to the subsidiary company Dunollie Projects Ltd, a social enterprise, which has the responsibility of providing public access and opportunities surrounding the heritage assets. This is mainly achieved through a high quality museum in Oban - Dunollie Museum Castle & Grounds managed by an enthusiastic and able core team of six with additional seasonal staff.

Carol Evans trustee said "being a trustee of the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust has given me a unique opportunity to be part of an ever evolving and growing experience that is second to none in Argyll".

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Please e-mail info@dunollie.org or you can download an application from our website www.dunollie.org

Applications should be returned to The MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust, North Wing, Dunollie House, Oban PA34 5TT or e-mailed to info@dunollie.org by Friday 9th September 2016.



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Lochaber Rugby Club all geared up for start of new campaign season

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LOCHABER RFC are gearing up for the new season, which begins on Saturday with a trip to Moray, followed by two further away matches.

The club's director of rugby, Stewart Sandison, is relishing the start of the new campaign in a revamped divisional set-up.

This season will see Lochaber compete in BT Caledonia League Division 2 North (West), a change from last term which means the division has been split into West and East to save teams some travelling.

There will be six teams in each competition, with the top three from West and East then playing off against each other and the bottom three doing likewise.

Stewart has been putting the Lochaber players through their paces in preparation with regular training sessions ahead of the big kick-off.

He said: 'We haven't had many pre-season games but numbers have been good at training and we're waiting for some players to come back. Some clubs have seen a dip in playing numbers but we're okay. We've been training now for about seven weeks so we're looking forward to getting started.'

'We're away to Moray this weekend but we've already got a squad of 19 or 20 committed to making the trip. If we can maintain that level of commitment through the season, I'll be very happy.'

'It seems we get drawn away from home at the start of every season so we're used to it. The new structure means a bit less travelling as we won't have to go to Aberdeenshire as often so that's quite good.'

Stewart also praised the work of the grounds staff, who have re-seeded the pitch. He said: 'The ground is pretty hard but that's better than it will be in

Rugby

the depth of winter when it's cold and wet. The pitch is looking really good. The council has spent money re-doing the drainage and re-seeding and fertilising the pitch so it's looking great at the moment.'

President Alistair MacKinnon is pleased with the way the club is shaping up and is relishing the new season, even though the opening weeks look somewhat daunting.

He said: 'Off the field we are doing well and it's been good to see our player numbers staying healthy although we are always looking for new guys.'

'We have a tough start to the season with three away matches. We go to Moray and Stornoway in the league and then to Kinloss in the BT Bowl so we don't have a home game until Saturday September 24 when we play RAF Lossiemouth.'



Members of Lochaber Rugby Club at a recent training session.



Members of the British Legion and their families at the Nevis Centre. Photo: Alba Photos

British Legion branch bowl them all over

THE FORT William branch of the British Legion Scotland held a 'Comradship' afternoon of ten pin bowling in the Nevis Centre.

Friends and family of all ages joined in the

competition with food and fun last Sunday afternoon.

Members of the legion are planning more events to raise their profile and show that the organisation is not just for older service

Ten pin bowling

veterans, but for a wider age group and relatives of service personnel.

Ben Race takes place on Saturday Athletics

THE ANNUAL Ben Nevis Race will held be this weekend.

Around 600 people will take on Britain's highest mountain's 4,006 feet ascent and descent on Saturday (September 3).

Lochaber's Finlay Wild will be running the race again this year. Wild, from the Lochaber Athletic club, has won the race for the last six years, and will be trying for a seventh this weekend.



Liz McRae presented the trophy to Teo Becu winner of the Islay MacRae Jubilee vase.

Teo wins Islay MacRae Jubilee Vase as Plockton sailing season comes to an end

PLOCKTON small boat sailing club season ended on Saturday (August 27).

In very calm conditions and over a shortened course, the race for the Islay MacRae Jubilee vase was held.

Open to all boats, five local boats and three centreboards entered and the winner, finishing just over a minute inside the two and a half hour time limit, was Teo Becu in his Vision.

Second was Morag Amos in Eala Bhan and third was Neil MacRae in Rona.

Presented

A presentation ceremony and social evening took place in the boatshed after the race when Liz MacRae, wife of the late Dick MacRae, who has presented the jubilee vase to the club, presented the prize to Teo, and also prizes to Morag and Neil.

Winner of the St Kilda cup,

Fort show improvement but lose to Formartine

Formartine	4
Fort William	2
Highland League	

FORT William travelled to Pitmedden at the weekend, to face title-chasing Formartine United, looking to get their first points of the season.

The visitors took the initiative right from the start, and opened the scoring in only the third minute, through top scorer Scottie Davidson's third goal of the season.

This lead was to last for more than half an hour before Stuart Anderson levelled the scoring for the home side.

With the sides level at the break, United took the lead just three minutes into the second half, through last season's Highland League player of the year Conor Gethins and then on the hour mark Scott Barbour made it 3-1.

But the Fort weren't finished yet. Summer signing Jack Lin-

gard got his first goal for the club in the 78th minute to bring it back to 3-2.

But with the Fort pushing for an equaliser, Graeme Rodger broke forward in the 84th minute to seal the win for the home side and to secure all three points.

This was another encouraging performance from the Lochaber side, and for the fourth time in five games they have scored twice and still not

Football

had a result. However if these performances continue then it is only a matter of time before the wins start coming.

The next couple of weeks are set to be massive with three of the next four games at home, starting with Clachnacuddin on Wednesday night before they head to Grantown next Saturday to face Strathspey Thistle.



The team which endured the Sail Raasay challenge.

Sail Raasay Challenge was a great success

THE SAIL Raasay Challenge went ahead on Saturday August 20.

The sail was a great success and the weather was kind with lots of sun and light but steady wind.

The team, Kenneth, Chloe, Corrina, Chris, Murphy and Sacha sailed in two Bahia dinghies and completed the sail in just under 12 hours, being joined at one point by a pod of dolphins.

Sailing

Sacha said: 'The experience was amazing and I have been overwhelmed at everyone's kindness and generosity. The Skye Sailing Club has been incredible in its support over the last few weeks and I will forever be thankful for it. I would like to thank everyone who donated to give a whopping running total of £1,127.'

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WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 15°C.

Friday Light rain showers
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 15°C.

Weekend Heavy rain showers on Saturday
Outlook Cloudy on Sunday
Winds Imoderate south westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday September 1, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	05.43	3.8	11.48	0.7	17.46	4.0	** **	**
Fri	00.25	0.9	06.14	3.9	12.25	0.7	18.18	4.1
Sat	00.59	0.9	06.45	3.9	13.00	0.7	18.49	4.1
Sun	01.32	1.0	07.14	3.9	13.33	0.8	19.20	4.0
Mon	02.04	1.1	07.43	3.8	14.06	1.0	19.50	3.9
Tues	02.36	1.3	08.12	3.7	14.39	1.2	20.19	3.7
Wed	03.10	1.5	08.45	3.5	15.14	1.5	20.49	3.5

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate