

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Dalmally is fitting end to show season

see pages 20 & 21



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Tiree beach hut saved by appeal

EXCLUSIVE
SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

A BEACH hut built by a surfing school at Balevullin on Tiree, due to be demolished after Argyll and Bute Council rejected a retrospective planning application in February, has been reprieved after a two-year battle by an appeal to the Scottish Government.

Tiree entrepreneur Iona Larg, who runs surfing company Blackhouse Watersports on the island nicknamed 'the Hawaii of the North', submitted two retrospective planning applications for two wooden beach huts at Balevullin Beach and at Gott Bay in December 2015. Planning officers recommended refusal as a departure from the Local Development Plan (LDP).

The Balevullin hut attracted 39 objections and 100 expressions of support, triggering a local discretionary hearing in An Talla Community Hall, Crossapol, on November 28. The applicants withdrew their plan to retain the Gott Bay hut, now removed.

Councillors delayed making a decision until January 18 for an Area Capacity Evaluation (ACE); a study produced by planners to assess if a development constitutes an 'exceptional case' to the LDP. The ACE concluded the hut had a major 'materially harmful visual' impact.

A verdict was then delayed again for parties to critique the ACE, and when the planning committee met on February 22, members split equally between

approving and refusing permission. However, chairman David Kinniburgh gave his casting vote against the proposal.

Mr Larg then appealed to the Scottish Government's Planning and Environmental Appeals Division, which, following a reporter's visit on June 28, overturned the council's decision on Tuesday (September 5), granting the appeal and planning permission.

The reporter Nick Smith reconsidered the ACE and concluded the 3m by 4m hut was an exceptional case due to its low rather than major visual impact, and its economic and community benefits in 'tourism development' and 'economically fragile' areas.

Accessible

Mr Smith continued: 'I agree with the appellant a sea-based surfing business requires a location immediately accessible to the sea, such as a beach. The council argues some elements of the business do not require a beach location and could be delivered from tents or vehicles in the public car park and other premises.'

I find locations adjacent to Balevullin Beach are too far from the sea and/or pose greater risks to the nature conservation sensitivities of the machair and dunes than the hut site on the beach itself.'

He concluded: 'The benefits of the appeal proposal outweigh any adverse impacts.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We note the decision of the Scottish Government reporter regarding this appeal.'

Iona Larg, thanking her

supporters, said the appeal was 'quite conclusive', adding: 'I feel sad that some within the planning department were unable to see the merits of a grass roots business like ours and to see the benefits to the local economy.'

'Some of the decisions that have been made throughout the process have been outrageous and questionable, but I am delighted that the reporter has, in the appeal, come to the same conclusion as councillors Gordon Blair, Richard Trail and George Freeman did in the February hearing.'

I have to wonder how many other people have been in a similar situation and not been able to take it to appeal, and this thought is troubling.'

'We have been fortunate as we have been well resourced through the support of friends and family, but others are not and this will undoubtedly mean that other business will be lost.'

'Ultimately I am delighted, but I cannot say it is tinged with mixed emotions. This has been hell for us. It has taken two years out of my life. It has been very laborious. It has been very costly.'

'We will just put this behind us and aim to make this surf school one of the best in the country and showcase what Tiree and Argyll and the Isles has to offer.'

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, who has since the local election joined the planning committee, said: 'I am concerned about what this is opening up. It is setting a precedent for other businesses and that is not what the beaches of the Western Isles are made for.'

Iona Larg, thanking her

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Appin Eva's Cowal success



Highland dancer Eva MacColl from Appin was delighted to achieve sixth place overall in the Argyllshire Championship at Cowal. The 11-year-old pupil of Strath of Appin Primary School and Appin School of Dance was presented with the Margaret-Anne Speirs School of Dance trophy, pictured above.

INSIDE YOUR
OBAN TIMES
THIS WEEK

On the ball

NEARLY three decades after its foundation, the Isle of Jura Rugby Club finally held its first game this summer. Full story – page two.

Dunbeg champ

TEENAGER Murdo Masterson was crowned champion of the under-25s heavy events at the Braemar Gathering. Full story – page three.

Parking concerns

COMMUNITY councillors fear the council's planned changes to parking charges in Oban will make parking problems worse. Full story – page four.

Danger hill

A 25-FOOT rock face in the middle of a residential area is causing concern as children are using it as a shortcut. Full story – page five.

Eagle spied

A MULL sea eagle that was fitted with a satellite as a chick has been spotted after a four-year hiatus. Full story – page 17

Dalmally Show

DON'T miss our two-page picture coverage of the final agricultural show of the season. Full story – pages 20 and 21.

Cup excitement

YOUNG Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre will compete for Great Britain and Ireland this weekend in the Walker Cup. Full story – back page.



Hopes high over Glen Iosal future

COMMUNITY campaigners fighting to save Glen Iosal sheltered housing on the Isle of Mull are celebrating after major changes to the controversial plans announced three months ago were agreed, writes Louise Glen.

MSP Michael Russell and Councillor Mary Jean Devon have described the outcome of their meeting with Trust Housing and the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership as a 'victory' for common sense and the local campaign.

Mr Russell and Councillor Devon met Rhona McLeod of Trust Housing and Christina West of the partnership in Edinburgh on Tuesday August

29 to discuss proposals that would have resulted in warden provision being cut from 35 to 25 hours at Glen Iosal in Tobermory.

Following the meeting Councillor Devon said: 'We were able to impress upon both bodies the absolute necessity of abandoning the proposals that had caused so much upset both amongst residents and the community.'

'After that it was clear that with a bit of imagination and creativity a solution could be found which used existing social care money to support the essential work of the warden and additional hours of caring support for the residents.'

'However, it was also essential

that the two bodies recognised the difficulties of getting care staff on Mull and that is why I insisted on a robust plan being in place and further consultation so that everything is done properly and with the full confidence of those who rely upon this vital service.'

Mr Russell added: 'I am grateful to Trust Housing and the partnership for being so willing to discuss the issues and to find an acceptable way forward, and I look forward to working with them to ensure the robust plan that is required is put in place.'

'Trust Housing has a board meeting on September 21 which will make the final decision on the agreement we reached, but

I am confident that we are now in the home straight and that residents can start to put behind them this very difficult and upsetting period.'

Councillor Devon, Mr Russell and the two organisations at the meeting issued a joint statement which included: 'Trust Housing and the partnership would aim to ensure that there was as little change to existing levels and hours of provision as possible and that the new arrangements would be sustainable for the long term. There would be meaningful consultation and discussion as new arrangements are implemented, with a robust plan being in place before the likely changes take effect in April 2018.'

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Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

Queen's Baton Relay

THE ISLAND pulled out all the stops on August 23 when it welcomed the Queen's Baton Relay on the second day of its tour through Scotland en route to the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia.

Pipers greeted the baton bearer team at the airport as they stepped off the morning flight from Glasgow. They immediately headed for Bowmore primary school where the pupils, joined by their counterparts from the island's other primary schools, entertained the visitors with song and dance which included a vigorous 'Strip the Willow', where the baton was much in evidence.

Students from the high school formed a sports-themed guard of honour as the children accompanied the baton parade down to the nearby Bowmore Distillery before official bearer Colin Gregor, the former Scotland Rugby Sevens captain, led the participants to the village's Morrison Square where the crowds enjoyed the warm sunshine and all that took place around them, including further piping, choral music from the Bowmore and Port Ellen primary schools combined Gaelic choirs and lively performances from the Ella Edgar dancers.

This gave the onlookers the opportunity of having a closer look at the baton which the organisers even managed to incorporate into a sword dance performance.

Colin and baton then climbed into a vintage lorry, owned by former hotelier Duffie MacNeill, for the next stop at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile, the St Columba Gaelic Centre before returning to the airport and a flight to Glasgow.

Team Scotland member Adrienne Sutherland described the Islay visit and the support received from the Ilich as 'the very best', and this was reiterated by Colin Gregor who added: 'It has been fantastic to come to this awesome wee island and share the experience with them.'

Gaelic Bible returns to Paris

THE GAELIC Bible which belonged to the well-known Church of Scotland minister



All ages admire the Queen's Baton at Bowmore

and war hero the Rev Dr Donald C Caskie is going back to the Scots Kirk in Paris where the Bowmore-born clergyman ministered from 1935-61.

The Bible is being returned to the French capital by Dr Caskie's nephew Tom where it will take pride of place in an exhibition commemorating the life and the ministry of the noted Ileach.

On the lead up to the Second World War the Scottish minister strongly condemned the Nazi regime and when France fell to the Germans in 1940 he knew he was a marked man and that his life was in imminent danger.

He left Paris and his church and made his way to Marseilles where he set up an escape route for allied service personnel stranded in occupied Europe. Working from a disused seamen's mission and using a number of safe houses and dependable contacts, he set up means of escape for those trapped which led them through the Pyrenees to Spain and eventual freedom.

Thanks to his efforts more than 2,000 allied service people successfully escaped the German threat.

Inevitably, he was betrayed,

tried by a German court and sentenced to death. Thanks to the intervention of a German Lutheran pastor, Caskie was reprieved but remained a prisoner until the defeat of Germany. He eventually returned to Paris and a war-damaged church and set about the rebuilding of a new Scots Kirk.

His account of his wartime experiences, *The Tartan Pimpernel*, published in 1957, proved an immediate best-seller with the proceeds going to the rebuild.

He left France in 1961 and his final parish was Skermorie and Weymss Bay North on the Firth of Clyde.

He died in 1883, aged 81, and is buried in his native isle alongside his parents in the Bowmore cemetery.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810658

POLICE FILES**Theft**

BETWEEN 10am and 3pm on Saturday August 26, a pair of Nike trainers and a Rockhopper, Specialised Edition Mountain Bike were stolen from the rear of 48 Marine Court, Dunbeg, Oban. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Vandalised

OVERNIGHT on Sunday August 27 into Monday August 28, three cars were vandalised in Oban by having their wing mirrors knocked off. The cars were a Silver Mazda 6 and a black VW Golf, parked in Ardochon Terrace and a Renault Kangoo parked in Rockfield Road. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Paint scratched

BETWEEN 8.30am and 5.35pm on Tuesday August 29 in Breadalbane Street, Oban, a silver-coloured Citroen DS3 was damaged by having the paintwork scratched. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Abusive behaviour

ABOUT 4.15am on Wednesday August 30, police received a report of a woman allegedly behaving in an abusive manner and assaulting two men in a flat in Colonsay Terrace, Oban. Subsequently, a 21-year-old woman was arrested and charged with assault and abusive behaviour. She was held for court and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Car damaged

ABOUT 2.35am on Thursday August 31, in Albany Street, Oban, a silver-coloured Skoda Octavia was vandalised by having a wing mirror knocked off. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

RACIAL ABUSE

ABOUT 9.30pm on Thursday August 31, a 41-year-old man was arrested after refusing to leave the Corryreckan bar and restaurant, on Railway Pier, Oban and allegedly shouting racial abuse. The man was charged with the offences, held for court and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Breach of bail

ABOUT 8.45pm on Saturday September 2, in Lorne Avenue, Oban, a 17-year-old man allegedly breached bail conditions by failing to comply with a curfew. Police arrested and charged the man who was held for court and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Single punch caused life-changing injuries

A SINGLE punch brought a 38-year-old man into court for the first time in his life, and left his father-in-law with life-changing injuries.

The blow delivered by Neil Rimmer, now of 7 Springbank Road, Alyth, caused his victim's eye socket to crumble and the eye to drop within the man's face.

He needed to have a titanium plate inserted into his face and to wear a special face mask at night to improve blood circulation and help his body recover from the injury, which has left him with nerve damage and constant pins-and-needles, numbness and pain. He also now suffers from early stages of glaucoma, probably caused by the blow. Sheriff Patrick Hughes heard at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday. The

men had been at a family party, at a property on Battery Terrace, Oban, watching the New Year fireworks early on January 1 this year when they fell out during 'an argument over nonsense', as Rimmer himself admitted.

Rimmer's mother had died of cancer and he was upset that his wife had gone outside to have a cigarette.

Edward Thornton, Rimmer's defence agent, said that the accused had never been in trouble before and was of excellent character. He said: 'It was a momentary lapse he immediately regretted and apologised.' Rimmer left, and returned the next day to apologise again.

A report prepared on Rimmer, who pleaded guilty to the charge at an earlier hearing, said he was

EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD Murdo Masterson from Dunbeg was crowned champion of the under-25s heavy events at the Braemar Gathering on Saturday, one of Scotland's biggest Highland games attended by HM The Queen, writes Sandy Neil.

This week Murdo's proud parents Chick and Inga expressed their delight.

His dad Chick told *The Oban Times*: 'Achieving this at 18 years old is massive.' He added: 'He is one of the youngest to win it. It's run over 13 games. You accumulate points at all of them and whoever has accumulated the most points wins.'

'It was very close throughout the tournament. It was all down to the final day.'

The former Oban High School pupil was already

winning by three points as he stepped on to the field at Braemar, but could have lost his lead. However, he won the day, and the contest, by a 6.5 point margin ahead of James Dawkins, throwing the 16lb hammer 124ft 6in, and the 28lb weight 65ft 3in.

'He was also winning the 22lb hammer in the open competition with a personal best of 109 feet until Craig Sinclair, who is featured on the Specsavers advert trying to lift the floodlights pole instead of the caber, beat him by three inches on his final throw,' said Chick.

'His big passion is the Highland games. He has spent the last year concentrating on this.'

He was getting coaching from Shaun Bates in Oban.

'The plan now is to get a job.'

Disgust as human faeces found at Oban attractions

POPULAR areas in Oban are being used as a toilet as adult faeces has been found in numerous locations such as the playpark at Atlantis Leisure and McCaig's Tower, writes David McPhee.

The behaviour has been labelled as disgusting and Argyll and Bute Council has said that anyone caught defecating will be reported to the police.

Lyndsay Elliot, chairwoman of Friends of Oban Community Playpark, said: 'It's bizarre and disgusting.'

'There has been two incidents at the park, but we thought the first one could have just been an

accident with a child, but on the second incident it was fairly clear that it was an adult.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'This type of behaviour is not only disgusting, it is against the law and anyone caught behaving in this way will be dealt with by the police.'

'Our staff have taken all necessary measures to clean up and carry out further checks on affected areas.'

'Oban has sufficient public toilet facilities and they should always be used instead of people behaving in this unacceptable manner.'

Islay theft worth £88,000

THE theft of more than 1,000 beer kegs worth nearly £90,000 on the Isle of Islay may have been perpetrated by an international criminal gang, police suspect.

Police Scotland received a report on July 12 that 1,100 beer kegs with an estimated value of £88,000 had been stolen from a yard at Port Ellen between May 9-22.

A spokesperson added: 'Enquiries to date have indicated that a large goods vehicle – possibly foreign registered – may have been involved in the theft and officers are continuing to liaise with a

number of forces throughout the UK and abroad, in relation to this matter.'

Officers could not confirm the beer kegs had been taken out of the country.

The police report at Islay Community Council's meeting on August 16, published in its draft minutes, said: 'There was a theft of beer barrels from the old lemonade factory in Port Ellen. Over 1,000 barrels were stolen with a value of £80,000-£100,000.'

'The Metropolitan Police Force has taken over the investigation.'

'at minimal risk of re-offending.'

The couple have since split, and Rimmer has moved away.

'It was a total aberration on the part of Mr Rimmer after 38 years of previously excellent character,' said Mr Thornton.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said he was shocked by the extent of the injury and he referred to the 'One punch can ruin two lives' campaign launched by Police Scotland that has highlighted the fact that over a year one in eight incidences of violent crime in the country involved a single punch.

He placed Rimmer on a 12-month community payback order, and ordered him to do 240 hours of unpaid work and pay £2,000 compensation to his victim.

She said: 'Billy is off hunger strike as the prison made some concessions but things are going back to the way they were.'

She added that despite Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Prime Minister Theresa May raising the issue with the Indian prime minister, it seemed to be all chat and nothing had changed.

On September 11 a major conference will be held, when London hosts its International Shipping Week (LISW17).

More than 160 industry functions bring together regulators, charterers, ship owners, ship

managers, bunker suppliers, lawyers, ship brokers, bankers, insurers, commodity traders and shipping service providers.

Yvonne said: 'We have spoken to LISW17 conference organisers and they have agreed to play the videos at all conferences.'

'This is important because the shipping community truly understands the importance of protection from pirates, which is what the men were doing.'

It is not easy being what Yvonne describes as a 24/7 campaigner, bringing up her young son and holding down a part-time job.

She continued: 'My three days a week working at Boots in Paisley are like a release from the pressure of constantly being on the phone and attending to all the inquiries.'

'As I speak to you on the phone it is supposed to be time with William. He is amazing and the happiest little boy in the world but he is very aware of his dad.'

'India has a seven-hour time difference which affects when calls can be made.'

In the background, William, realising his mum was on the phone, said: 'Is that daddy?'

If Billy is still in prison at

Christmas it will be his third in jail and fifth since being arrested.

Yvonne added: 'The 12 Indians who were jailed are held in a different prison to the British men and treated differently.'

'Indian prisoners, in Billy's jail, serving life are let out sometimes for up to a week at a time to go to family events such as weddings.'

'It would be a miracle if the British men get any remission in their five-year sentence.'

The videos can be viewed at: www.facebook.com/thechen-naid

Oban RNLI prize draw

OBAN RNLI fundraising volunteers will be in Tesco this weekend offering people a last chance to win £1,000 in a prize draw. All money raised from ticket sales will go to help save lives at sea and the draw will be held at the lifeboat station, on Saturday September 16.

A spokesperson for Oban lifeboat fundraising group said: 'A big thank you to everyone who has already bought a ticket.'

'We really appreciate the help staff at the local Tesco store and the CalMac ferry terminal have given us; thanks also to the army of local supporters.'

Tickets cost £1 each. The fantastic star prize has been kindly donated by John Macalister (Oban) Ltd. Prizes include dinner for two at The Manor House, Oban, and a Champagne afternoon tea for two at The Airds Hotel, Port Appin.



Murdo Masterson accepts his prize at Braemar Gathering after lifting the Glenfiddich U-25 heavy events championship.



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Revamped dementia resource centre opens

THE recently refurbished Oban Dementia Resource Centre reopened its doors last Friday with 'tea and mocktails', writes David McPhee.

Dozens of people made their way to the High Street premises for the grand opening to see how the centre had grown, incorporating a new group room.

The centre provides people living with, or wanting to learn more about dementia, a place to get advice and support.

Ann Frost and Alan Adair were tasked with cutting the opening ribbon. They were described as true examples of people who don't let the condition ruin their lives.

Speaking about how important the centre was, Ann said: 'It's an important place because if anyone is in trouble or needs advice you can just phone up here.'

Sue Pagan, dementia adviser, said: 'People automatically assume that someone living with dementia is not capable of living a productive life.'

'An analogy I like to use is someone who has played golf all their life and they start to have difficulty keeping score and they are a little bit embarrassed.'

'For someone with dementia, they can still hit the ball and can still enjoy the game, but they can't do the finer parts of it.'

The Oban Dementia Resource Centre not only offers advice, but it also hosts regular themed events such as musical memories and reminiscing.

To find out more, visit 12 High Street, Oban, or call 01631 570614.

Coastguard walk for Ali

A TEAM of volunteer coastguards from Oban will walk 174 miles in two-days in memory of a former colleague.

Ali MacNab died in January 2016 aged 48 after a battle with cancer. He was brought up in Edinbane on the Isle of Skye and later lived and worked an Oban.

His colleagues will now embark on a gruelling walk from Oban to Edinbane in order to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Donations can be made via the Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ian-mackinnon2 or by texting OBAN48 and the donation amount to 70070.

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Oban playpark pirate ship run aground in a swamp

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

THE 'FANTASTIC' pirate ship playpark at Atlantis Leisure is in danger of 'sinking into a swamp', according to a mum whose children play there every day.

The £180k park's surface is already cracking and bubbling two years after it was laid and users are impatient to see it fixed before children or grandparents trip and hurt themselves.

The Friends of Oban Community Playpark group raised £334,000 to replace the old playpark beside Atlantis Leisure, which closed for safety reasons in 2014, with two new ones – one for ages five to 15 and the other for under fives, plus a millennium garden.

The group raised £180,000 to fund for Oban Community Playpark's first phase, designed for five to 15 years, which opened in November 2015.

Mum of four Emma D'Arcy, whose children use the play park every day, said 'massive patches' of the new park's surface were turning into a not-so-fun 'trampoline' or 'waterbed'.



The council is investigating concerns raised about the play park's surface which appears to be cracking and bubbling.

open in November 2015.

Mum of four Emma D'Arcy, whose children use the play park every day, said 'massive patches' of the new park's surface were turning into a not-so-fun 'trampoline' or 'waterbed'.

'It started as a bubble and it

has turned into a swamp,' she explained. 'Mud and water is seeping up. The floor is sinking. It is an accident waiting to happen. You have elderly grandparents there walking with sticks. It is only a matter of time before someone gets hurt.'

Oban Community Playpark is

maintained by Argyll and Bute Council.

A council spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'The park is open and safe to use. We are investigating concerns raised with us regarding an issue with the surface.'

'As soon as any fault and cause is identified, the appropriate steps will be taken to remedy it.'

Ms D'Arcy said the new park was 'fantastic', but added: 'I do not think the drainage was sorted properly. I believe the ground was one of the most expensive parts because it was meant to last a long time.'

'It is a new park and this should not be happening. I believe the playpark committee have been trying to get it fixed. It is a shame this has not been addressed.'

'The community have put in so much work and raised so much money.'

Friends of Oban Community Playpark chairperson Lyndsay

Elliott told *The Oban Times*: 'It is being dealt with. The conversations are being had, but it is taking longer than we would hope.'

The group have also raised their target of almost £100,000 to complete the final stage of the under-fives play park, a pirate ship.

Workmen are currently waiting for a break in the weather to finish this off. A party to officially open the new park is set for September 30.

In the meantime, the new ship needs a name and children aged up to 15 were asked to send *The Oban Times* their suggestions of a name for the boat.

Voting is now taking place to find out the public's favourite suggestion from five short-listed. The winner will receive an iPad mini courtesy of Scottish Sea Farms.

To vote for one of the five suggested names, visit <https://goo.gl/M4QyWw>

Parking plan 'shows lack of ambition'

THE COUNCIL'S planned changes to parking charges in Oban would make the problem worse, argue 'disappointed' Oban community councillors, writes Sandy Neil.

Argyll and Bute Council's consultation on new parking charges closed on Friday. The changes aim to help drivers find a parking space by increasing turnover, help blue badge holders park where they need to, and reduce inconsiderate parking.

The draft new Traffic Regulation Order proposes making the first 30 minutes free on George Street, Corran Esplanade, William Street, Queen's Park Place and Argyll Square, but also imposing charges on Gallanach Road (sailing club to Brandy Rock) and Ganavan Road (from Glenrigh to War Memorial) 9am to 6pm Monday to Saturday, and 1pm to 6pm Sunday. Charges on all existing on-street pay and display bays will also extend to Sunday afternoons.

Three car parks at Longsdale (Atlantis), Lochavullin and Ganavan would have charges applying all year, Monday to Saturday 9am to 6pm and Sunday 1pm to 6pm, with the first two hours free and thereafter 30 pence for 15 minutes and £1 for an hour.

Oban Community Council presented its draft response at its meeting last week.

Community councillor Duncan Martin said the plans showed a 'lack of ambition'.

'There are at least four distinct parking needs in Oban,' Mr Martin explained: 'short-term parking for those with business in the town; parking for residents and for visitors to town centre hotels; all day parking for those employed in the town centre; and long-stay parking for ferry passengers and crew. The town deserves a comprehensive plan for all of these.'

'There is a major problem of chaotic or 'wild' parking in the areas outside the present controlled area. The proposals can only make things much worse, as long-stay vehicles are displaced from the off- and on-street areas currently available. These proposals can only work in tandem with a substantial residents-only parking zone surrounding the controlled areas in these proposals.'

'One issue which contributes to the chaos is that there is no website which describes the parking opportunities in Oban. We suggest the council work with BIDS to create an Oban parking website, with a map of the various zones, and links to the private sector providers.'

Mr Martin also urged the council to provide free parking areas for island residents who keep their vehicles on-shore and increase the free period in Lochavullin car park to three hours with simpler flat daily £5 charge charging thereafter.

He concluded: 'We have no objections to the principles of the proposals, but they are incomplete and as such are likely to merely shift the problem (long-stay parking by ferry passengers and crew) into other parts of the town. Oban deserves a proper solution. Whether this is a central multi-storey or a park and ride is a matter for discussion.'

Oban Bay pontoons officially open for business



Marley Squire, Cathy MacGregor, Mairi Malloy and Innes Munro all helped to cut the ribbon as the pontoons are officially opened. 17_136pontoons01

Summer's flown by but hopefully it's not over yet

THAT'S us almost at the end of another summer which has flown by. It's been an enjoyable and hectic one despite the weather, and it's not quite over yet so I'm still hopeful of another month or two of sunshine, writes Kay McDonald.

I was delighted to discover that Scotland was voted the most beautiful country in the world by Rough Guides recently. I know I'd always thought so but I'm biased, so it's nice to discover others think so too.

When the weather is a dreich as it has been lately it's

WHERE IS THIS?



sometimes difficult to appreciate how lucky we are in so many ways in this wee corner of the world – we don't suffer the floods and droughts that other poor souls do and even in the rain there is something magnificent

about the scenery around us. It may be because I speak to visitors every day who love being here and keep telling me how lucky I am to live here that it does make you look around with fresh eyes and appreciate the things that we often take for granted. I think everyone should try it – have a wee look at some of the other places in the news just now and imagine living there and then have a look round at where we do live. Lucky us!

That's us almost at the end of another cruise ship season as well and I must say what

a difference using the new pontoons for the last few ships has made. It's easier for the passengers, the crew and those of us who go to welcome them to Oban, and I've noticed how much easier it is for wheelchairs to use them as well. Let's hope that more ships will be encouraged to visit now that the facilities are so much better. Last week's photo was of the Columba hotel's beautiful carving. This week's will take you to the other side of the town, it may be something you see every day and just don't notice.

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Concerns over exposed rock face

DAVID MCPHEE
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A 25-FOOT rock face in the middle of a residential area in Oban is causing concern as children are using it as a shortcut.

The exposed cliff, situated behind Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, below Catalina Avenue, has been deemed 'an accident waiting to happen'.

Developer MacLeod Construction says the adjacent road is under review to be adopted by Argyll and Bute Council. As part of the conditions for this, MacLeod Construction has pressure washed the cliff in order to remove any unstable rocks.

However, a resident in the area took to social media to



highlight the issues, saying: 'Blasting loose rock on a permanently soaked and unstable rock face will not mitigate against children accessing it

without a barrier. Much of the neat pebbled verge is now covered in black rock and sludge.

'The solution is clearly not an easy undertaking. My view on

Oban councillors Jim Lynch and Julie McKenzie in front of the rock face.

17_136_dangeroushill01

this lies between a barrier or re-contouring the hill.'

Jim Lynch, councillor for Oban South and the Isles, said: 'Children are using it as a shortcut. If some child falls, we are not going to forgive ourselves if we have known that it is happening. You have to make the effort of building a fence.'

'The concern I have is that it's not safe. To me it is quite urgent.'

'They [MacLeod Construction] have washed it off, but that's not the problem. I would prefer a net across it so it's safe.'

'I am not having a go at anyone in particular, all I am saying is we need to work together to get it done. There's a definite feeling here within the community that no-one is listening.'

Councillor for Oban North and Lorn Julie McKenzie is a resident in the area.

She said: 'This issue has been raised time and time again. What I see here is profit before people in the community.'

'We are councillors, not engineers. It's up to us to highlight the issue.'

'It's an accident waiting to happen.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'This

road and area has not been adopted by the council and is the responsibility of the landowner to maintain.'

'If there are any concerns about this area we will, of course, raise it with the owners of the site.'

A spokesman for MacLeod Construction said: 'The recent removal of "loose" rock from a section of the rock face adjacent to the new McKelvie Road/Glenshellach Road link road was carried out by MacLeod Construction in response to a specific request from Argyll and Bute Council roads department.'

'This was one of the last remaining items required by the roads department as part of the on-going road adoption process which we hope to conclude shortly.'

Man jailed over assault on former partner

A 33-YEAR-OLD man has been sent back to prison to complete 96 days of a sentence for domestic abuse and had another eight months added for a further offence.

Andrei Tsilkin, whose address was given as 3-2, 23 High Street, Oban, admitted assaulting his ex-partner on August 4 at her home in the town by punching her on the face to her injury. He was on bail at the time.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes, sitting at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday, was told that neighbours heard an argument going on at the property and called the police. When officers arrived they saw the pair had been drinking.

Tsilkin's defence agent, Jane McLaren, said the former couple's relationship was 'volatile'.

The accused had returned to collect some belongings and now the trained pastry chef had no reason to return to Oban.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes noted that at the time Tsilkin had just been released from prison for a similar offence and still had 96 days of the original sentence outstanding.

He will now serve this along with eight months for the latest offence, the terms to run consecutively.

Rail disruptions

SCOTRAIL has announced that weekend trains will be cancelled between Crianlarich and Glasgow, with a replacement bus service in operation, on Saturday and Sunday September 23-24 and Saturday September 30 and Sunday October 1, due to engineering work. However trains will run as normal from Crianlarich towards Mallaig, Fort William and Oban. Visit www.scotrail.co.uk for details.

Time running out to sign Oban Times A85 petition

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcphee@obantimes.co.uk

STAY alive on the A85

THERE is not much time left to show your support for the Stay Alive on the A85 campaign as *The Oban Times* will soon hand its petition to the Scottish Government, calling for urgent improvements to be made to the A85.

The petition is calling for a reduction in the speed limit, an extension of the double white lines to prevent overtaking between Connel and Oban, and a lay-by to be installed at Penny-fair cemetery.

More than 200 people have already signed online with many more signing through the petition in the paper.

This week our appeal for signatures follows two incidents on the road. Both accidents took place near Poppies Garden Cen-

tre causing disruptions to traffic.

Thankfully nobody was seriously injured, however the latest accidents follow numerous fatalities on this stretch of road over the decades.

At least 11 people have died on the road between Oban and Connel, and many more have been injured since 2000.

Another issue our campaign aims to address is the lack of stopping places for public transport. Buses often cannot stop at the gates of Penny-fair cemetery because it is unsafe to drop-off or pick up

passengers trying to visit the gravesides of their loved ones. Valerie Marshal was among those who have signed the petition. She said: 'Drivers overtaking dangerously and

generally people driving too fast. Frustrations mount during tourist season when locals are held back by drivers going too slow. Some challenging bends catch visitors out. There are also

several openings to property along the route making access on and off the road dangerous.'

Mrs Evans said: 'Every summer there are numerous serious crashes on this road. I am scared

to drive on it now and fear for my family and friends who use it too.'

You can also sign the petition at www.obantimes.co.uk/stayalive85

The Oban Times petition for safety improvements on the A85.

People in North Argyll have lost far too many friends and family in accidents on the A85 between Oban and Connel.

PLEASE SIGN BELOW:

Name

Address Tel

..... Email

and send to **The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB**, or sign the petition online at www.obantimes.co.uk/stayalive85

ADVERTORIAL



BID4Oban bids for renewal



BID4Oban's five-year term is up for renewal. The company is now in the process of balloting local businesses who are currently levy payers for a second and exciting term. Ballot papers have been sent to all eligible parties and these must be returned no later than Thursday 5th October 2017.

BID4Obans Chairman Graeme Bass said: 'I am delighted to present the new business plan for the second term of BID4Oban, which has been sent to

all levy payers. It outlines our key priorities and gives a taste of how we can continue to improve and make Oban a stronger and more prosperous town by working together for the benefit of local businesses and the wider community.

Supporting BID4Oban is a great opportunity to continue working together and make Oban a great place to live, work and visit. The cost to businesses is low and, through BID4Oban, we can access external

assistance and funding that is not available to individual businesses or local authorities.

'By ensuring BID4Oban continues, we can keep working together to increase footfall, stimulate investment and enhance the reputation of our town. The purpose of BID4Oban is to support our business community, increase trade and improve our business environment.'

BID4Oban Limited was formed in November 2012 as a result of a resound-

ing 'yes' from Oban's business community to support joining forces to create Scotland's first whole town Business Improvement District. It was formed as a not-for-profit limited company to deliver BID4Oban's objectives.

The Vision of BID4Oban is to create a vibrant and vital town centre, with a supportive and involved business community. This ensures that every business trading in Oban benefits from the collective involvement of all business's in the BID.



BID4Oban said: 'Oban has experienced many changes over recent years. From the cutbacks in local authority budgets, to the increased traffic in the town due to road equivalent tariff and the increased pressure that it is putting on the town's limited parking provision.

Over the past five years BID4Oban has worked tirelessly on behalf of the business community with Argyll and Bute Council. Traffic management and access issues are a problem for many businesses. The continuing rise of energy costs and the new rateable values are putting more pressure on businesses. Oban requires a co-ordinated response from all businesses to address these problems and support them. Globally visitor numbers are increasing and Oban is no exception.

'The retail sector in particular has suffered with the growth of online shopping but we are fortunate that having a strong tourist trade has helped to mitigate some of this impact with a vibrant, clean and attractive town.

'To keep visitors and shoppers coming to Oban, we have to persuade them to come in the quieter

The Key Objectives for the next five-year term are clearly outlined in the recently published business plan sent to all eligible levy payers. It is also available online at the company's website - www.bid4oban.co.uk

- To improve the economic opportunities for the businesses in the Oban**
- To increase footfall, both local and visitor**
- To make the BID 'cost neutral' for each business by way of incremental benefits it brings to the town in terms of investment and sponsorship**
- To address the issues of individual sectors by partnership working**
- To improve businesses relationships with each other, the local authority and the community**
- To market the town to a local, regional, national and international audience in conjunction with Oban and Lorn Tourism Association. This will ensure Oban is effectively marketed throughout the UK and globally as a fantastic destination to visit.**
- To give businesses a strong, unified voice when dealing with both the local authority and Scottish Government.**
- To support local voluntary groups whose aims align with the BID in terms of funding for new and existing events.**

months in increasing numbers and extend the season. In addition, we have to work with and occasionally lobby the local authority to ensure that local strategies do not negatively impact on trade.'

Over its first five years, BID4Oban has produced a whole range of initiatives that have improved the town.

Among them are the introduction of BID4Oban town ambassadors, who

have interacted with more than 49,000 visitors; shop-front improvement grants have been issued to many businesses; numerous events have been supported financially

including Oban Live; In addition, in kind support and advice has always been available. It has provided local business liaison during the implementation of the CHORD projects which included Stafford Street, Station Square and George Street improvements.

BID4Oban has also been responsible for putting up over 700 hanging baskets and floral arrangements around the town over its current term; In partnership with Argyll and Bute Council we have enhanced the Christmas lights throughout Oban ensuring a welcoming and festive atmosphere. Along with the reindeer parade in November these investments ensure a vibrant town centre is created. The recent installation of BID4Oban WIFI in the main centre of Oban has enhanced visitors experience, we are now working with Scottish Government

to extend and enhance this service; The town diary and updating the what's on in and around Oban is an integral part in working with many organisations to highlight events. Our fantastic town centre fireworks display in November and Hogmanay are now an integral part of established events. Most recently BID4Oban has worked with local businesses to establish ad-hoc markets to enable them to promote both local produce and merchandise. BID4Oban works closely with the Cruise Group to ensure we capitalise on the many shipping lines now visiting the town and with the establishment of the new Pontoons in the town this attraction of Oban will only increase in this sector.

The "Love Oban" brand has been established for all our marketing and this will be enhanced in a second term. BID4Oban launched the Love Oban Gift Vouchers and these have been a fantastic suc-

cess since its launch. Love Oban Voucher sales now top £32,000 and a major marketing plan is now in place to ensure Obanites, their friends and visitors benefit from this initiative.

BID4Oban is managed by a dedicated team to manage its resources. This includes Andrew Spence - BID Manager, Yvonne MacLean - Administrator, Kay McDonald - Digital and Town Ambassador and Joe Reich - Town Ambassador.

They are there to support and enhance the BID and encourage additional funding from all available sources.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell added: 'BID

is important in helping local business to improve the environment for itself and the communities it serves. BID4Oban has got off to a good start and has clearly made a difference to the town. However, there is much more to be done and I hope the town's business community will keep faith with the project and back it for the next stage.'

Graham MacQueen MBE, from MacQueen Bros, said: 'Oban is a very different, much improved place since the formation of our BID company. All Oban businesses must surely re-elect BID4Oban to continue making our town a shining example of success'.

A series of drop in meetings will be held at the BID4Oban offices at 43 Stevenson Street, Oban, PA34 5NA

OT

Cowal

HEAVY rain caused chaos in Cowal recently with nine locations being affected by flooding.

Teams from Argyll and Bute Council's Roads and Amenity Services were dispatched to nine locations, along with a team of contractors, to deal with the floods and help clear away dirt and debris that had washed on to public roads from higher ground.

Various sections of road surface and walls were damaged and drains were blocked as a result. The worst affected area was Colintraive, where a digger was needed to clear the road.

Council employees are to continue to clear material from the blocked drains and any necessary repairs to road surfaces and walls will be carried out in due course.

Kilmun

Heather McLaughlin, from Keep Scotland Beautiful, and Moira Tester.

A COMMUNITY group based in Kilmun has been crowned Clean Up Scotland's Hero of the Month.

Shore Sweepers received the prestigious accolade for 'their tireless efforts in improving the litter levels on local beaches'.

Speaking about the award, founding member of the group Moira Tester said: 'I am truly delighted to receive the Clean Up Scotland Hero of the Month Award on behalf of the group members.'

'I am passionate about being able to show Kilmun and its beautiful beaches at their best.'

'I am immensely proud of the work that Shore Sweepers has undertaken since we started out and we are committed to continuing our efforts.'

'I am eternally grateful to all of our volunteers who take the time out of their busy lives to come along'



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Mid Argyll

This flooding was the second weather incident which caused disruption in Argyll and Bute.

On August 23, staff responded when a gutter was washed out on Coll and a retaining wall collapsed on Mull as a result of thunder and lightning.

The council's policy lead for roads and amenity services, Councillor Roddy McCuish, said: 'The council staff did an excellent job clearing the debris and ensuring that the roads network was made safe. Although the rain appears to have been very localised, it was extremely intense.'

'These hard-working, dedicated staff went beyond the call of duty in many respects and have done the council extremely proud. Well done to everyone involved.'

However, it was at the end of a truly hard week that the Scotland West squad showed their skill to pit their strengths against the best teams from Tayside, Dumfries, Yorkshire and Humberside, South East England, Northern Region, Greater London and the Midlands.

Teams from Scotland West competed in different



Flora Currie, Campbell Ferguson and Iain Macdougall.

competitions and in the end came away with a team gold, team silver and a fourth.

Argyll and Bute Council's Provost Len Scouller said:

'I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Scotland West team for their outstanding achievements.'

'They are an inspiration

and I am very proud of each one of them. They have put Lochgilphead on the map and I wish them every success in the future with the sport.'

Bunessan**Primary children name eagle chick**

How many children equal the size of a white-tailed sea eagle? Picture: Sue Hawkes

BUNESSAN Primary School has named a white-tailed sea eagle chick at Tiroran Community Forest after visiting for a day of fun and learning with the Mull and Iona Ranger Service and Mull Eagle Watch.

Children got messy making plaster casts of animal hoof prints along the forest tracks before learning about dinosaurs – the ancestors of eagles – with Emily and Kate from the Ranger Service. Over at the eagles' hide, they learned all about white-tailed eagles and enjoyed handling real eagle feathers and other props though, sadly, the eagle family was nowhere to be seen.

Over lunch, with mouthfuls of ham sandwiches, they shouted out name suggestions for the one female chick and the list was handed over to John Clare, the forest officer, to pick the name – which was Arwen.

Easdale

THE Easdale branch of British Legion Scotland raised more than £1,500 at its annual sale last Saturday.

The sale, which took place in a busy Seil Island hall, commenced with a speech by Flight Lieutenant Neil Galloway an RAF chaplain, who spoke about his work with veterans in prisons and with men and women who have reached 'rock bottom'.

As well as selling a 'huge amount' of goods, there were a number of charity stalls at the sale - Help 4 Heroes, Erskine Hospital and Combat Stress were all in attendance.

The grand total raised was £1,589.67.

The organisation extended its thanks to all those who supported the event and helped on the day.

Dervaig Primary School is currently coming up with names for the two chicks at West Ardhu.

Arwen is the most commonly seen eagle around Tiroran now, with Fingal and Iona proving trickier to track down but also seen are golden eagles, buzzards

and kestrels and a juvenile great-spotted woodpecker on the feeders along with crossbills up in the conifers.

Read more at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/community/wildlife/b/mulleagles/archive/2017/08/30/and-the-name-is.aspx#QOP-80bgfPyYWDbV.99>.



John Alexander, right, chairman of the RBL Easdale branch, with Flight Lt Chaplain Neil Galloway.

At Random**Called to account**

THE new pontoons were officially opened at Oban's North Pier last week, and make a very welcome addition to the provision of amenities for the sailing community in this area, as we report elsewhere in today's newspaper.

Last week I was critical of Argyll and Bute Council holding the belated ceremony to officially open the new facility, having held an impromptu opening event a few weeks ago, and several weeks since boats began to use the berths.

And that criticism brought a surprising response from the head of the council's communications team. She complained to the editor about me having a go at the council on a regular basis.

Let me assure her, and you readers, that I fully intend to continue to scrutinise the local authority and the ways in which it spends our hard-earned money.

For anyone being paid from the public purse to object to that kind of critique is, frankly, ill-conceived. It is precisely the role that we local journalists are expected to fulfil and we will go on doing so.

And, by the way, I have been one of the first to heap praise on the council on many occasions – including in recent times over the installation of the new pontoons – when its actions merit it.



Delighted Katie Edmundson, Zoe Cook, Emma Hill and Claire Reid with the haul of trophies won by Oban High School Pipe Band.

Argyll and Bute Council does much that is excellent and in the best interests of all of us who live in this great part of the country.

However, it gets things wrong, too, and I am equally quick to point out what I believe are its errors – one of which is for its senior officers to complain about being held to account.

So it was great for the town to be able to cheer them to the rafters last Wednesday when they paraded from the Corran Halls to Station Square.

Local people and visitors turned out in large numbers to celebrate with the band, which sounded fantastic as they played their way through the centre of Oban. They put on a thoroughly stirring performance, played brilliantly and looked magnif-

Taynuilt

Lorna receives the keys for the business from Neill and Islay MacNab.

Taynuilt Post Office under new ownership

AFTER Taynuilt Post Office sat on the market for three years, Lorna MacLennan, who has worked there for almost three decades decided to take things into her own hands.

And on Friday (September 1) she took over as owner from Neill and Islay MacNab.

'It's still a bit daunting and unreal,' she said. 'But it's exciting. I have a mixture of emotions.'

'I have been doing the job for 29 years, so it's not a new job; it's just taking the responsibility for everything. I hope everyone will use it.'

Lorna says she bought

it to 'keep it alive for the village.'

'Without the post office, there would be no community spirit left,' she added.

'It's the hub of the village, everyone comes here. I just hope everyone will be happy with the outcome.'

Lorna has decided to change the opening times of the shop.

On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays it will be open from 7am until 5pm.

And on Wednesdays and Saturdays it will be open from 7am until 1pm.

On Sundays it will be open from 8am until 11am.

Islay**Runners prepare for island's marathon**

RUNNERS in Islay are preparing for the annual marathon that will take place on Sunday September 10.

The event will be in memory of former pupil of Islay High School Menzies MacAffer.

Menzies was a keen runner and served in the Royal Marines. The Menzies MacAffer trophies have been donated by the family and will be given to the first male and female finisher.

The marathon will start at the village hall in Portnahaven at 7.30am, and finish in Port Ellen at the Ramsay Hall.

Oban

MORE than 140 works of art by Oban and Lorn artists are on display in the Cadet Hall in Tweeddale Street until Saturday September 9.

The exhibition opened with a gathering last Friday evening of artists and friends, at which Jennifer Shaw was awarded the Alba Cup for

the most popular work. There was an excellent attendance and sales were brisk with art lovers keen to get first sight and perhaps to purchase the new works.

The exhibition is open 10.30am to 5.30pm each day, admission is free and all works are for sale.



MARTIN LAING
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incident. Long may their success continue.

Home at last

IT WAS extremely pleasing to be able to report last week that Laura MacIntyre has finally returned to her home in Barra after months in hospital.

Laura was seriously injured in the Manchester Arena bombing atrocity back in May, in which her close friend Eilidh MacLeod was killed.

Laura has undergone months of treatment in Manchester and Glasgow but has now recovered sufficiently to be restored to the island. Her mum and dad, Nan and Micheal, said she has 'amazed' them with her 'bravery and strength' and that they are 'delighted' to have her home.

We are all delighted that she is back at home and hope that her recovery continues. She is now in the best place possible.

What do you think?

Write to me at mlaing@obantimes.co.uk or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4 HB.

What do you think?

WRITE to me at mlaing@obantimes.co.uk or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4 HB.



Iona received two nominations, one for the Abbey itself and one for its St Oran's Chapel, inset.

Argyll and isles feature in 50th Doors Open Days

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

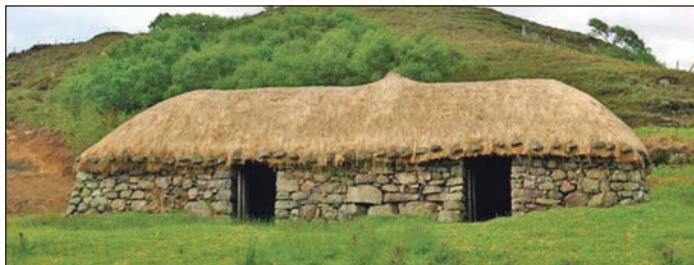
THE 50th national Doors Open Days was launched on Friday last week at the Botanic Cottage at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh.

To celebrate the landmark anniversary, the Scottish Civic Trust invited 50 leading writers, artists, architects and academics to nominate their favourite door.

And a number of famous doors in Argyll and the islands featured in the final list.

All over Scotland, more than 1,000 buildings will be open and free to enter this month, many of them not normally open to the public and some opening for the first time. Castles, churches, mosques, museums, fire stations, offices, theatres and even a distillery are just some of the buildings taken part this year.

Among the celebrities' favourite doors, historian Vanessa Collingridge nominated Kilmartin Museum; Lynn Davies went for St Oran's Chapel on the Isle of Iona; Professor Tom Devine opted for the door to Iona Abbey; Gaelic singer Anne Martin nominated the door to Ostaig House at Sleat on the Isle of Skye; Danny MacAskill chose the Colbost Folk Museum, also on Skye; and Craig Stanford, an archaeologist on St Kilda, perhaps unsurprisingly given his professional interest, nominated the door to house number 12, The Street, St Kilda.



As part of this year's Doors Open Days, there are talks, tours, heritage trails and plenty more events for all ages. All the programmes can be found at www.doorsopendays.org.uk.

John Pelan, director of the Scottish Civic Trust, explained: 'Doors Open Days continues to be one of Scotland's most popular and successful attractions.'

'Every September, tens of thousands of people are given the opportunity to get inside buildings and learn something new. It appeals to all ages. We are very grateful for the support of Historic Environment Scotland, Aberdeen Standard Investments and the Festival of Architecture 2017.'

'We were delighted to launch

the 2017 programme at the Botanic Cottage, winner of the Scottish Civic Trust My Place Awards earlier this year.'

Claire Drummond, head of Charitable Giving for the Aberdeen Charitable Foundation, said: 'Every year the list of participating venues grows, making Doors Open Day a fantastic opportunity for people to take a closer look at buildings that they may well be familiar with, perhaps passing every day, but may never have seen inside.'

'From mosques to masonic halls, prisons to lifeboat stations, Doors Open Days offers insights that cast a new light on the nation's buildings and shared spaces, and interesting days out too.'

'We're proud to support the Scottish Civic Trust and wish Doors Open Days 2017 every success.'

Simon Milne MBE, regius keeper at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, said: 'Entering the Botanic Cottage is walking into the past, present and future in one step.'

'This beautiful and remarkable building of the Enlightenment, a celebrated centre for pioneering botanical teaching, has been painstakingly reconstructed and now provides an inspirational space for education and the community.'

'Its historic and welcoming interior and great facilities help people of all ages and backgrounds to connect with plants and to learn

about and enjoy our natural environment. It is a real pleasure to welcome the Scottish Civic Trust to the cottage for this celebration of our country's heritage.'

Doors Open Days is co-ordinated nationally by the Scottish Civic Trust and is part of European Heritage Days alongside Scottish Archaeology Month, co-ordinated by Archaeology Scotland. Both are supported by Historic Environment Scotland. Doors Open Days 2017 is also supported by Aberdeen Standard Investments Ltd and Festival of Architecture 2017.

Area co-ordinators create and manage local programmes and work for a variety of local authorities, civic trusts and heritage organisations.

MORVERN lines

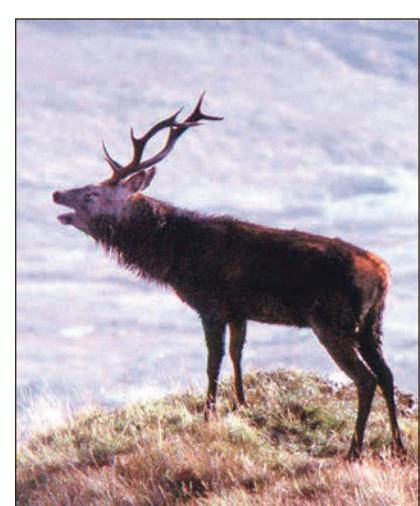
The play that shook the Highlands

IN 1973 an extraordinarily powerful play started touring the villages and towns of the Highlands and Islands. Rarely, if ever, had a play made such an impression on Scottish audiences as did the 7:84 Theatre Company's production of *The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil*. It was seen by an estimated 300,000 people throughout Scotland and later by millions when it was broadcast as part of the BBC's Play for Today series.

John McGrath, the writer, called it 'a ceilidh play'. In it he tells the story of the exploitation of the Highlands from the post-Jacobite rising, through the suppression of the clans, the atrocities of the clearances, the sporting estates and their absentee owners, to the North Sea oil boom which he dramatised through oral tradition, the Gaelic language, song, satire and broad comedy.

McGrath, who died in 2002, set up the 7:84 travelling theatre company in 1971, taking its name from a statistic revealed in *The Economist* in 1966 that 7 per cent of Britain's people owned 84 per cent of the country's wealth. He wrote many plays before *The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil*, and many after, but *The Cheviot* remains his best-known work.

John Bett, who played several leading characters in the play (including a brilliant take on an absentee landowner, a Church of Scotland minister and Patrick Sellar, who owned Ardornish



The Stag. Photograph courtesy of Iain Thornber

estate in Morvern) recalled whole villages turning out with children and grandmothers in the audience.

He said: 'The play had a living quality to it. There were new things happening every day with the oil boom, which John would extract from the papers and put it in that night's performance. It had a real up-to-the-moment feeling to it.'

Joe Douglas, director of a 2015 update, says: 'It's huge, and as it comes closer than you realise how much a part of the psyche it is, you get an idea of its importance when you speak to some of the people who saw it when they tell you how much it meant to them. It's not about sentiment; it really

awakened something that was latent, just bubbling away for so many people across the country.'

The reasons for the clearances are explained and how they were enabled for the 'ruling classes' with the connivance of the church, the law, the police and the military. It tells where the people went: often to miserable allotments on the seashore where they were supposed to fish and gather kelp for the soda ash industry. It gives the economic reasons why the men were often away south for much of the year, trying to find work to pay the rents on their crofts, or in the Highland regiments defending the British Empire. It also details the emigrations to the Victorian slums of Glasgow and to the rest of the world.

In *The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil*, John McGrath and director John Mackenzie dared to go where few have wanted to go, most preferring to sweep the atrocities of the Highland clearances under the carpet as being too painful, and too long ago. The play also passes on an example of local resistance from across the Atlantic - 'So, picture it, a drive-in clachan on every hilltop where formerly there was heathland but scenery. They give me furs, beaver skins, Davy Crockett hats and all the little necessities of life. I give them beads, baubles, VD, diphtheria, influenza, cholera, fire water and all the benefits of civilisation.'

Typical of the play's poetic anger is in the line: 'It is said that when the woman bards died they were buried face downwards so that their songs would not come up to disturb us. But they do, still.'

This play has influenced generations of playwrights and directors in Scotland and beyond, and took professional theatre to a whole new public. John McGrath did not invent touring theatre, but he certainly reinvigorated it and opened the door to new audiences, venues and – before long – new touring companies.

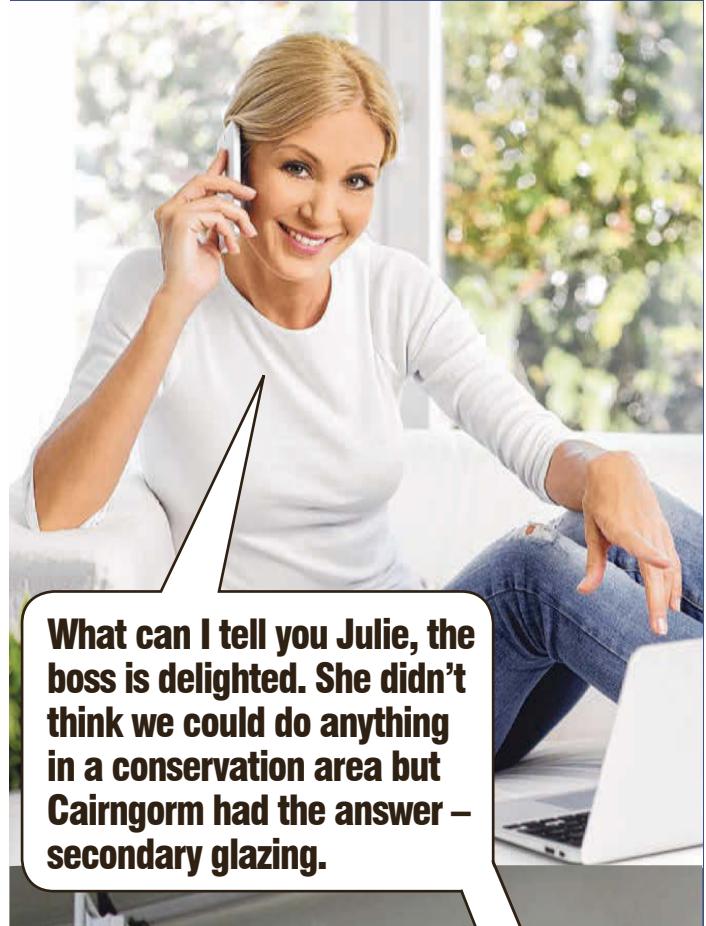
To understand the Highlands today, and the effect the subject of this production had on the morale of the few indigenous people who remain, no-one interested in its social history and landscape should fail to watch *The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil*.

DVDs of the BBC's *Cheviot* are now available from Panamint Cinema, Broxburn, West Lothian, who specialise in rare film and BBC television programmes sourced by licence from the nation's film archive. The company has a catalogue of more than 70 historical and nostalgic feature films and documentaries. These include *Laxdale Hall*, *The Vital Spark*, *Night Mail*, *The Rugged Islands*, *Seaways of the Great Ships* and others about the old West Highland Railway line. (www.panamint.co.uk)

Although not a great deal has changed since 1973 regarding land ownership in the Highlands, the play obviously needs a new title. Perhaps *The Dot Com lairds*, the planting grants and no deer, or, *The pine martins*, the lynx, the hydro schemes and the empty glens, would be more appropriate for today.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

Lisa is in the boss' good books thanks to a little help from Cairngorm...



What can I tell you Julie, the boss is delighted. She didn't think we could do anything in a conservation area but Cairngorm had the answer – secondary glazing.



I wonder if she'll be keen to hear my other brilliant idea... a big pay rise for me!



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Viewpoint



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

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Tobermory, and the wider community of Mull, will be relieved this week to hear that discussions around the controversial plans announced for Glen Iosol sheltered housing complex three months ago appeared to have had a positive outcome.

In July around 100 people gathered at the home to protest against proposed cuts to its warden provision. At that time the HSCP was looking to withdraw funding from the Trust Housing Association, the organisation that runs the care home which would have resulted in warden support at the 25-flat complex being cut from 35 hours to 25. Following this the Save Glen Iosol Steering Committee was set up

and a petition that was launched which quickly garnered over 1000 signatures.

Now, following a meeting with MSP Michael Russell and Councillor Mary Jean Devon, and pending the Trust Housing board meeting on September 21, the hope is that they will be able to 'sustain the present level of targeted support and care to all residents and this would include support for the provision of an on-site co-ordinator and resources to secure all necessary support'.

As Councillor Mary Jean Devon and MSP Michael Russell said, what a great a 'victory' for common sense and the local campaign.



Days gone by – 1988

Les Horn from Onich emailed *The Oban Times* to say: 'Here's a picture of the pupils and staff at Achaleven School in 1988 where our children attended when we stayed in Ferryfield at Connel. Should jog a few memories.'

MacPhail



ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk

ON AUGUST 31, the Highlands and Islands of Scotland went into mourning for the most charismatic character to emerge from the area in living memory.

As news of the death of Norman MacLean spread, the extent to which he was revered by so many was made clear in the tributes paid.

Born in Glasgow of Tiree and Uist parentage, his multifaceted genius, personality and identity gave him a unique ability to step in and out of various personas effortlessly and be authentic and shine while occupying each one.

As a writer, as a musician, as a singer, as a comic, as an academic, as a mimic, as a linguist and as an actor he excelled and in any one of these spheres he could have carved a successful career.

However, it is the sum of all these talents, topped off with the sparkling charisma of a Hollywood celebrity that made Norman the anomaly he was and which meant he was undoubtedly destined for international success.

Sadly, the success never materialised, because time and time again Norman would, as he said himself, 'hit the self-destruct button'. His immense talents and attributes were counterbalanced with many tragic flaws, which

manifested most clearly in his addiction to alcohol.

It is my own and many others' firm belief that without this addiction, he would have been a household name throughout the English-speaking world and not just as he was in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

Norman's comedy was an integral part of my teenage years, and listening to his tapes became almost part of our school curriculum such was the extent to which they were played in the common rooms and changing rooms during break times.

Through my early 20s I was lucky to work with Norman, playing at countless gigs with him throughout the country over the course of a few years. When working, he was supremely professional at all times and approached it with the energy of youth, which considering that at this time he was in his early 60s was remarkable.

He was always immaculately dressed, always on time and always performed with total conviction to the show. I realise this sounds unlikely given his reputation, but as with many aspects of his life it was 'all or nothing'. When he was sober, he was incredible. If he was

drinking, he would simply not turn up.

He was a constant source of encouragement during the early years of Skipinnish Records and kindly wrote the cover notes for the first two Skipinnish albums. We subsequently released on CD his comedy recording Fully Wrapped and Standing, which was recorded in the Royal Hotel in Oban and had always been my favourite of all his recorded output.

The last time I worked with Norman was during the Mòd in 2009 when he used the Skipinnish Ceilidh House to perform book readings from his newly-penned and hard-hitting autobiography, *The Leper's Bell*. The adulation shown to the man by fans who came to hear him read excerpts was amazing to witness, and he approached these events with the same professionalism that he showed when performing comedy.

Norman lived out his latter years in probably the most fulfilled period of his life. He was writing steadily, was aware of the love that a population and those around him had for him, and seemed to be at peace with his journey – and that is infinitely more important than any amount of international stardom.

He was always impeccably dressed, always on time and always performed with total conviction to the show. I realise this sounds unlikely given his reputation, but as with many aspects of his life it was 'all or nothing'. When he was sober, he was incredible. If he was

Consistently opposed to warden cuts

Sir,

I don't often reply to letters written about myself in the local press but I feel the need to respond to a letter from *The Oban Times* (August 31).

The letter points out meetings I have not attended while failing to mention the meetings I have attended.

The letter also mentions a Trust Housing meeting about the cuts to warden hours at sheltered housing on Islay. While not being able to attend this meeting due to being unable to get staff relief that day, I had been in contact with numerous residents of sheltered housing on Islay as well as Trust Housing officials.

I wrote a letter to *The Oban Times* about just this matter. I pointed out that, as a board member of the Housing and Social Care Partnership, I have made it clear that I am completely against this decision as it goes against a national drive to support people in their own homes. I believe it will disproportionately affect island communities and will have serious short- and long-term consequences. It is important that the HSCP listens to all partners around the table – elected councillors (there are four of us) have as much to contribute as the NHS appointed members.

I have to say, though, that when I stood for the council, on many of my leaflets and on my campaign page I made it clear I believe we needed councillors who did more than just have a good record of attending meetings. My view has not changed.

I also feel obliged to point out that large numbers of my constituents contact me every day voicing concerns about the SNP and its mishandling of Scotland's devolved powers.

Judging by some of the letters in the local press about me and the increasingly bizarre and offensive posts on my Facebook campaign page, it is my opinion that many separatists are not so much angered by my actions since being elected but are simply angry that a vocal and proud Unionist was elected.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Islay.

Residents' views are being ignored

Sir,

Regarding BEAR Scotland's ill-conceived plans for improvements to the A828 during September, I agreed that the road needed some maintenance and improvement, but its suggestion of 10 full daytime closures was just ridiculous.

The road is of crucial importance to all communities between Connel and Ballachulish and any closure or restriction would have had significant impact.

This road was closed over several

Beachd Ailein



ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

AIR AN T-SEACHDAIN SEO CHAIDH thug mi tarraighe air an fhleum air eolás a thoir dha dráibhean air mór-rathaidean agus rathaidean singilté dithcheall agus tha mi leantainn le cuspair eile a shaoleas mi a tha deatamh ann an sábháileachadh siubhal ná duthcha. 'S e sin siubhal air dà chúibheall, air rothairean agus rothairean-einnsean! Chan eil duine a shiùblhas a' Ghàidhleachtach, tro mhiosan an t-samhradh gu h-áraid, nach eil mothachail air na bheil de mhótaidhaisgalan air na rathaidean, agus glè thric iad nan treudan de suas ri fheiceadair neò còr.

A réir coltais tha leithid sin de bhuidhnean aig amannan a' cur cuairt air caob mhòr de dh'Alba ann an latha agus na rathaidean lùbach, cas nas tarraighe dháibh na feadhainn fharsaing chòmhnaid. Chan eil e doirbh a thuiginn carson a thà pòsadh de rathaidean cumhang agus astar a' cruthachadh shuidheachaidhean cunnartach, air an sin gu sònraichte far am bheil móran de luchd nam motair-baidhsagal a' feuchainn ri cumail suas ri chéile agus a' dol seachad air carbadan nas slaoaiche far nach eil sin idir ionchaidh. Tha bhuil ann agus tubaisteach a' tachair tric, cùid aca sin fhoruas is feuchainn a' call am beatha.

'S e rud a tha annasach mun t-suidheachadh gum bheil a' mhòr-chuid de luchd nam motair-baidhsagal sin seachad air meadhain-aois, nas fhaigse air seagasd seach triceadh! Nach saoileamaid mar sin gum biadh barrachd túir acá air an rathad, ach ta aon mhathas co-dhùi gum bheil iad air ire de thréanadh faothain agus gum b' fheudar dhaibh deuchainn a' bhanachadh airson cead- dráibhidi faothainn air an inneal a tha fionn smachd. Tha lagh cuideachd a' dèanamh cinnteach gum bheil motair-baidhsagal an cumail ann an deagh staid shàbhailteachd le arachas ionchaidh orra gus dion a thoir dha mhòr-shluagh. Chan ionann sin idir agus na rothairean a tha cuideachd cho lionmhor air na rathaid-

ean agus na sàidean. Dh'fhaodte a ràdh gum bheil an suid-

nights during May and June. Minimal effort was made by BEAR Scotland to highlight this work so I wrote to complain.

I was assured that BEAR Scotland 'listen to the views of locals' and 'take every effort to minimise disruption' but now, with more extensive (and significantly more disruptive) works planned, it slipped out on an announcement on its website on a Friday afternoon, giving 10 days' notice of the impending works, and had the cheek to say that it was 'consulting extensively' with locals, business owners and road owners.

What a load of nonsense. There was no meaningful consultation. BEAR Scotland made its plans with no intention of even considering the impact on local communities or on what local people, local businesses or general road users actually thought.

Despite emails to BEAR Scotland, I've had no personal response to my comments or suggestions. This attitude from an agency of government is totally unacceptable.

Local communities deserve better. Ewan Mathieson, Appin.

It is the drivers who are dangerous

Sir,

There is a lot of talk at the moment of the 'Stay Alive on the A85' campaign, but I'm sure I'm not alone in wishing that the stress should be on the bad drivers, not on the road itself.

I've driven the empty road many times at night and it's done me absolutely no harm at all.

I was driving behind an Audi at 10am today in wet conditions and very poor visibility. The driver continually drifted across the double white lines in an effort to get past slow-moving traffic and eventually made his move, crossing the lines at great speed and overtaking several vehicles at once.

I don't see the point of speed limits and more double white lines as they are all too often ignored.

What we need are cameras to catch the inconsiderate idiots who think they are good drivers but in fact are not. People who deliberately put the lives of others at risk simply to overcome their own impatience should be banned from the road forever.

Maurice Wilkins, Laurel Road, Oban

What happened to pledge of police unit?

Sir,

Should the A82 be closed with a major accident at Onich, drivers travelling north would need to divert back to Crianlarich, then through Killin and Pitlochry to Spean Bridge.

When the new police station at the Blar was proposed one of the ad-

vantages was that there would be an accident investigations unit.

Kath Small, Old Post Office, Ballachulish.

Corran Ferry is a vital lifeline service

Sir,

Is it not time the Highland Council stopped fantasising about the urgent situation at Corran Ferry?

To suggest a bridge or the adaptation of naval vessels seems to me totally absurd in the present financial situation.

What is required immediately is a new, purpose-built boat, probably costing little more than a lengthy survey for a bridge or adapting naval boats.

Surely there is a British shipyard capable of producing a suitable ferry boat. The present Scottish Government seems to be completely oblivious of this crucial service. It is not merely an asset but a vital necessity procuring the livelihoods of so many people in the West Highlands.

This could be a lucrative business and should be invested in immediately.

Morag MacKintosh, Corran Beag, Nether Lochaber.

Explaining economic madness of GERS

Sir,

A nice simple way to understand Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland (GERS).

Imagine the scenario: there's a hard-working, decent, diligent teenager living at home with his parents. He takes home £300 per week and his dad takes all his wages from him and hands back £50 a week, which is barely enough to cover his travel to work and food. The other £250, his dad squanders on stupid vain ideas.

All this means that the family are up to their eyeballs in debt and struggling to buy basic goods, as dad sits at night drinking Ardbeg single malt whisky and eating takeaways.

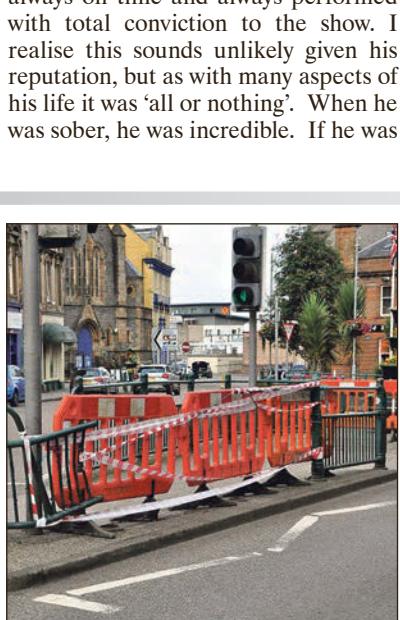
One day the son approaches the dad and says: 'Dad, I think I'm going to move out and get my own place. I've held down my job for a while now and feel the time is right to go out into the world, find myself and enjoy my own independence and freedom.'

His dad replies: 'You've got to be kidding me, son! You barely have enough money to get yourself to work. You obviously aren't smart enough to make a go of things on your own. Just look at the weekly budget. You struggle by, whereas I can afford to eat and drink like a king. For your own good this family is better sticking together.'

Ladies and gentlemen, the GERS figures.

John MacFadyen, Oban.

Ailean Caimbeul



A call for live-streaming of Argyll and Bute Council meetings online garnered plenty of support.

Colin Martin posted: 'It's interesting that the equipment is already in place because the Provost told me in an email the other day, "I was being continually pestered to sign a petition which I felt had not been properly evaluated economically." If the equipment is there what justification does he have in not turning it on!'

Steve Letford agreed: 'What possible valid objection could anyone have to this? Anything that informs and engages the electorate surely leads to us making better decisions at council elections and consequently getting councillors who are better for us and Argyll and Bute - and by golly we could do with that considering some of the representatives we have just now.'

states in the Highway Code about legally sized vehicles and loads allowed on the road.

The planning team should read this before planning the square.

Your letters

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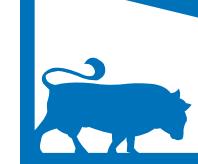
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Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

Le taic bho



SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG

www.smo.uhi.ac.uk

Hospital replacement timetable confirmed

NHS HIGHLAND has confirmed the replacement for the Belford Hospital will continue to be a rural general hospital, with construction due to start in the next four years.

Funding for the new hospital was included in NHS Highland's five-year capital plan published in March 2017 and will be part of a wider re-design of health and social care services in Lochaber.

In October 2015 Highland Council bought land in Fort William at Blair Mhor from Tesco for £2 million and made it available for a new hospital.

Dr Brian Tregaskis, clinical lead for the Belford Hospital, said: 'I am pleased work to progress the new hospital is under way. There will be in-patient beds, 24/7 medical and nursing cover, accident and emergency, operating theatre, surgery, outpatients, renal and maternity services.'

'We are exploring a range of options to provide care both in the hospital and in the community.'

Working in collaboration with NHS Highland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, West Highland College UHI and the Scottish Government, the Highland Council helped secure the Blair Mhor site for a new hospital and potentially a new science academy for the West Highland College.

Dr Tregaskis continued: 'In common with other rural general hospitals there have been increasing difficulties to recruit surgeons, anaesthetists and physicians and this is not set to improve. Therefore we will have to be innovative and will explore all options to design and deliver solutions that will work for Lochaber.'

Smelter firm reveals £170m Laggan wind farm plan

All smiles at North Connel



Despite the year's challenging weather, the number of entries for the North Connel and District Horticultural Show were similar to previous years. There were some admirably large vegetables as well as fantastic entries from these younger prize-winners. For full report and results, see next week's *Oban Times*.

MARK ENTWISTLE

mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

PLANS for a £170 million wind farm on land at Glenshero, near Laggan, have been announced by GFG Alliance, the owner of the aluminium smelter at Fort William.

GFG Alliance this week announced the wind farm, to be developed by its subsidiary SIMEC Energy, will have up to 54 turbines.

SIMEC says the development of renewable energy across its estate lands will contribute valuable low-cost, low-carbon power for industrial schemes such as the smelter and the planned Fort William alloy wheels factory, as well as its steel mills in Lanarkshire.

Now that the GFG Strategy board has given the green light to the investment needed for the wind farm, the next step will be consultation with the local community and stakeholders, culminating in a planning application next year.

GFG says it wants to bring the local community into the wind project with opportunities for shared-ownership and cheaper energy costs for residents.

In addition to the wind energy project, GFG has already unveiled a broad spectrum of ideas for the use of the surrounding estate lands. A London-headquartered international group of businesses, GFG bought the smelter from Rio Tinto Aluminium last year, along with the accompanying 114,000 acres of some of the most beautiful landscape in Scotland.

East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust (ELLCT) has



A recent photo shows Sanjeev Gupta, executive chairman GFG, with Paul Wheelhouse MSP above the Lochaber smelter.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

officer for the GFG Alliance and chief executive of SIMEC Energy, says Glenshero is a unique project for the company.

'It would be built in an environment of zero subsidies, using steel rolled and finished in Scotland and then generate clean energy to support the Scottish metals industry,' he said. 'It is also an exciting opportunity for us to work with the local community and encourage their investment alongside our own. This is truly a win-win project for all parties.'

Duncan Mackison, newly-appointed chief executive of JA-HAMA Highland Estates, the GFG division which manages and develops the estate lands, said: 'We will engage with local stakeholders to bring in those interested in investment in the wind project and make sure the local area shares the potential benefit of the energy generation.'

Regain control of your electric heating

Advertorial

By partially upgrading a system of manual electric storage heaters to Dimplex Quantum heaters is all it took for homeowner Amy Ahmed-Dolphin to cut her heating bills by more than £500 per year – and improve comfort and controllability too.

Quantum is the world's most advanced off-peak heater and the perfect replacement for an old, outdated storage heater - it uses low-cost, off-peak energy to make it the most economical off-peak electric heating system on the market today. Intelligently adapting to match climatic conditions and your lifestyle, delivering heat only when it is needed, 24 hours a day, it can be installed as a standalone heater or part of a system.



The house is far more comfortable, even in the coldest days of winter."

Amy Ahmed-Dolphin said: "The results were instantaneous. From the very first time we turned the Dimplex heaters on, we could see the benefits they delivered. We have greater control, we're no longer relying on supplementary heaters in the evening and the house is far more comfortable, even in the coldest days of winter. And that's without even calculating the cost savings of course."

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We are in Kilmallie Community Centre, FORT WILLIAM 12th Sept & Corran Halls, OBAN 13th Sept
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REDRING

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**12th September
9.30am – 5pm**

Kilmallie Community Centre, Station Road, Corpach, Fort William
PH33 7JH

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9.30am – 5pm**

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**TV'S FAVOURITE ANTIQUES EXPERTS
RETURN TO SCOTLAND**

Two of television's favourite antiques dealers will be returning to Argyll in September and will be paying top prices for antiques, gold and silver.

Simon Schneider and Tim Hogarth regularly appear on television and are highly trusted and respected for their knowledge and expertise. The antiques experts are returning due to popular demand and will be appearing at The Stag Hotel in **Lochgilphead** on Wednesday 6 September 2017, The Anchor Hotel in **Tarbert** on Thursday 7 September 2017, at The Argyll Arms Hotel in **Campbeltown** on Friday 8 September 2017 and The Regent Hotel in **Oban** on Saturday 9 September 2017.

The dealers are inviting both new and former clients to come along to meet them and cash in on their unwanted antiques and forgotten treasures.

Tim Hogarth said: "Simon and I had a great response last time we visited Scotland and have hundreds of satisfied customers. We are delighted to be returning to Argyll and we hope people will search their cupboards and bring along some unusual and interesting items."

Simon Schneider added: "The antiques business is very strong at the moment and we will pay top cash prices for gold, silver and quality items similar to those illustrated."

Tim and Simon deal extensively in general antiques and cover all aspects of the antiques business and guarantee to offer the highest prices for those items they wish to purchase.

Tim Hogarth is greatly respected for his expertise and experience appraising and dealing in diamond jewellery and vintage watches and medals.

Tim Hogarth commented: "Diamond jewellery is very much in demand as are period pieces from the 1930s to 1950s and I have strong customers waiting for good examples, regardless of condition. I am also keen to purchase vintage wrist watches, the big names, Rolex, Cartier and Omega, are all selling well and this is a great time to cash in on these and similar items."

"The market for medals continues to be very good at the moment and some examples, especially from the First World War, are making higher prices than ever."



Simon Schneider is highly trusted and widely acknowledged as an expert in 20th Century decorative antiques and also deals extensively in antique silver.

Simon Schneider said: "Tim and I are both keen to spend, spend, spend! The market for gold and silver is still very strong and we will be offering top prices for items even if broken. Where Tim loves his diamonds, watches and medals, I am very keen to buy quality examples from the Art Nouveau and Art Deco periods as well as fine period silver. The demand for silver tea sets, trays, trophies snuff boxes and similar items is very strong, particularly for the larger examples."

"I also have strong demand for good quality ceramics. Royal Worcester, Moorcroft, Shelley and Clarice Cliff are all selling well and the interest in Chinese and oriental antiques is huge."

The dealers are looking forward to meeting as many people as possible and will be paying top cash prices. As Simon said: "Between us, Tim and I cover most aspects of the antiques business and we hope to find some good quality examples of all the items we have mentioned."

Tim and Simon guarantee no queues and no appointments are necessary however the dealers are happy to do a home visit if anyone is unable to come along during the day or has something too large to bring in. For more information please contact Simon Schneider on telephone 07801 474331 or email info@simonschneiderantiques.co.uk.



We will pay a minimum of



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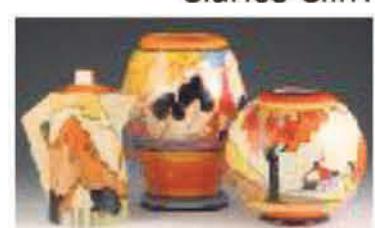
£50 to £1,500+

Silverware:



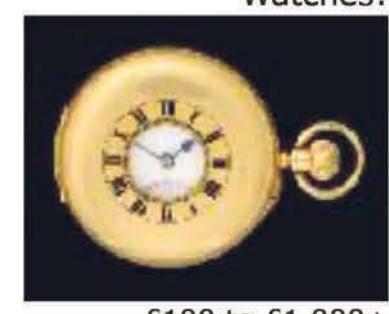
£50 to £500+

Clarice Cliff:



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Thursday 7th September 2017 - 10am to 5pm**THE ARGYLL ARMS HOTEL**

60 MAIN STREET, CAMPBLETOWN, ARGYLL, PA28 6AB

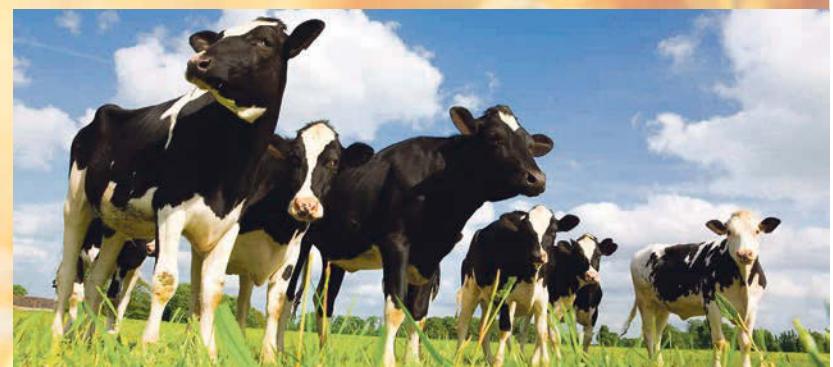
Friday 8th September 2017 – 10am to 5pm**THE REGENT HOTEL**

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**Saturday 9th September 2017 – 10am to 4pm**

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For more information please Telephone 07801 474331 or Email info@simonschneiderantiques.co.uk

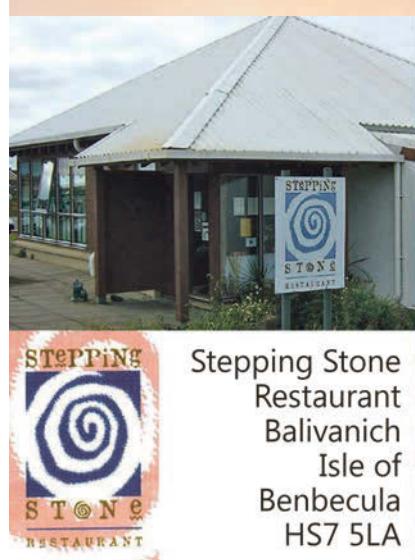


Public urged to support Scottish Food and Drink Fortnight this month

Scottish Food and Drink Fortnight is a nationwide event which supports and promotes Scotland's produce and the people who grow, make, cook and sell it. Once again, the fortnight is encouraging the great Scottish public to take part by changing just one thing (#onethingfortnight) about how much Scottish food and drink they buy and eat. This year's celebration will take place between Saturday September 2 and Sunday

September 17 inclusive, and we would love everyone across Scotland, of all ages, to join in to champion Scotland's delicious larder and change one thing (#onethingfortnight) for 2017. Tying in with the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, Scottish Food and Drink Fortnight is profiling the following daily food themes and asking everyone, to simply change one thing (#onethingfortnight):

Sat 2nd - Sun 17th September 2017

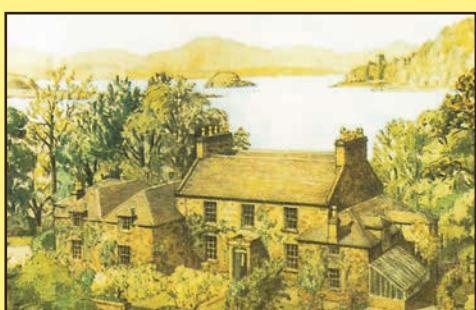


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in their daily sandwich; families may seek out Scottish labels on food and drink at the supermarket or visit their local butcher or baker – the possibilities are endless.

'Just one change can make a huge difference.' Scottish Food and Drink Fortnight 2017 officially launched at the start of September.

Sat 2nd Sept
Sun 3rd Sept
Mon 4th Sept
Tues 5th Sept
Wed 6th Sept
Thurs 7th Sept
Fri 8th Sept
Sat 9th Sept

Picnic
Afternoon tea
Office meeting
Packed lunch
TV dinner
Sport snack
Children's party
Drinks party

Sun 10th Sept
Mon 11th Sept
Tues 12th Sept
Wed 13th Sept
Thurs 14th Sept
Fri 15th Sept
Sat 16th Sept
Sun 17th Sept

Weekend lunch
Coffee break
Breakfast
Family meal
Street food
BBQ
Fine dining
Brunch

Fiona Richmond, Head of Regional Food, said: 'Using the daily themes as inspiration, we are searching the archives for historical recipes and asking chefs to provide us with recipes that offer their own modern take on a theme. We will be sharing these recipes, old and new, with the public, alongside other fascinating and delicious hints, tips and facts about Scottish food and drink.'

'All the while, we'll be asking people to make use of these ideas to change '#onethingfortnight' about the way in which they interact with Scottish produce. For example, an office worker may switch to Scotch Beef or Scottish Salmon

GLEN SCOTIA

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

It's been a successful year for all things Glen Scotia in 2017 with the distillery proud to be voted the "Best Campbeltown Distillery 2017" at the Berlin International Spirits Awards in March. In addition to picking up new awards attendance records were broken for the Glen Scotia Open Day at this year's Campbeltown Whisky Festival when the distillery held its first "Opening Night" dinner in the Ardshiel Hotel with special guest Charles Maclean.

As Glen Scotia continues to grow support around the world, with new international markets reached monthly, the range also continues to grow with the launch of two new aged expressions, 18 and 25 year old.

Glen Scotia has continued to support local events by sponsoring the Campbeltown Marathon, Highland Games, Carradale Golf Tournament, Argyll Bowling Club Glen Scotia Shield as well as hosting the exhibition "The Road to Drumleman" about mining in the area in the refurbished kiln house at the distillery.

Iain McAlister, our distillery manager, was



a guest of honour at a celebration lunch attended by HRH Duke of Edinburgh for the St Nazaire Raid involving HMS Campbeltown during the WW 2. We created special labels for our Double Cask to mark the occasion with bottles available to purchase by the attendees. Iain McAlister distillery manager said "We are pleased to support local events as well developing the Glen Scotia brand around the world and we were all very proud to win "Best Campbeltown Distillery 2017", a testament to the hard work and dedication of the whole team at the distillery"



GLEN SCOTIA

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

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Autumn Bride Guide



On the beautiful west coast of Scotland, couples are spoiled for choice when it comes to fabulous autumn wedding venues. Each year, more than 1,000 lucky couples choose the west coast for their special day, and since there are no residential qualifications for getting married in Scotland, it is a popular wedding destination for people from all over the world.

According to Provost of Argyll and Bute Councillor Len Scouller anyone choosing to have their wedding here is assured of the warmest of welcomes. 'Whether you already stay in the area

or are thinking about coming here for your big day, you can rest assured that you will find the ideal location for your ceremony', he said. 'We have romantic old castles, breathtaking mountains, beautiful lochs, thousands of miles of stunning coastline, sunny sandy beaches, and much more.'

Couples can opt for a religious or civil ceremony that is conducted by an authorised or assistant registrar. Either way, you will need to complete the necessary paperwork (Marriage Notice M10 forms) which can be obtained at any registrar's office or downloaded from www.arryll-bute.gov.uk. The forms should be submitted to the registrar in the district you are getting married no



later than 29 days before the proposed wedding date. The sooner you book the more likely you will be able to get your preferred date, a provisional booking can be made with the required paperwork submitted later, it is advisable to get your forms in six to eight weeks prior to your wedding. For non-British citizens, there may be additional paperwork, so they should start the process even earlier.

'The couples who entrust us with their special occasions always remark on how warm, friendly and helpful our registrars are', Councillor Scouller said. 'Their dedication and commitment, combined with the plethora of perfect locations available, makes for a truly memorable day. Argyll and Bute really can offer it all – come and visit us, and see for yourself.'

Many venues, whether a hotel, castle or garden, usually offer total wedding packages, so can be an excellent choice for couples who prefer to have all the details taken care of by a knowledgeable and professional staff. In addition, there are many experienced florists, jewellers, outfitters and caterers in the area that can take care of everything you need. In addition, ceremonies can take place at any registrar's office.

Engaged couples can find out more on Argyll and Bute Council's website at arryll-bute.gov.uk, or contact the register directly at registrars@arryll-bute.gov.uk. Check out their online Civil Ceremonies guide, which is packed with information, venues and ideas for the perfect wedding day.

ARDANISEIG by Loch Awe



In a remote place of quiet tranquility and almost surreal natural beauty, where the slopes of Ben Cruachan fall in to the clear waters of Loch Awe, there is a small, luxurious and wild romantic old country house hotel.

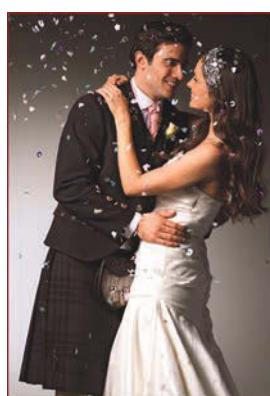


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Ardnameig

Top romantic hotel saves the best for winter

Scotland's most romantic hotel is warming up winter with cosy weekend packages.

Ardnameig is offering the opportunity to escape to some of the UK's most spectacular scenery and enjoy living as a Highland clan chief in one of its finest rooms overlooking Loch Awe in Argyll.

The package is aimed at guests eager to share romance, families looking to relax together, and city and town dwellers wishing to swap hectic lifestyles for a few days of luxurious rural living.

The package includes accommodation in a Master Loch or Master Garden View Suite, breakfast, a hearty three-course dinner, and afternoon tea in its sumptuous drawing room which gazes out on Scotland's third largest freshwater loch and the hotel's private island.

Guests can unwind with a dram of malt whisky or glass of port in front of a roaring log fire after a stroll around

the loch or a 'wellies' (provided by the hotel) ramble through the 120-acre woodland estate which features streams, waterfalls and a secret walled garden.

Ardnameig, a 20-minute drive from the main road between Glasgow and Oban (gateway to the Hebridean islands), is a listed Grade 2 building which showcases oil paintings and quirky antique furnishings. It was named by the editors of the 2017 edition of the UK Good Hotel Guide as Scotland's best romantic and country house hotel.

The inclusive Winter Warmer package, priced at £295 per room per night, is available between Thursdays and Mondays from October 5 to March 5 2018. Children aged 2-12 years sharing their parents' room pay half rate.

For more information or to make a reservation call 01866-833333, email hello@ardnameig.com or see www.ardnameig.com.

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Ardlamont House

Ardlamont House, set within spectacular coastal scenery, is the most romantic venue for your special day. The Estate dates back to 1664 when it was the seat of the Lamont Clan.

Situated at the bottom of the Cowal Peninsula in Argyll, it is a classic Georgian property with wonderful views of Arran, Bute, the Mull of Kintyre and boasts a mile and a half of beach. Ardlamont House can sleep up to 22 guests in the main house, as well as self catering cottages on the Estate for your Guests. We can offer a bespoke package to suit your personal choice for your Special Day. Included in the package is a luxurious Marquee which can be situated on the lawns and can accommodate up to 100 Guests. This can be booked independently of Ardlamont House.

Ardlamont House is a licensed Wedding Venue. Step back in time and enjoy the beginning of your future, surrounded by the ambience and elegance of a bygone era.

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Website: www.ardlamonthouse.co.uk

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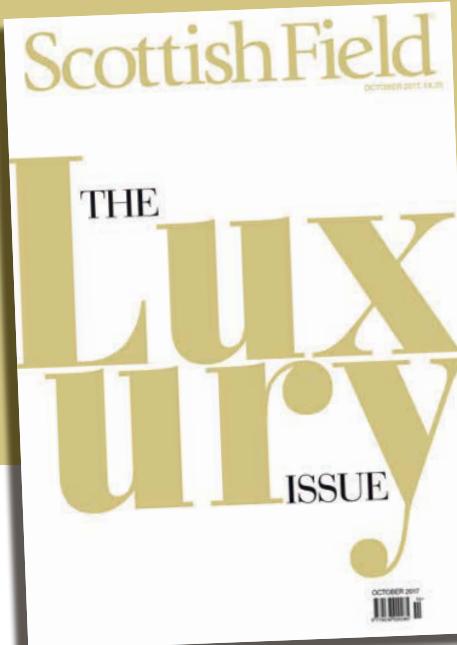
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THE KEELEES

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SATURDAY

SHENANIGANS

DONE 'N' DUSTED

SAT AFTERNOON

THE DEMOCRATS

SAT PM

THE KEELEES

CHERRY VALENTINE

ANCHOR HOTEL

Friday 9pm till late

Saturday 9pm till late

TWO BOB ROCKET

Sunday - Food available on The Quay

Sunday night survivors night - check local pubs for what's on after 6pm



A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 7 September –
Thursday 14 September 2017

DIARDAOIN 07 SULTAIN
THURSDAY 07 SEPTEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's
programming

19.00 Bailean Alba – Looking at the
history of Scotland's towns (rpt)

19.25 Speaking our Language (rpt)

19.50 Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber – Ceòl
bho Perthshire Amber with acclaimed singer
Benny Gallagher (rpt)

20.00 An Lá – News

20.30 Gaisgich na Stòirme – Storm Heroes
(rpt)

21.00 Turas Tony – Rèis Beinn Neibhis –
Tony Kearney swaps the comfort of a television
studio for a physical and emotional challenge

(rpt)
22.00 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan –
Skipinnish (rpt)

22.30 Tuiteman an Teaghlach Romanov –
The story of the assassination of Nicholas
Romanov and his family (rpt)

23.00 Togaidh Sinn Fonn – A selection of
Scotland's best musicians and singers

23.50 Dhan Uisge – Wild swimming with
Calum Maclean (rpt)

DIHAOINE 08 SULTAIN
FRIDAY 08 SEPTEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's
programming

18.35 Machair – Gaelic soap based on the
Isle of Lewis (rpt)

18.50 An Lá – News

19.25 Pro 14 Live Rugby – Edinburgh v
Dragons

21.30 Stoiddle – Sandra Murray explores
how people create their own individual style
(rpt)

22.00 Hòro Ghéalaigh (rpt)

23.00 UR | NEW: An Klondike – Dominion

Creek – Drama, S2 Ep4/4
23.50 Dhan Uisge – Calum MacLean
swimming in far-flung places (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 09 SULTAIN
SATURDAY 09 SEPTEMBER

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's
programming

17.30 Machair – Gaelic soap based on the
Isle of Lewis (rpt)

17.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)

18.00 Scottish Premiership – Hearts v
Aberdeen

20.00 Craic – women's panel discussion (rpt)

20.30 Minathan-glùine – Highland
Midwives (rpt)

21.00 UR | NEW: Tàtù Rioghail Dhùn
Eideann 2017 – Best moments from the
Edinburgh Military Tattoo

22.35 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan –
Rachel Semmern (rpt)

23.00 Scottish Premiership – Hearts v
Aberdeen (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 10 SULTAIN

UNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER
16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's
programming

18.30 Seachd Lá – News Review
19.30 Alleluia! (rpt)

20.00 Dualchas a' Chaisteil – The story of
renovation of the Lewis Castle in Stornoway
(rpt)

20.30 Gaisgich na Stòirme – Donnie
Mackay braves our stormy weather (rpt)

21.00 A gu U: An do Bhlas thu? – A choice
of menu dishes from the BBC archive Ep2/2
(rpt)

22.00 Dha Gordon a-mhàin – Life and
music of piper Gordon Duncan (rpt)

23.00 An Klondike – Dominion Creek –
Drama, S2 Ep4/4 (rpt)

23.50 Dhan Uisge – Calum MacLean
swimming in far-flung places (rpt)

DILUIN 11 SULTAIN
ONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's
programming

19.00 Bailean Alba – Looking at the
history of Scotland's towns (rpt)

19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)

19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)

19.00 Sruth gu Sàl – series looking at the
waterways of Scotland (rpt)

19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)

19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh – History Shorts
(rpt)

20.00 An Lá – News

20.30 Fionnlagh – An affectionate and
candid portrait of Finlay J Macdonald (rpt)

21.00 Trusadh – A' Ceannsachadh Cior-
ram – How Scotland's disabled community are
accessing the country's wilderness (rpt)

22.00 Bannan 53, Ep5 (rpt)

22.35 The Northern Lights – Servicing
lighthouses in Scotland in 1969 (rpt)

23.30 Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)

23.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 12 SULTAIN
TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's
programming

19.00 Sruth gu Sàl (rpt)

19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)

19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh – History shorts
(rpt)

20.00 An Lá – News

20.30 Dualchas a' Chaisteil – The story of
renovation of the Lewis Castle in Stornoway
(rpt)

21.00 Bothan nam Beann – Bothy Life (rpt)

20.00 An Lá – News

20.30 Mnathan-glùine – Highland
Midwives (rpt)

21.00 Sàr-sgeòil: The Lewis Trilogy – The
locations in Peter May's Lewis Trilogy (rpt)

22.00 Trusadh – A' Ceannsachadh Cior-
ram – How Scotland's disabled community are
accessing the country's wilderness (rpt)

23.00 Craic – Women's discussion panel
(rpt)

23.30 Alleluia! (rpt)

DICADAIN 13 SULTAIN
WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's
programming

19.00 Sruth gu Sàl (rpt)

19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)

19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)

20.00 An Lá – News

20.30 Dualchas a' Chaisteil – The story of
renovation of the Lewis Castle in Stornoway
(rpt)

21.00 Bothan nam Beann – Bothy Life (rpt)

22.00 Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)

22.20 Bannan (rpt)

22.55 Turas Tony – Rèis Beinn Neibhis –
Tony Kearney swaps the comfort of a television
studio for a physical and emotional challenge (rpt)

DIARDAIN 14 SULTAIN
THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's
programming

19.05 Bailean Alba – Looking at the
history of Scotland's towns (rpt)

19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)

19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)

20.00 An Lá – News

20.30 Gaisgich na Stòirme – Storm Heroes
(rpt)

21.00 Balach nam Bàgh – The remarkable
story of John D Urquhart (rpt)

22.00 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan –
Martin Stephenson & the Daintees (rpt)

22.40 Losgadh air a' Phàp – The attempted
assassination of Pope John Paul II (rpt)

23.35 Togaidh Sinn Fonn (rpt)

Gaelic Drama Trail stops by Oban High

As the Blas Festival of Highland culture gets into full swing, four aspiring young Gaelic actors on a Gaelic Drama Trail are this week visiting Oban High School.

The project called Dràma air Chuairt, run by Feànan nan Gàidheal, evolved from its successful Ceilidh Trail, but this time replaces musicians with actors.

The four young actors who successfully auditioned for the project, Norman Macleod, Josie Campbell, Amina Davidson and David Mackenzie, will learn drama skills before performing a play in front of large audiences on a tour of the Highlands and Argyll.

Their performance of The Adder's Stone takes place at the Glen Mhor Hotel, Inverness on Saturday September 9 at 1pm.

Clach na Nathrach has been described as

'light-hearted, funny and supernatural'. The story explores the life of Coinneach, a boy who has always believed that he should have the second sight, but it never comes to him.

He then goes to gain success from the adder's stone and ends up with great power.

Sweaty Hugs at Bookends Festival

Prepare for 'Sweaty Hugs' at Benderloch's Bookends Festival – a new book exploring how free fitness is changing lives.

Written by first time author Kathleen Anderson, this book explores everything from mental health to community building, homesickness to belonging. It will make you laugh, cry and inspire you to get your trainers on and find some free fitness,' writes Kathleen.

The author – a Scot and fitness-phobe – first came across free fitness movements in Boston, Massachusetts. With humour and insight she examines three core benefits of engaging in free fitness – community, culture and mindset – while retelling her story of finding fitness and the difference it made to her through funny and honest blog exerts.

Kathleen Anderson was born in Glasgow, Scotland. She has an

MSc in Corporate and Organizational Communications from Northeastern University, Boston where she spent 18 months studying. It was during that time that fitness became a significant aspect of her life, something she never thought would happen being fitness-phobic.

Kath has now taken the leap to quit her job and write her first book in the hope of inspiring others.

Sweaty Hugs uses the November Project movement as a case study. November Project is grassroots fitness movement that is taking the US by storm and doesn't show any sign of slowing down. In an interview that features in the book, November Project Boston, co-leader Chris Capozzi, says: 'Every person you talk to that comes here as a core member says it has changed their lives and made their lives better.'



Bookends ambassador Sue Greenwood, left, tops up Barcaldine's book bin, as Susan McIntyre arrives for a rake.

'This book is for anyone interested in fitness: from first-timers to athletes, PE teachers to sports scientists, coaches to personal fitness instructors,' Kathleen said. 'Whoever you are, after reading Sweaty Hugs you will feel

inspired and motivated.' Meanwhile, the festival's book bins are spreading round the country, organiser Joy Cameron said. The boxes are a 'place to swap, donate or choose books to take away as well as pick up a print version

of the programme for Bookends 2017,' she added. 'The book bin proved so popular with Barcaldine residents it became a permanent feature and has sustained readers over last winter into spring and through this



Kathleen Anderson, whose new book Sweaty Hugs explores how free fitness is changing lives.

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42 ABV
Approximately £25



I have started to run two of the rooms in my home as an Air BnB. I've had people from all over the world who've come to stay for a day or two. Putting one German couple aside for the moment, everyone has taken an interest in whisky. They want to know four things: what distilleries to visit, what each bottle tastes like, a wee bit of history of each bottle and finally what is the peatiest one. They've even encouraged me to open most of the gantry up to them. So I decided that I would buy a bottle of a blend to stave off my diminishing supplies.

It has worked well so far. That was until my old friend Mr Rodney Bennet came to stay. He managed to open my Turus Mara from the Jura distillery and polish off a whole quarter of it. Mr Bennet has tried on a number of occasions to tempt us into drinking Welsh whisky. I am very biased about Scottish and Japanese whisky, and I couldn't see past them to be kind about it. Now back to the German couple, they had a fear of whisky. The man wanted to try something, but his partner, a beautiful and domineering woman, would simply not allow it. However, after they left I found a wee note from Simon to say how much he'd enjoyed the stay. He said next time he'd like to try some whisky. Maybe I'll keep a touch of that Jura Distillery Turus Mara to share with him.

Louise Glen

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

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

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

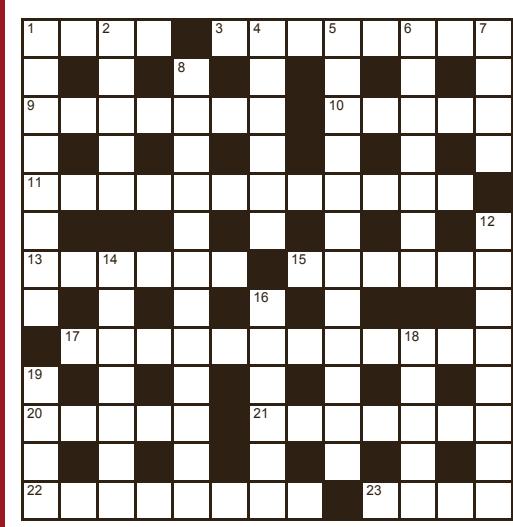
THURSDAY: 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13:00 Elaine's Time Capsule, 15:00 Gordon Cove, 17:00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19:00 Christine's Collection, 21:00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.

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

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

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

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



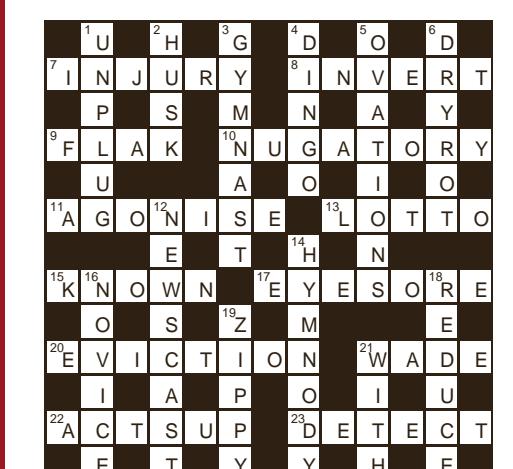
Across

- 1 Wished (4)
- 3 Fearful (8)
- 9 Relating to the lymph glands (7)
- 10 Get rid of (5)
- 11 Capable of being ruined (12)
- 13 Seafood (6)
- 15 One from East Africa (6)
- 17 Not able to gain monies from (12)
- 20 Elaborate display (5)
- 21 Against the law (7)
- 22 An example set as a pattern (8)
- 23 Wheel cover (4)

Down

- 1 Wave a weapon (8)
- 2 Grounds (5)
- 4 Make happen (6)
- 5 Story based on days gone by (3,5,4)
- 6 Perform better than another (7)
- 7 Place in London (4)
- 8 Having a cowardly outlook (4-8)
- 12 Support (8)
- 14 Ring shaped (7)
- 16 Distant from the shore (6)
- 18 Loose fitting (5)
- 19 Tear up (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



WIN

AN OVERNIGHT STAY FOR TWO AT LINKS HOUSE WITH A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE

Links House at Royal Dornoch in the Scottish Highlands is a country house hotel and restaurant in the finest tradition, offering luxury accommodation combined with the charm, grace and elegance of the world's finest luxury small hotels. Links House Hotel has been beautifully restored to reflect the drama of

its setting, overlooking the first tee at Royal Dornoch Golf Club. With just 14 bedrooms, guests can luxuriate in Links House Hotel as if visiting their own country house. Voted Scotland's Style Hotel of the Year in 2017, Links House is an oasis of calm and perfect for a Highland break.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:

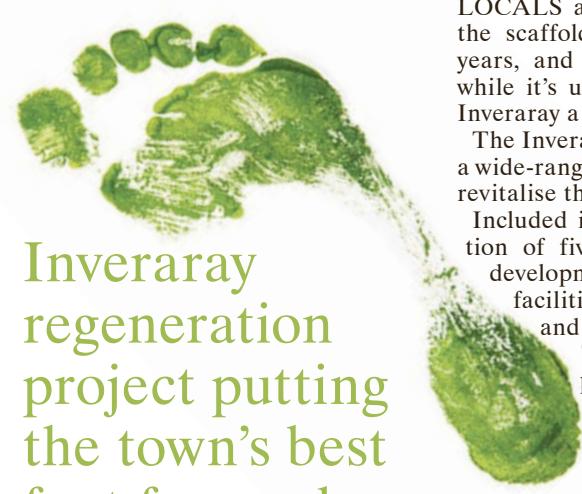
What was Links House voted in 2017?

Prize subject to availability.

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. Information will be shared with promoters and sponsors.

Inveraray

The Royal Burgh
that has it all...



Inveraray
regeneration
project putting
the town's best
foot forward

ON the A83 along Loch Fyne lies the striking whitewashed town of Inveraray, built by the 3rd Duke of Argyll in the 1700s. Perched on a hilltop high above, visible from most directions, is the beguiling silhouette of the Dun na Cuaiche watchtower, an early clue to the eclectic nature of the Royal Burgh of Inveraray.

Out of a Fairytale

The town's biggest attraction is Inveraray Castle, the living home of the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, and it is one of the most beautiful castles in the west of Scotland. It boasts fairytale turrets and a magical setting at the heart of the historic Argyll Estates. Used as a location for the filming of Downton Abbey, the castle and gardens are open for tours, where visitors can see a huge collection of historic weaponry and artefacts related

to the duchy. Once a year, the castle welcomes lovers of Highland culture from all around the world for the annual Best of the West Festival.

Exploring the Royal Burgh

Inveraray isn't just about history. On a stroll down its lively streets, you can find everything from crafts made by local artisans to traditional woollen goods, from art galleries to fishmongers, from fine clothing to fine spirits. Love to hit the links, or do you prefer a luxury pampering at an award-winning spa? Either way, Inveraray has you covered.

Eating is a grand pastime here, where the seafood is served pier-to-plate in both fine restaurants and chippies, and the cafés offer a warm smile along with a cuppa and a cake. Whether your taste runs to haggis or curry, there is something for every palette in Inveraray.

Best of the West FESTIVAL

Best of the West 2017

MUSIC, food and drink – the Best of the West will be on show at BOWFest 2017, and with buses running from Oban, there's never been a better time to attend Scotland's finest boutique festival.

On September 8, 9 and 10, the grounds of Inveraray Castle will welcome lovers of Highland culture from all around the world for the seventh annual Best of the West Festival. If you are going to be there, why not check out all the other great things Inveraray has to offer!

Inveraray is one of the first planned towns and has survived remarkably well in its original 18th-century street plan. It has many attractive and architecturally important buildings, many of which are A-listed.

Nowadays, Inveraray is vibrant little town, with cheerful white-harled buildings, a sparkling waterfront, world class shops and cosy cafés. Time your visit to Inveraray well, and you could hear the changes rung from All

Saints Bell Tower, which houses the second heaviest peal of 10 bells in the world (change ringing is the technique of rotating each bell through 360 degrees using a rope and wheel). Or catch the sound of the championship Inveraray and District Pipe Band, which occasionally rehearses outdoors on the waterfront. Nothing stirs the soul quite like the sound of bagpipes and drums floating over the loch!



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The George Hotel

WHETHER you are staying over, or just stopping in on your way to BOWFest, the award-winning George Hotel is a firm favourite for rooms, food and drink with visitors and locals alike.

This historic set of buildings was erected in 1770 when the 3rd Duke of Argyll built the planned town, and in 1860 the Clark family joined the two houses into the George Hotel. For seven generations, the Clarks have welcomed holiday makers from around the world, as well as their area clientele, who are happy to drive from as far away as Oban or Fort William to enjoy the first-rate cuisine, friendly service and charming ambience – complete with flagstone floors and four roaring fireplaces.

The current owner, Donald Clark, has sensitively restored the rooms, restaurant areas and bars to create an authentic, stylish atmosphere, and now his son, Kris, is carrying on the family tradition, as he and his wife, Marine and their three

daughters live on site and are active in the business.

The menu at the George features the very best of the local bounty at reasonable prices, from well hung West Highland beef and lamb to seafood and fish fresh from the pier to plate.

Traditional fare such as the Loch Fyne seafood platter and pan fried Highland venison collops are menu favourites, along with innovative dishes such as slow-baked peppers with vegetable and raisin couscous and North African-styled roasted chicken supreme in a light harissa paste. Be sure to leave room for an indulgent homemade dessert!

The bars proffer an impressive choice of real ales, including the renowned Fyne Ales, as well as more than 100 malt whiskies and an extensive wine list.

No wonder the George is listed in the Good Pub and Good Beer Guides.

No trip to Inveraray is complete without a visit to The George Hotel on Main Street East. Join them on Facebook or visit www.thegeorgehotel.co.uk.

Living in the past

ECHOES of Inveraray's murkier past have actually become part of its attraction.

In the 1800s, Inveraray Jail housed the undesirables of Argyll society, from convicted killers to the insane, to children caught stealing apples, in damp, cramped cells bleakly positioned on the edge of Loch Fyne.

Today, the jail is a living museum, where actors tell stories of former inmates and visitors can try out punishments like the crank machine and whipping table, or take a nap on a 'guard bed', a plank mattress with a hard wooden pillow that was



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Trials could
bear fruit
for Scotland

SCIENTISTS have been researching ways to produce food more suited to a Scottish climate. The research has funded trials of new raspberries, blackcurrants and potatoes which are better able to fight diseases and cope with climate change.

The studies on food, plants and animals has generated £600 million of economic benefit and supported more than 2,800 Scottish jobs, new analysis has shown.

The 2011-2016 Strategic Research Programme, commissioned by the Scottish Government, includes work to create new crop varieties and control the spread of animal disease.

Dr Virend Ranawana, scientist at the Rowett Institute commenting on the research, said: 'Diet-related chronic diseases are increasing in the UK despite government dietary guidelines, and one reason for this is that most of us are often unable to change our dietary habits.'

'Reformulating foods we like to eat in order to make them healthier is an alternative approach to improving health.'

'We have been exploring how some under-exploited natural products, suited to production in a Scottish climate, can be used to produce healthier food options and one example is the berries, salal and honeyberry, which may be used to produce more nutritious yogurts.'

Debate continues over treatment for pine weevil

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

A TINY bug is causing a huge debate within the UK forestry industry over how to kill it.

The pine weevil, *Hylobius abietis*, is the most harmful insect pest in Britain's young re-planted forests, and foresters are divided over the use of a pesticide called acetamiprid, or Gazelle.

The insect develops in the stumps of felled conifers and the adults feed on the bark of the replacement plants, and when it is girdled by extensive and deep feeding wounds, the young tree is killed.

Insecticides are usually needed to protect trees during the vulnerable establishment period and these are applied either before or after planting. However, there are concerns about the effects of insecticide use in forests on the wider environment.

One controversial group of pesticides, called neonicotinoids, are neurotoxins that act on the insect's nervous system, resulting in paralysis and death. They are taken up in the sap as the plant grows



The pine weevil at work.

and transported to roots, stems, leaves and flowers, so that insect herbivores such as aphids will die after consuming treated crops.

But a 2013 study of three neonicotinoids by the European Food Safety Authority found neonicotinoids pose an unacceptably high risk to bees, leading the EU to ban certain neonicotinoids.

Last month Luxembourg backed a European Commission bid to reduce three active substances in neonicotinoids

- clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam - across Europe. The proposal did not target the two other neonicotinoids: thiacloprid and acetamiprid, which are approved across the bloc.

In the UK, all five neonicotinoids are registered for use, mainly for treatment of oilseed rape, cereals and potatoes, but acetamiprid is used as the last line of defence against the pine weevil.

Tilhill, which manages forestry in Argyll, sought to reassure the public, saying: 'On affected

sites in the absence of protective measures, losses of replanted trees will average around 50 per cent, but in the worst affected sites they can reach 100 per cent.

'Both conifers and native broadleaves are destroyed and without remedial action, in some circumstances, it can become impossible to establish trees and regenerate forests.'

'A range of non-chemical methods are adopted as a first resort, often in combination, but in some cases due to the exceptionally high populations of *Hylobius*, as a last resort carefully targeted applications of insecticide may need to be made. Acetamiprid is usually the preferred option.'

'Unlike agricultural cropping, in forestry no widespread spraying takes place.'

'Instead, 20 millilitres of the formulation is very carefully directed as a targeted spray onto the vulnerable part of each young tree's stem and foliage only.'

'Actual quantities of pesticide applied on a per hectare basis are very low compared to agricultural uses - an equivalent of only around 0.4 kilograms of

Gazelle product per hectare is used, or 80 grams per hectare of acetamiprid active ingredient, for a maximum of twice a year, and normally only for the first two to three years of a typical forest rotation of 35-75 years.'

'Often, trees are pre-treated with acetamiprid in a closed system in a tree nursery before they are planted in the forest, which means that the need to spray is reduced.'

'When these trees are planted they are dry and the insecticide has already been absorbed by the tree, which means the risk of any insecticide contamination of the wider environment is very low.'

'Unlike some other neonicotinoids, acetamiprid has never been linked to bee decline and is 400 times less toxic to bees than cypermethrin - the insecticide that was previously used to protect young trees against *Hylobius*, for which acetamiprid has been brought in as a substitute.'

'It has been accepted as safe to use within Europe, and this decision is subject to periodic review to take account of new safety data as it becomes available.'

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

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

Sunday September 10 Corryhully Bothy, Glen Finnian

A circular walk in a lovely glen, under the McAlpine Viaduct, with views of the big hills around the Coire Thollaidh Horseshoe. Visit the Glenfinnan monument after the walk for a grand view down Loch Shiel.

Start at the car park just before the gate to the estate road at NM906808. Follow the estate road NE, under the railway viaduct. Continue for another 600m and turn right over a bridge. Follow the track N through the forest, close to the River Finnian for about 2½ Km.

On emerging from the forest continue N on the track and cross the footbridge at NM917849. Climb a short slope to reach another track and follow it NE, across the ford or a rickety footbridge over the Allt a' Choire Charnaig. Continue to the confluence of two rivers at the foot of Coire Thollaidh.

Retrace steps to the ford, then continue SW to Corryhully Bothy at NM912844. A short distance W is the main estate road. Follow it S by the River Finnian back to the start.

Grade: L; Distance: 12Km; Height to climb: 200m; Map(s): LR40, EX398. Meet at Fort William WM NN112742 at 10am, start of walk at 10.30am. Leader: Marion Moir on 07747 830453.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Please see full walk details at www.nevishillwalking.club.

If anyone would like to go out on the walk please contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email [enquiries@nevishillwalking.club](mailto:nevishillwalking.club).

Saturday September 9 Glen Etive - Beinn nan Aighenan and Glas Bheinn Mhor

Start at the Coileitir Farm track, NN136468, where limited parking is available. Head E on the track, cross the River Etive and follow it SW, past Coileitir and cross the Allt nam Meirleach on the footbridge.

Head S on the path up to the col at NN139423, 766m. Descend SE across the slope past a group of lochans on a spur, to reach the col at the foot of the N ridge of Beinn nan Aighenan. Climb the ridge to its summit.

Return to the foot of the N ridge and climb back up to the 766m col. Head E up the ridge, over Meall nan Tri Tighearnan, 892m, and up to the summit of Glas Bheinn Mhor.

Descend N, curving NW and cross the Allt Choire Dhuibh above its confluence with the Allt Mheurach to reach a footpath at NN143441.

Follow the path on the W bank, above the Robbers' Waterfall and cross the Allt nam Meirleach at the Ford, NN138449. Rejoin the outward route back to Coileitir.

Maurice Wilkins, Keep Oban Beautiful. Suggested by Anne Scoular; coordinated by Suzanne Theobald.

Sea Eagle Shelly spotted in Sutherland

A MULL sea eagle that was fitted with a satellite as a chick has been spotted after a four-year hiatus - and she is raising a family in the Scottish Highlands.

People around the world followed 'Shelly's' movements in 2010, as she explored the Isle of Mull and the west coast of Scotland in her first year.

As she got older she began wandering further afield to Skye, the central Highlands, before exploring the Outer Hebrides, and spending a lot of time on Lewis.

In 2013, while on Lewis, the tag 'came off as planned' and RSPB Scotland and Mull Eagle Watch believed that with satellite to follow, the chance of seeing Shelly again were slim.

And this was the case until Iain Paterson photographed a sea eagle as it fished in a remote sea loch in Sutherland.

Iain reported the bird's blue and silver colour leg ring which read: 'C9 39'. Dave Sexton, RSPB Scotland's Mull Officer, quickly realised the significance of the discovery - it was Shelly.

Dave said: 'I knew the blue and silver combo meant 2010 and my heart was racing as I looked back at the ringing and tagging records for that year.'

'I'd always wondered how



Shelly shows off her elegance and skill. Photograph: Iain Paterson.

Shelly was and where she might be. And there it was on the breeding summary:

'We'd found her. She's aged seven now, so fully mature and transformed from the rather scruffy brown chick we'd encountered in the nest.'

Iain also reported that she was paired up with a male and

that this year they were raising two chicks. The male bird's ring numbers revealed he hatched in 2010 on the Isle of Lewis. It seems likely that Shelly met her future mate while she was there in 2013 and they then explored the Highlands and islands together before settling down to breed in Sutherland.

Iain, a keen birder, said: 'One thing I can say about Shelly is her elegance for such a big bird. When she picks up a fish there's hardly a splash yet her mate, either his aim is slightly off target or he doesn't bother because he causes a much bigger splash - all amazing to watch though.'

KOB set sights on beating balsam

THE NEW 'Keep Oban Beautiful' (KOB) group donned their high-vis vests for the first time on Sunday and set about the invasive Himalayan Balsam along the Black Lynn opposite Tesco.

Although not as difficult to remove as the equally invasive Japanese Knotweed, the balsam has the added advantage of those amazing seedpods which ping when touched, scattering the seed far and wide. It's an attractive plant and tempting for visitors to take seed home and scatter it in their locality, but the plant is rapidly becoming a major pest in many parts of Britain, particularly along roadsides and water courses, so should be left well alone when in seed.

We can understand why the public might feel that it's a bad idea to remove a plant which is not only attractive but a good nectar source for bees, but the long term view is to replace it with native species and make the Black Lynn into a wildlife corridor - and maybe someday discuss the possibility of some public access.

Although it's a tall grower it's only an annual plant, so pulling it up before it sets seed is a good way of getting rid of it. KOB intends to keep on with this eradication, working with Argyll Knotweed which has

made an arrangement with the



Volunteers get to work.

council to remove the Knotweed along the Black Lynn by injecting the stems, a safer and more effective treatment than spraying.

The council has agreed to supply the relevant chemical and Argyll Knotweed will carry out the work without charge, a job which may take several years. It may be some while before our efforts are obvious, but as the Chinese philosopher Laozi said around 600BC: 'A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.' A wise man who knew all about public access.

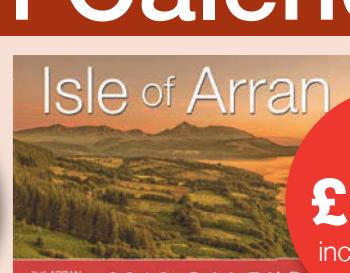
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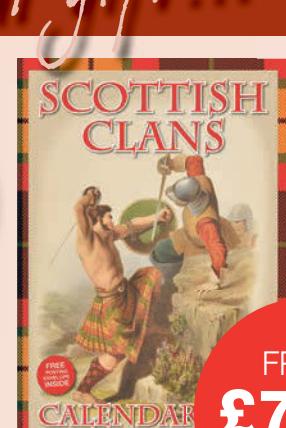
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Your guide to Independent schools

WHY do parents send their children to independent schools in ever-growing numbers?

Parents choose to send their children to independent schools for many different reasons, including choice, diversity and excellence. Above all, they choose independent schools

because they feel a particular school will best serve their child and his or her social and educational needs.

All independent schools in Scotland have their own unique ethos and values, but they share a common goal of encouraging each individual pupil to be all that they can be, and



Open Morning 30 September 2017

The Principal, Johanna Urquhart, invites you and your family to join us at our Open Morning on Saturday 30 September 10am - 1pm.

Please confirm your attendance by emailing: admissions@lomondschool.com or alternatively call us on 01436 672 476.

lomondschool.com

Merchiston

Merchiston is the only boys' independent boarding school in Scotland, offers the English curriculum, and has a global, outward-looking dimension. The school takes pride in specialising in the education of boys and preparing them for the world, developing aspirational, and sensitive, yet gentle-men! Think about a wonderfully caring and nurturing family environment, where boys learn to like learning more.

With an ethos based on traditional values, Merchiston encourages self-reliance and independence, as well as respect for and tolerance of others. The main objective is to motivate pupils to try their hardest and to strive to achieve the highest levels possible in all areas - firstly academic,

then cultural, sporting, leadership, and simply living together as part of a community.

Another aspect of the boys-only philosophy is that time is regularly set aside to meet girls from our sister schools. This allows the boys to focus on study in school time, but also to have plenty of opportunities to socialise and make friends through curricular, co-curricular, and social links.

Personal tours and tasters available all year.

A range of scholarships are available at 10+. Means-tested financial assistance may be available subject to application.



Lomond School

We are holding our open morning on Saturday September 30 from 10am until 1pm. The open morning is an opportunity for families to join us for a tour of the school and to look around the facilities. There is also the opportunity to meet our principal, Johanna Urquhart, talk to staff and pupils and get a flavour of what life is like here at Lomond. Our open morning is designed to give the whole family the chance to find out about all aspects of the school.

If anyone is interested in attending, they should email admissions@lomondschool.com or alternatively telephone 01436 672 476.

Additional information

Education at Lomond School is personalised in that it provides each

pupil with a tailored curriculum designed to offer challenge, breadth and depth. Our welcoming, family ethos engenders happiness which is at the heart of our philosophy. Small class sizes allow us to nurture and provide practical support and advice to help each child to develop and grow.

Lomond is Argyll's top performing school and offers a wide-ranging curriculum including eight National Fives in S3/S4 and the traditional five Highers in S5. Pupils have access to an extensive programme of extra-curricular and outdoor learning including hockey, rugby, sailing, skiing, canoeing and much more.

'At all stages of the school, children and young people are highly motivated and actively involved in their learning.' Education Scotland



to make the most of their time at school. Independent schools enjoy a reputation for excellence, providing a broad curriculum, consistently good exam results, a positive learning environment and a wealth of co-curricular activities. Being independent gives each school the freedom to provide the best possible education for the benefit of its pupils. Consequently, many schools have developed individual strengths that complement the excellence that is the hallmark of the sector.

The choice of mainstream schools is wide and there are also special schools that provide care and education for children with additional support needs.

The statistics are compelling – Scottish Council of Independent schools provide at least £47 million annually in fee assistance, with 26.4 per cent of all pupils receiving some form of assistance. Eighty-eight per cent of SCIS pupils go on to Higher Education, with 25 per cent continuing their studies outside Scotland. According to numbers from SCIS and the Scottish government, there is one teacher for every 8.7 pupils in SCIS schools, compared to one to 13.7 in state-funded schools. SCIS schools educate more than 31,000 children of mixed abilities from diverse backgrounds. The focus of independent schools has always been, and remains, delivering individual educational outcomes for pupils of all abilities.

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The Governors of Dollar Academy Trust is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC009888

DOLLAR
ACADEMY



Dollar Academy

Dollar Academy is recognised as one of the UK's leading boarding and day schools. Offering a broad curriculum, exceptional teaching, first-class facilities and dedicated pastoral care, the school is committed to providing the best education possible for boys and girls aged five to 18.

Pupils study the Scottish curriculum and benefit from the widest choice of Highers anywhere in Scotland. Expectations are high and children are challenged, inspired and supported as they pursue their academic ambitions. Each year, pupils achieve outstanding exam results and more than 95 per cent choose to continue their education at universities in the UK and around the world.

The co-curricular side of life at Dollar gives every child the opportunity to discover and develop their strengths and talents beyond the classroom.

Activities cater for all interests, from sports and the arts to academic clubs, the adventure that comes with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Combined Cadet Force, and Dollar's world championship-winning pipe band.

Dollar provides a stimulating and friendly environment for learning, where children are happy and excel. This warmth of community makes boarding a home-from-home experience. As the school prepares to celebrate its 200th anniversary in 2018, it remains a popular choice for Scottish families.

Visit the Dollar Academy Open Day on Saturday September 9, see the school for yourself and talk to the people who know it best, the staff and pupils.

**Dollar Academy Open Day,
Saturday September 9 2017 from
10am to 1pm.**



MERCHISTON STORY

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INFORMATION MORNING • SATURDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

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We offer more than 300 clubs and societies as well as wide-ranging opportunities in sport, music and drama, outdoor education, trips and community involvement, all with the intention of helping your child discover their talents, learn or explore something new, have fun and make new friends.



A recent study by the Care Commission awarded both houses an 'Excellent' grading for the standard of care and support they provide. This recognises the level of care and individual attention each child receives from the Housemaster, Housemistress, resident tutors and resident matron.

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Saturday 23 September 2017

10am – 1pm

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The boys and girls who board with us have unrivalled opportunities in sport, music, drama, art and dance as well as receiving an academic education of the highest standard. Join us at our Open Day or contact us at any time to find out more or to arrange a personal visit.

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Kilgraston School



Kilgraston is a dynamic boarding and day school which offers a world-class education that is both academic and personal for girls aged 5 to 18. Set in 54 acres of stunning parkland, Kilgraston offers security and space to grow and develop while providing a tranquil environment for the girls to concentrate without distraction.

In 2017, 55% of passes at Higher were awarded an A grade and 83% were awarded A/B grades against a national average of 54%. Emily Dark, Lower Sixth (S5), at the age of 16 has played for Scotland Under 21 hockey team this year and achieved five A grades in her Highers. Similarly, Daisy Fonicello who became Scottish Fencing Champion this year also achieved five straight A grades in her Highers. In the Upper Sixth 100% of our girls gained a place at their chosen university.

Offering day and boarding education, Kilgraston has something to inspire every young woman. We are a school with traditional values but with a modern and forward-looking perspective on education. Education is not just about exam success; developing interest and talents, nurturing an understanding of different cultures, and emphasising our personal responsibility as global citizens are vital. As such, a Kilgraston girl benefits from a wealth of opportunities to extend and enrich her educational experience. We offer over 50 extra-curricular activities, and enjoy modern, state of the art facilities including a Science Centre, Sixth Form Study Centre, excellent boarding accommodation, 25m swimming pool, all-weather astro-turf pitches and Scotland's only school equestrian centre.

Families are invited to attend Kilgraston's first open day of the academic year on Saturday 30th September between 11am and 2pm. To register, please email admissions@kilgraston.com

KILGRASTON

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11am - 2pm

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Strathallan School

Welcome to our world

Set in 153 acres of magnificent rural Perthshire, yet easily accessible from elsewhere in Scotland, Strathallan School is an outstanding place to learn with some of the finest facilities of any school in Scotland.

The school has a great blend of local, national and international pupils and celebrates the different interests and cultures our international pupils bring.

Where learning comes to life

As well as achieving exceptional academic standards, we foster a lifelong enjoyment of learning. Our highly committed teachers are also involved in sports coaching and other activities and the bonds built outside the classroom have profound educational benefits. It's no surprise that many of our pupils move on to top universities like Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh.

Where everyone's involved in the life of the school

More than 60 per cent of our pupils are boarders so there's always a lot going on. That's a big advantage for day pupils who stay well into the evening and are fully involved in the myriad of activities available.

Where talent turns to achievement

All pupils regularly take part in a variety of sports. We also run a comprehensive programme for elite athletes. Our pupils have enjoyed international representation in more than 20 sports – including an Olympic silver medalist in swimming and a number of rugby internationalists.

In the Expressive Arts, there are many opportunities to develop creative talents in a variety of musical ensembles, in our theatre and in our state-of-the-art dance and drama studio.

Where belonging is forever

Strathallan provides an exceptional educational experience for boys and girls aged nine to 18. It's a school where effort is rewarded and where pupils are given the time and encouragement to grow into capable, confident young men and women who are ready for the challenges that lie ahead.

Why not find out more at one of our forthcoming Information Mornings, register now at strathallan.co.uk



St Mary's Music School

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Glenalmond College

Glenalmond set for a bright future

As stated in the recent Good Schools Guide review, 'Glenalmond is set for a cracking future'. This year has seen the start of an exciting new phase for the school, with two new houses opening this September.

Cairnies, Glenalmond's new Junior House, provides the perfect transition to senior school, giving boarding and day boys aged 12 to 14 a level of pastoral support specifically suited to younger pupils. Close to the outdoor classroom, the woods, Glenalmond's golf course and with its own playing fields, Cairnies provides an excellent base for junior year groups. The new girls' house, Goodacre's, has also opened this September, and is home to girls aged 12 to 18. This house is in the very heart of the school and has enabled Glenalmond to expand its girls' boarding and day provision to meet increasing demand. New curriculum developments include the addition of Highers as an alter-



Glenalmond College |

OPEN DAY 2017

Saturday 16 September

Glenalmond College is a leading boarding and day school for boys and girls aged 12-18, located on a stunning 300-acre campus just outside Perth.

Come along to the free Open Day to find out more about life at Glenalmond College.

T: 01738 842144
 E: registrar@glenalmondcollege.co.uk
www.glenalmondcollege.co.uk/OpenDay

Where open spaces create open minds.



INFORMATION MORNING

Senior (entry aged 13-18)
 Saturday 23rd September 2017
 9.30am - 1pm

Junior (entry aged 9-13)
 Saturday 14th October 2017
 9.30am - 1pm

General (entry aged 9+)
 Saturday 3rd March 2018
 9.30am - 1pm

Welcoming parents,
 boys and girls aged 9 to 18 yrs.

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 Call 01738 815003 to register,
 or visit strathallan.co.uk



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Dalmally is fitting end to show season

DAVID MCPHEE

dmcphée@obantimes.co.uk

THE LAST and possibly the largest show of the summer calendar took place on Saturday – Dalmally Agricultural Show.

The field was packed with people and even the sun managed to make an appearance.

Spectators were spoiled for choice – whether it was the judging of the commercial cattle, Highland cattle, Blackface sheep in the mart, the pipe band playing, shiny games, bird shows, wood working or the famous terrier race.

Children had plenty to choose from as bouncy castles and fun-fair styled stalls surrounded the field.

Show organisers said: 'A huge thank you to all our volunteers, competitors, sponsors, stall-holders, and to everyone who came along to support this year's Dalmally Show – we hope

you enjoyed it as much as we did.' The overall cattle champion belonged to Douglas MacDonald of Tyree, Benderloch.

He said: 'It's not easy doing it, so [the win] is very nice and it's good to keep the young ones interested.'

The over-all winner in the native or continental sheep category was won by a Cheviot tup owned by Iain McKay from Luss and the champion Blackface sheep was won by Sandy Patterson from Auchloch near Crieff.

Another star of the show belonged to Iain McKay, Appin. His one-year-old terrier was crowned best in show.

When asked how he felt afterwards, he said: 'Brilliant. The wife will be happy.'

Oban and District Classic Car Club had 14 cars on show.

'We managed to recruit two new members' said Kevin Devine club chairman.



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Around the markets

CALEDONIAN MARTS had forward 312 store cattle at its sale in Stirling on Monday September 4.

Bullocks averaged 210ppkg selling to 236ppkg for a Limousin from B Harper, Greenwells, Falkirk and to £1,280 for an Aberdeen Angus from A & A Black, North Woodend, Bonnybridge.

Heifers averaged 204ppkg selling to 224p again for a Limousin from B Harper, Greenwells and to £960 from Greenwells.

Black and white bullocks averaged 153ppkg selling to 160ppkg from A H S Drummond, Glenside, Kirkcaldy, Stranraer and to £780 from J Taylor & Sons, Blackburn Mains, Bathgate.

Bullocks pounds per head: £1,220 Shortridge

£1,210 & £1,200 North Woodend

£1,130 Girnal & Ardgate

£1,120 East Kerse

Heifers pounds per head: £940 Crosshill

£890 Glenside

£880 & £870 Crosshill

£850 Greenwells

£840 Findarie

Black and Whites per head: £750 Blackburn Mains

£730 Gryffeside (Twice)

£670 Glenside

Also forward 2,054 store lambs and feeding sheep.

Top price of the day went to W Patrick, Ballinikrain, Balforn for a pen of 52 Texel x Lambs at £74.00

Cross Lambs averaged £57.31 (+£2.09 on the week)

BF Lambs averaged £34.82 (+94p on the week)

Leading prices:

Beltex - Millhead £69

Tex - Mill of Ardoch £67.50

Tex X - Lephinchapel £67 & £66

Cont X - Spinkhill & Drumcharry £65

Suff - Duallin £62

Mule - Carie £59

BF - West Tandemuir & Edentaggart £49

Swale X - Dounie of Glendouglas £48

Cheviot Ewe Lambs - Portend £56

Feeding Ewes £56

BF - Edentaggart £30

Cross - Stronmagachan £28.

UNITED AUCTIONS held its first sale of lambs and sheep at Lochboisdale Auction Mart on Saturday September 2.

A catalogued entry of 2,067 head sold at values in keeping with current mainland levels. A good ringside of mainland buyers were present.

Principal lots and prices:

Lambs:

Suffolk: £70.00 - 88 Bualadubh: £69.50 - 383 Garrynamone: £59.50

- 409B Smerclate: £59.50 - Drimore Farm: £58.50 - 284 Daliburgh: £58.50

- 269 Daliburgh: £58.50 - 426 North Lochboisdale: £57.50 - Cnoc An Torr & 88 Bualadubh.

Texel: £72.00 - 88 Bualadubh: £69.50 - 6 Milton: £60.50 - 391 Garrynamone: £59.50 - 284 Daliburgh: £59.50 - 88 Bualadubh: £58.50 - 6 Rhubarb: £57.50 - 5 Ionad Cheallaigh: £57.50 - 88 Bualadubh.

Cheviot: £57.00 & ; £53.50 - Saint Peter's Daliburgh: £52.50 - 15 Carinish: £50.00 - Cnoc An Torr.

Cross: £57.50 - 88 Bualadubh: £55.50 - 10 Frobost: £53.50 - 88 Bualadubh: £50.50 - 6 West Gerinish.

Mule: £48.00 - 88 Bualadubh.

BF: £35.00 - 371 South Boisdale.

Ewes:

Suffolk: £40.00 - 271 Daliburgh.

Texel: £39.50 - 8 Peninerine: £36.50

- 391 Garrynamone.

Cheviot: £37.50 - 122 Craigston: £30.00 - 117 Craigston.

Cross: £34.50 - 58 Tangasdale.

Cheviot Mule: £32.50 - Ormcliffe & Bonish SSC.

BF: £23.50 - 44 West Kilbride.

Widders:

Cheviot: £35.50 - 17 St Brendan Road.

Cross: £32.50 - 17 St Brendan Road.

Rams:

Lley: £190 - 2 Ormcliffe.

UNITED AUCTIONS, Stirling, had a catalogue entry of 10,795 breeding sheep at their annual show and sale of Scotch Mule and Blackface ewe lambs.

The sale was kindly sponsored by J Cooper & Co. Haulage Contractors, Gartocharn and was judged by Mr J Baxter, Home Farm Troup, who awarded the championship to D Gray, Drumnessie and went on to purchase them at £170 per head.

Prize List

1st - D Gray, Drumnessie £170

2nd - I Minto, Townhead £140

3rd - D Rock, Knocko Ronald £132

4th - J McGregor, Allanfauld £125

5th M Smyth, Shields £150

Overall Averages

Acc Scotch Mule Ewe Lambs - £97.16

(+£1.28p on the year)

Non Acc Scotch Mule Ewe Lambs - £94.72 (-£1.19p on the year)

Acc Blackface Ewe Lambs - £73.69

(+£2.60p on the year)

Non Acc Blackface Ewe Lambs - £63.10 (-£7.66p on the year)

For the full report visit www.oban-times.co.uk

THIS Farming Life returns with Mull and Appin farmers in spotlight



Clockwise from top left: Willie MacLean ensures that the reserve cattle champion, owned by Michael Poland, is in pristine condition. 17_136_DalmallyShow2; Hugh MacLeod from Benderloch could barely carry his trophies. He won the best plant pot, best exhibit and most points overall. 17_136_DalmallyShow19; Emily Wragg, aged seven, had the best poultry exhibit for a child under 16. 17_136_DalmallyShow17; Jennifer MacNeil from Bonawe received the Best Poultry trophy. 17_136_DalmallyShow16; One half of the North Argyll Young Farmers Club which ran a bottle stall on Saturday. 17_136_DalmallyShow11; Iain MacPhee with Lexi who was the overall reserve dog champion. 17_136_DalmallyShow12; Calum McKay, aged 10, was over the moon when his dog won the Spaniel competition. 17_136_DalmallyShow4; The Oban and District Classic Car Club had a wheely good time showing off their vehicles. 17_136_DalmallyShow10; The overall champion Blackface champion gimmer from Sandy Patterson. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn; Iain McKay with one-year-old Cilla who was crowned the Best in Show. 17_136_DalmallyShow13; Children had a ball crashing into each other. 17_136_DalmallyShow07; There were numerous bouncy castles and slides for the children to enjoy. 17_136_DalmallyShow07; The best ginger bread house went to Coco Aditya aged six. 17_136_DalmallyShow6; Dougie MacDonald shows off the overall cattle champion, owned by his dad Douglas MacDonald. 17_136_DalmallyShow1; Champion in the Native/Continental Breeds of Sheep Cheviot tup owned by Iain MacKay and brought out by Claire Suzette Simonton. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn; The Helensburgh Clan Colquhoun Pipe Band entertains the crowd. 17_136_DalmallyShow03



THIS Farming Life returns to BBC 2 on Wednesday (September 6) for a second series, with three new episodes airing each week for four weeks.

And this series will see two local farming families highlighted, from Mull and from Appin.

On the isle of Mull, com-

mitted new-entrant farmers Janet and Alastair Taylor rent a small farm where they keep 140 sheep, 20 Highland cattle, ducks, a goose and nine dogs.

In Appin hill farmers Sandra and David Colthart keep 540 blackface sheep and 45 cross breed cattle that for much of the year roam freely over 3237

acres of stunning Scottish hill-side.

This very traditional method of farming poorer land – which relies on scale rather than quality – means lots of hiking! With their animals spread over such a large area even a basic sheep dosing requires heading out with the

dogs to spend up to up to six hours gathering the sheep off the hills.

Luckily Sandra breeds pedigree Border Collies and Highland Ponies so there's always a dog or three to help out.

This series will also feature a dairy farm and Scotland's first buffalo farm.

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15 Dacia Duster Stepway, LAU, TCE, Red, 2,500 Miles	£7,895
15 Renault Scenic XMod DCi, White, 20,000 Miles	£12,450
15 Renault Clio Dyn 1.2 Nav, Grey, 22,000 Miles	£8,200
14 Renault Scenic DYN, 1.5 DCi, T/T, Black, 16,500 Miles	£11,650
14 Dacia Duster Laureate 4x4, Blue, 68,000 Miles	£7,250
14 Nissan Note 1.2 Acenta Premium, 5Dr, Blue, 9,000 Miles	£8,950
14 Nissan Micra 1.2 Visia, White, 16,000 Miles	£5,950
14 Dacia Sandero 1.2, Red, 34,000 Miles	£4,350
64 Nissan Pulsar, Accenta Red, 5Dr, H/B, 13,000 Miles	£9,250
64 Dacia Duster Amb DCi, 4x4, Grey, 22,000 Miles	£8,950
13 Renault Captur S-Nav DCi, Orange with Cream Roof, 22,500 Miles	£9,600
13 Suzuki Swift, SZ3, Cream, 9,000 Miles	£6,150
62/13 Renault Megane DYN, 1.6, Coupe, Silver, 18,000 Miles	£7,450
11 VW Polo SEL Tsi 1.2, 5Dr, Red, 34,000 Miles	£7,150
11 plate Vauxhall Corsa CDTi, Blue, 5Dr, 74,000 Miles	£4,250
10 Nissan Micra 1.2 Visia, Red, 47,000 Miles	£2,450
09 Nissan Qashqai Acenta, DCi, Black, 99,000 Miles	£4,750
COMMERCIALS	
63 Renault traffic, LL29, DCi, White	£8,500+VAT
60 Vauxhall Vivaro DCi Van	£6,750 +VAT
LOWER PRICE VEHICLES	
Renault Scenic 1.6 Citroen Picasso Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Suzuki Swift	
Renault Clio Estate Toyota Aygo	



NEW CAR INDEX



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WATCH THIS SPACE AS THE
NEW 1.9 IS ON ITS WAY!

ISUZU is pleased to
announce the introduction
of the New Generation
D-Max Arctic Trucks AT35
which will officially launch
on October 1.

The Isuzu New Generation D-Max Arctic Trucks AT35 is a pick-up truck engineered to shine in the most gruelling conditions, and is the result of close technical collaboration between two respected off-road and pick-up specialists.

Each AT35 is based upon the strong and durable D-Max pick-up vehicle, which is re-engineered by Arctic Trucks, a company with a long and renowned history in Iceland

and Scandinavia as a creator of 4x4 vehicles able to take on the most demanding terrains and conditions. The Arctic Trucks AT35 is based on the New Generation D-Max which is equipped with a brand new 1.9-litre turbo diesel engine producing 164PS and 360Nm of torque.

Key benefits include a 3.5 tonne towing capacity and a one tonne payload, as well as meeting Euro 6 standards without AdBlue making this truck more refined, quieter and economical than the previous model D-Max.

The 17MY Isuzu D-Max Arctic Trucks AT35 will be available as a double cab with a choice of manual or automatic transmission.

AT35 is based on the New Generation Utah and will have the following equipment: keyless

entry and push button start system, seven-inch multifunction colour touchscreen, DAB radio, Apple CarPlay and Android Audio, satellite navigation and a shark fin antenna. Black wheels will be fitted as standard, and silver wheels are available as an option.

In addition to the above upgrades, further exclusive Arctic Trucks upgrades have been made to distinguish it from the rest of the range such as tinted windows, tailgate damper, Arctic Trucks branded embroidered headrest, carpet mats, door sill covers, badges on the instrument panel and door panels.

To view the new D-Max Arctic Trucks AT35, visit S & S Services at the Best of the West Festival this weekend, or call John on 01292 880080 / 07831 808702



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This role combines flight information services duties, for which full training will be provided, alongside some administrative duties.

You'll provide Flight Information Services and Meteorological Information to aircraft to assist pilots approaching the Airport and manoeuvring on the airfield. You'll therefore be required to pass a Civil Aviation Authority Medical plus examinations associated with holding the FISO license and a Meteorological course. You'll also provide administrative support to each of the airport departments so good IT and administration skills are essential.

Self-motivated, with the ability to work calmly whilst under pressure and on your own initiative, safety will be your focus.

It's really important that you have a flexible approach and attitude to your work and are willing to work shifts which include early starts and late finishes, as well as weekends. Sometimes flights can be delayed and of course the weather can disrupt things, so your flexibility will also involve you working late at short notice. You'll also work on an 'on call' basis so must live within close travelling distance of the airport and be able to respond quickly when called out.

In return we offer a great benefits package, including good salary and allowances, generous annual leave entitlement, a company pension, ongoing learning and development opportunities plus an employee assistance programme which both you and your family can use.

You'll be joining a great team, who does truly worthwhile work – could you be the next addition? Find out more and apply online at <https://hialcareers.co.uk/jobs> by 24 September 2017.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
HIJOBs

THE ARRAN BANNER

Advertising and Administration Executive

The Arran Banner is one of Scotland's best performing newspapers in terms of both print and digital readership. The Arran Banner is part of Wyvex Media, a major independent publisher of newspapers, magazines and tourism publications in Scotland.

If you've got energy, drive and determination and love the idea of working for your local newspaper, then we'd love to hear from you. Advertising sales experience would be a real bonus, but the ability to have a really good conversation with people at all levels is equally important.

You will be responsible for all aspects of advertising and administration duties. You will be representing our range of award winning publications, offering high quality advertising packages to local businesses.

You will benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort. A full driving licence is essential.

You will be based on the island of Arran with excellent basic salary plus bonus scheme. Benefits include Private Health Care, Pensions and good holidays.

Please apply to with CV and covering letter to Nicky Murphy - or call for an initial chat on 01631 568000

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12.25 Hours per week

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£15,819 - £16,765 Dunbeg to Oban Primary Campus Ref: CTF01195
12.25 Hours per week

01546 604334

Closing date: Friday 15 September 2017
To apply visit our website



www.arryll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Home Carer (Permanent, Part-Time)

£17,305 - £18,887 pro-rata Isle of Mull Ref: HAW00704
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01546 604334

Closing date: Friday 15 September 2017
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Oban Learning Centre

Closing date for applications 21/09/2017

We are seeking a reliable and enthusiastic young person to join our busy team in Oban.

The successful applicant should have a keen willingness to learn, have good organisational, communication and IT skills.

The post will provide experience in a wide range of tasks involved in running an office including general reception and admin duties; providing support to students and staff; invigilation of exams; cash handling; evening class inductions; assisting in marketing and promotion of the college and providing support with IT and facility problems.

The successful applicant would be working with the Centre team but also should have the ability to work on their own.

Some evening work will be required.

Applications forms can be found online at <https://www.arryll.uhi.ac.uk/staff/vacancies/> and should be emailed to Lorna.McDonald@uhi.ac.uk

SPAR REF613 STORE MANAGER

SPAR SPEAN BRIDGE,
INVERNESS-SHIRE, PH34 4EP

Full-time position, 39 hours over 5 days per week.

Evening and weekend work will be required to meet business needs.

Due to Licensing Laws applicants must be age 18 or over.

As Store Manager, you will demonstrate strong leadership, people management and commercial skills. A natural forward planner and organiser, you will manage the operation to deliver excellent customer service and maximise sales and we offer comprehensive training to help you do it.

If you have a proven background in retail, the determination to deliver and flexible approach to work, this may be the ideal opportunity for you to take the next step in your career. If you agree, we look forward to receiving your online application at www.cjlang.co.uk/jobs.aspx

Closing date for applications is 07 September 2017.

Time Served Joiner Required

to work in Fort William area
preferably with a driving licence
but not essential

Standard 39 hours per week -
overtime may be available (this is
not a self employed position)

Application/CV to Box Number
29 The Oban Times, Lochavullin
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Duties will include collecting/loading live shellfish throughout the Scottish Islands and on occasion will be required to do deliveries to France & Spain.

This will involve some manual handling.
Both full and part time positions available.

For further information please
email office@pdkshellfish.com

Job vacancies at Dunstaffnage Marina Accountant

The office team require an experienced and fully qualified accountant 3 days a week.
Rate per hour TBD.

Slip Hand

Assisting with Marina Duties such as launching/slipping of boats.
Must have experience with boats, ropes, tying knots, full driving licence, customer service experience

Full time hours. Rate per hour TBC.

Service Manager

Hours 28 hours week

Salary £25,625 (pro rata) 35 hours

Crossroads North Argyll based in Oban, wishes to recruit a Service Manager to lead, manage and develop the service. You will be responsible for the effective day to day management of all aspects of the Service, leading a small staff team, taking overall responsibility for recruitment and overseeing supervision and training. You will be the registered manager for the service and crucial to our aim of delivering high quality person centred respite care.

Please contact Cath for an application form/
informal discussion on 01631 562277 /
info@crossroadsna.org.uk

Closing date: 17th September

We are also keen to hear from individuals who are interested in working for us to provide variable respite hours in Oban and surrounding villages. We offer training, support, travel expenses and pay rate of £8.45/hr with additional rates at weekends.



Environmental Project Coordinator

Location: Flexible

Salary £Competitive

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an Environmental Project Co-ordinator to join our Environmental Team, delivering environmental projects to progress the development of new and existing sites. This role will involve the full completion of local authority planning applications. Including screening, scoping and public consultation, and the preparation of environmental impact assessments to produce environmental statements in line with statutory and advisory requirements. Aquaculture or EIA experience is essential although additional training may be provided.

Environmental Officer

Location: Flexible

Salary £Competitive

This role will manage, maintain and optimise our legislative compliance for the continuation of fish farming upon existing and future sites through prescribed documented submissions and active consultation with stakeholders. In return we offer a competitive salary package and excellent training and career development opportunities. To request an application form and/or a detailed job specification for either role, please contact:

Rhian Chamberlain, The Scottish Salmon Company
1 Marybank Estate, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis HS2 0DB
Tel: 01499 600 601 northrecruitment@scottishsalmon.com

Closing date: Wednesday 20 September 2017

www.scottishsalmon.com



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Marine Husbandry Staff

Isle of Mull, Fiaray

Scottish Sea Farms are an internationally recognised farmer of superior quality Scottish salmon. We pride ourselves in providing industry leading and highly personal development paths which build into fulfilling professional careers. If you are committed to developing our industry and are driven to put your strengths to work we would very much like to hear from you.

Experienced Husbandry

Earnings Potential for this Role: £27,000 + Bonus

Applicants applying for our experienced husbandry role should have at least 1.5 years' practical salmon farming experience and are looking to develop into a practical specialisation of Feed, Fish Health or Net Management.

You should be able to demonstrate competence across a wide range of farming disciplines including: fish health monitoring, stock appetite assessment, boat handling skills, feeding system and boat maintenance whilst being proactive in health and safety.

Above all you should have the drive and ambition to further your career through training and development. A formal boat qualification would be desirable.

Trainee Husbandry

Earnings Potential for this Role: £23,750 + Bonus

Applicants are also invited by candidates looking to begin their career in the Aquaculture Industry. We are looking for ambitious individuals who are team players, proactive in health and safety and who have high expectations for themselves and of their employer. In return, we will provide you with a Mentor who will guide you through your first months of employment and a detailed training plan that will enable you to kick start your fish farming career.

In return, Scottish Sea Farms will offer an attractive remuneration package including pension scheme, life cover, discretionary bonus, occupational health support, subsidized gym membership and cycle to work.

A full clean drivers licence is essential.

If you would like to be considered for this vacancy, please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator on 01786 445521 or email angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack.

Closing Date for applications: Thursday 14th September 2017.

Driver/Pupil Escort

(12.25 hours, Permanent, Term Time)

£16,167 - £17,112 (pro rata), Dervaig PS, Isle of Mull Ref: CTF01039

Living Wage of £8.45 per hour applies

01546 604334

Closing date: Friday 22nd September 2017.

To apply visit
our website

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs



Fyne Game Ltd

Inveraray

Driver required
Class 2, must have
CPC and Digicard
and be physically fit.
Please call 01499 302666

**PROPOSED
ASSIGNATION OF A
GRAZING SHARE**
John MacLean is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the grazing share pertaining to the croft at 7 Treslaig (share) to Donald Dixon on the Treslaig common grazing of 7 Treslaig, Fort William. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@croftingscotland.gov.uk by October 5, 2017.

**First registration
of a croft**
Mr David James Craig has registered his croft, Croft 1 Lettershuna, Lismore & Appin 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 25th May 2018.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4334.

DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

P Johnston
Croft 2 Lettershuna,
Lismore & Appin
80753
0114 ha
Reason – Site for a new
dwelling house
Condition – Fencing

Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (B8005 GAIRLOCHY – LOCH ARKAIG) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2017

On Fifth September 2017 The Highland Council made the above Order in terms of Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to enable contractors a safe working zone to carry out essential works for KN Networks

The use by vehicles of the length of road specified in the Schedule hereto is prohibited during the period the above Order is in force from 8am on Wednesday 27th September, 2017 until 6pm on Friday 29th September 2017. Access will be provided for emergency service vehicles and pedestrians. A signed diversion route will be in place for all other vehicles.

No HGV's or Coaches will be able to access the B8005 from the A82/B8004 Commando Memorial junction. They will be diverted via the A82 to Lochybridge roundabout, and then via the A830 to the B8004 to Banavie – Gairlochy road (15.5 miles), all other vehicles will be diverted via the south westerly spur of the B8004 Gairlochy Triangle.

A copy of the Order can be inspected at the Service Point, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William, on weekdays during normal office hours.

<date> Mrs Lesley Howie, Legal Manager Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness 2017

SCHEDULE

Road

B8005 Gairlochy – Loch Arkaig

Commencing at its double junction with the Banavie - Gairlochy - Spean Bridge road (B8004), extending in a north easterly direction for 278.5 metres.

**Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times**

Argyll and Bute Council

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

THE ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL (QUEENS PARK PLACE, STATION ROAD AND RAILWAY STATION ACCESS ROAD, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)(NO.2) ORDER 2017

On Monday 4th September 2017, Argyll & Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle, with the exception of emergency services vehicles, through the entire length of Queens Park Place, Station Road and Railway Station Access Road, Oban in order to permit the holding of a Motor-fest on or near those roads.

The restrictions, which shall be effective when indicated by signs, will be in operation between 1000 hours and 1630 hours on Sunday 17th September 2017.

Alternative Route: There is no alternative route.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads and Amenity Services, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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www.highland.gov.uk



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://www.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
17/03365/FUL	Land 40M SW of 8B Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Lochcarron, Fort William	Erection of Storage Warehouse
17/03838/FUL	Land at Alt Feith A Chatha, NW of Glenfinnan	Construction of earth embankments (dams), associated spillways, pipework and construction access track

Time period for comments is 14 days

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX

Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk



Inveraray – Crossraig Overhead Line Replacement

Pre-consent application consultation events

We would like to welcome members of the public to attend our drop-in events where we will present our preferred route for a replacement overhead line between Inveraray and Crossraig.

The steel towers that have delivered electricity to the Kintyre Peninsula for 60 years are now coming to the end of their operational life. We are proposing to replace the existing line to provide a more secure supply whilst enabling the connection of renewable energy.

Prior to preparing a consent application to the Scottish Government in early 2018, we are hosting open-door consultation events where members of the public will be able to view and comment on the preferred route alignment.

For more information on the project, either come along to the events or contact our Community Liaison Manager:

Neil Anderson
Community Liaison Manager
Tel: 07500 912506
Email: neil.anderson@sse.com
www.sse-transmission.co.uk/projects/inveraray-crossraig

@ssecommunity
 @ssecommunity

	Inveraray Loch Fyne Hotel 26 September 14:00 - 19:00
	Ardrishaig Public Hall 27 September 14:00 - 19:00
	Tarbert Village Hall 28 September 14:00 - 19:00
	Skipness Village Hall 3 October 14:00 - 19:00
	Carradale Village Hall 4 October 14:00 - 19:00

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Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
17/02159/PP	Alterations and extensions to hotel	Tigh An Truish Hotel Clachan Seil Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4OZ	Sub Post Office Balvcar
17/01916/PP	Replacement of existing flat roof (including installation of two replacement rooflights) and installation of new window in rear extension	8 Ellenabeich Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4RQ	Sub Post Office Balvcar
17/01917/LB	Internal alterations, replacement of existing flat roof (including installation of two replacement rooflights) and installation of new window in rear extension	8 Ellenabeich Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4RQ	Sub Post Office Balvcar
17/01664/PP	Installation of 49kw wind turbine – 33 metres high to blade tip.	Land Approx 250 Metres North East Of Culcharn Farm Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1RZ	Sub Post Office Connel
17/02135/PP	Erection of 4 dwellinghouses, installation of septic tanks and formation of vehicular access	Land South Of 1 Balinoe Isle Of Tiree Tiree Area Office Argyll And Bute	Land South Of 1 Balinoe Isle Of Tiree Tiree Area Office Argyll And Bute
17/02185/PP	Installation of external stairs.	Commissioners Of Northern Lighthouses Gallanach Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LS	Oban Area Office
17/02089/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of new vehicular access.	Land South West Of Kilnave Gruinart Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Bridgend
17/02158/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse.	Plot 4 Imeraval Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
17/02091/PP	Erection of replacement storage building.	Barn At Lower Tervine Farm Kilcrenan Argyll And Bute PA35 1HE	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
17/01999/PP	Erection of 2no buildings.	Tobermory Water Treatment Works Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6	

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WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOUR TENANT IS BREAKING THE TERMS OF TENANCY?



Every landlord dreams of an ideal tenant in their property, but even if you have done your due diligence, issues can arise. Perhaps they have let the rent payments lapse, or they got a pet after you specifically said they aren't allowed. Or maybe they just aren't looking after the property to a good standard.

When this happens, don't panic. Many issues can be easily resolved with a quick phone call. It's easy to do this- it could be that they are not aware they are breaking the rules, so an

honest discussion just might be the ticket. At any rate, making them aware of the problem is the first step to a resolution. With any discussion, make sure you agree a timescale for the tenant to rectify the issue and follow up afterwards.

If this doesn't resolve the matter or you don't receive a response, then the next step is to write a letter. This should clearly outline the issues you have identified, what you need them to do and a timescale for them to complete it. Most issues are resolved in this way, however should the issue continue, it is best to consult expert advice either a solicitor or property professional. You can then discuss the issue fully and create an informed plan. We frequently help Landlords with many rental issues. Managing over 180 properties, there isn't much we haven't seen! Having issues? Give our experienced Lettings Team a call today.

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RED ROOFS, ISLE OF TIREE



- Traditional Link Croft House
- 3 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom
- In need of modernisation
- Beautiful situation
- Short walk from Balevulin Beach
- EPC Rating - F

Asking Price £125,000

A traditional 3 bedroom house is nestled in the machair only a short walk from the beautiful Balevulin Beach. Named due to its striking red roof, Red Roofs offers an excellent opportunity to create a beautiful island home. On entering through the main front door, you enter the spacious porch, which leads to the central hallway. Off from the hall there are two reception rooms, both boasting open fireplaces and dual aspect windows, allowing you to enjoy views across the machair.

CRAIGNEUK, BENDERLOCH



- Detached Extended Traditional House
- 5 BedRooms/2 Family Bathrooms /1 WC
- Stunning SEA VIEWS
- Well maintained throughout
- Established Holiday Let
- EPC Ratable value £4,000

OIEO £490,000

Craignek offers an amazing opportunity to purchase a spacious, traditional property enjoying stunning sea views from almost every room and only a short walk from the beach. The property has been let as a successful holiday let but is equally suited to being a permanently family home. Part of Craignek's charm is that despite its size, it retains a cosy and homely feel by having multiple reception rooms. Additionally, the layout ensures the interior is bathed in natural light throughout the afternoon and evening.

MICCALLS TERRACE, OBAN



- Semi Detached House
- 2bed/2 bath
- Long Term Let
- Furnished
- EPC Rating - 66
- Landlord Registration 579539/130/30081

PCM £625

Beautiful 2 bedroom, semi-detached house, located in a quiet cul-de-sac just a few minutes' walk from nearby supermarkets, train station and town centre. This main door house benefits from on-street car parking and a large garden to the rear of the property. Deposit and full references required.

9 COMBIE STREET, OBAN

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Oban, Argyll PA24 4HN
Tel: 01631 569 466

North Road
Fort William PH33 6PP
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WOOD COTTAGE, TOBERMORY



- Extended Traditional Cottage
- 2-3 Bedrooms/1 Bath
- Stunning Sea Views
- Unique & Private Position
- Close to Tobermory
- EPC Rating - E39

OIEO £235,000

Wood Cottage is an extended traditional family home located only a short walk from all of Oban's amenities. The ground floor comprises a large conservatory which is currently used as a bright lounge area which benefits from patio doors which lead out to the garden area. There is also a larger ground floor room, well-appointed kitchen and double bedrooms on the ground floor. Upstairs there are a further three double bedrooms, 1 ensuite and a family bathroom. The property benefits from double glazing throughout with heating and hot water provided via a mains gas boiler.

FLAT 1 STEVENSON HOUSE, OBAN



- First Floor Flat
- 2 bedroom/1 bathroom
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- Double Glazing
- EPC Rating - C
- LL REG 91986/130/31040

PCM £550

Located in Oban town centre, this modern, first floor flat comprises of 2 double bedrooms both with built-in large wardrobes, bathroom, lounge and kitchen. Double Glazing throughout and Electric heating. Unfurnished. On-street permit parking available. Excludes Utilities & Council Tax (Band D). Available September.

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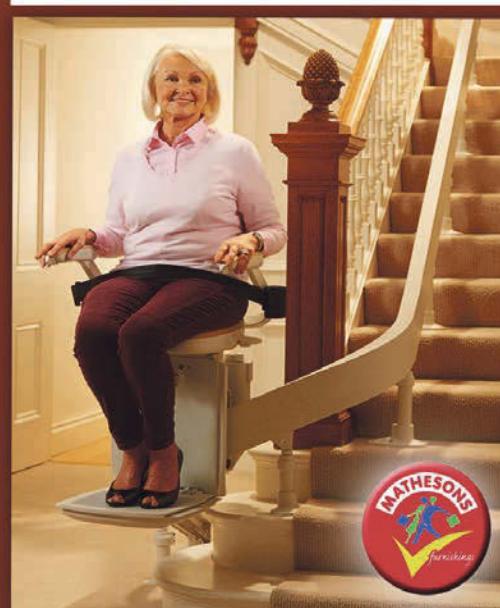
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BUILDING / DIY

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2 DOUBLE GLAZED WINDOWS sash and case type, white, 1200mm X 900mm X 150mm, would suit older building, reasonable condition, £49 each Telephone 01546 603189 or 07767 697001.

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GALVANISED ROOFING FELT Clout Nails, 20mm, large box, £20 Telephone 01546 603189 or 07767 697001.

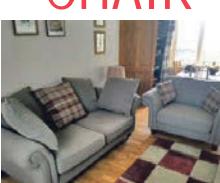
RAIN HOPPERS Cast iron rain hoppers for replacement use. Victorian era. Priced at £25, Telephone 01631 564578.

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VINTAGE CHIMNEY POTS Vintage chimney pots in various sizes and styles, make lovely garden planters, prices from £40, Telephone 01631 564578.

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HOT STICKS by Babyliss, in carry case and in excellent condition, £25 Telephone 01631 562750.

FLADDEN RESCUE SYSTEM Jacket, large, hi-viz and blue, Bib and braces bottoms, blue, suit tall person, still wrapped, £60 Telephone 01546 603189 or 07767 697001.

ANTERIOR STRIMMER good working order, £75 Telephone 01631 710288.

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GARDEN

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SUN LOUNGERS Malibu black, set of two, 1 in excellent condition, 1 still in original wrapping, cost £50, sell for, £40 Telephone 01583 421282.

HOME OFFICE

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ANTIQUE ZITHER Similar to small harp, plays well, £50 Tel 01631 730323.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Happy 21st Birthday Morgan MacLennan Lots of love Mum, Dad, Sophie, Buster, Nana, Grandad & Uncle Robert

MISCELLANEOUS

WATER FEATURE bronze effect, mermaid on a shell pool with 3 glass lights, photo available. Cost £350, sell for, £99.99 Telephone 01631 730323.

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BIRTHS



MCDougall

James and Christine are delighted to announce the arrival of their baby, Jack Murdo, born on August 15. An adored grandchild for Murdo and Morag MacKenzie, Oban, and James and Joyce McDougall, Islay. With immense gratitude to the outstanding QEUH maternity team.

DEATHS

CURRIE - Donald (Donnie) of "Camus Beag," Gallanach Road, Oban, passed away peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital Oban on Tuesday, September 5, 2017. Beloved husband of 66 years to Fiona née Tindall. A dearly loved father to Fiona and Colin. Admired father-in-law to Janet and Ronald. A devoted and loved Papa to Aileen, Niki, Laura and Colin. The Currie family would like to express their gratitude to family, friends and all who have provided caring support and friendship to Donnie over his 94 years.

EDGCOMB - Suddenly but peacefully at home, on Tuesday, August 29, 2017, Sandra, in her 71st year, beloved only daughter of the late James and Catherine Leitch. Sadly missed. Funeral will take place on Friday, September 8 at Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban, at 1.00pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

EZZI - After a short but brave battle with cancer, Ivan passed away peacefully at home on August 26, aged 66. Beloved husband of Barbara, much loved father of Ian and Cara, and proud grandfather to James Ivan Ezzie, Ivan will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Private family funeral to be held in Edinburgh. Memorial event to be held at SAMS Marine Lab, October 28, 2pm onwards, all welcome to attend.

FORBES - On August 31, 2017, suddenly at home, David Forbes, aged 60 years, beloved son of the late William and Gertrude Forbes, much loved brother of Donald, Ian and Alasdair and a dear friend of many. Funeral service at Cumlooden Parish Church, (today) Thursday, September 7, at 12.00 noon, interment thereafter at Killeven Cemetery, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Flowers welcome, donations if desired for the church.

GOURLAY - Suddenly at home in Appin, on Sunday August 27, 2017, Allison (née Cuthbertson), aged 47 years. Much loved and sorely missed daughter, sister, wife, mum, granny, sister-in-law, auntie and friend. Funeral service will be held in Appin Parish Church at 1pm on Friday September 8, 2017. Family flowers only please, there will be a retiral collection for Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland.

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MACCOLL - Peacefully at the Mull and Iona Community hospital surrounded by his family on September 3, 2017. Angus J MacColl, Glengorm, Isle of Mull, aged 56 years. An amazing husband, dad, seannair, son, brother and uncle and very true friend to so many. Sorely missed with so much more to give. Funeral service to be held at Tobermory Parish Church on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 11.30 am. Thereafter to Glengorm burial ground.

MACDONALD - John, aged 59. Passed away suddenly after a tragic accident on August 26, 2017. Beloved son of Ina and the late John MacDonald and brother to Charlie, Catherine and Hazel. Will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by all family and friends. Funeral service to take place Friday September 8 at 12 noon in Kilmore Parish Church, Dervaig. Family flowers only please.

MORRISON - Peacefully at home on August 29, 2017, Ian Morrison, Tobermory, Isle of Mull aged 80 years. Loving husband of Kay, dear dad and granddad. Sadly missed. Funeral service was held at Tobermory parish Church on Tuesday, September 5, 2017, thereafter to Tobermory Top Cemetery.

STUART - Catriona Mary, (née MacIntosh), Kilmore, (Retired Registrar), passed away peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on September 2, 2017, aged 75 years. Beloved wife of John (Ian). Cousin and friend to many. Funeral service will take place at Kilmore Church, Kilmore, on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 1.00 p.m. followed by interment at

Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retrial collection for Alzheimer Scotland.

WATSON - (né Morrison). Rachel passed away peacefully on Friday August 18, 2017 aged 70 years. A beloved wife, mother and grandmother who will be greatly missed. The committal will take place at Clachan Sands Cemetery on North Uist at 9.30am on Monday September 18, 2017.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DUNCAN - Jeanmarie, Scott, Andrew, Ruairidh and family would like to thank everyone for kind expressions of sympathy by cards, letters, phone calls and visits following the sudden passing of Maurice.

Thank you to everyone who attended the service at the Parish Church and graveside. Thanks to members of Oban and Lorn Strathspey and Reel Society for beautiful music at the service. Also to Archie McAllister for his playing and to Donnie Files for his playing at the graveside. The retiral collection for Stroke Association raised the magnificent sum of £599.55. Thank you everyone.

LIVINGSTONE - Iain, Andrew, and family of the late John would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, phone calls, and support received following their recent sad loss.

Special thanks to the medical and care staff from Appin, Lismore, and Glasgow who looked after dad over recent months. Special thanks to Rev Iain Barclay for his warm and comforting service, organist Anne

Livingstone, Duncan Gunn for funeral arrangements, all who assisted and provided catering. Finally thanks to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside and generously donated £800 for Lismore Parish Church and Cancer Research UK.

MACCALLUM - Christine, Fiona and Stephen would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, messages and support following the death of Sandy. Thanks to all those who were able to attend his funeral service, with special thanks to The Reverend Jenny Earl and all those who helped with the funeral arrangements.

MACNEIL - Mary Catherine and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy and support extended to them personally, by cards, flowers and telephone calls following their sad loss of Lachlan. Grateful thanks Danny Balfour at Birchwood Highland and all staff in the Heather Suite at Meallmore Nursing Home, Daviot for their care and attention.

Special thanks to Father Domenico Zanre and Father John Paul MacKinnon for their comforting Mass, to D. Chisholm & Sons for

their funeral guidance and to Marion and colleagues at the Heathbank Hotel for the catering. Finally, thanks to all those who came to pay their last respects to Lachlan and to those who gave generously towards the Barra Hospice Fund, raising £385.

McNEILL (Colonsay) - Margaret and family wish to thank most sincerely everyone for their support, cards, letters, phone calls

and flowers following their recent sad loss of Donald. Our special thanks go to the medical teams in Colonsay, Dingwall and to the wonderful Marie Curie nurses who's help was invaluable. Thanks to Kevin Byrne for a lovely service and to Caitlin for the beautiful music, also to those who paid their respects at the church and graveside. Thanks to everyone's generosity, £500 has been donated to Marie Curie.

MEMORIAMS

CLARK - Fondest memories of Neil, dearly loved husband, father, father-in-law, granddad and pappy, passed away September 7, 2016.

- Inserted by their family, Duncan, Mary, Margaret and grandchildren Scott and Jenny.

MACFARLANE -

Treasured memories of Alexander (Bachie), a

much loved husband, father and grandfather who slept peacefully away September 3, 2016.

To live in the hearts you leave behind is not to die. Life is not forever. Love is.

- Loved Always, Cathie, Alex, Catherine Ann and families. xx

McCOWAN - In memory of my dear husband John who

passed away September 12, 2016. Quietly today your memory we treasure

Missing you always, forgetting you never.

- Jan, Alison, Lesley and families.

MOYES - In loving memory of Ted, who passed away on September 9, 2014, loving husband of Flora, wonderful dad and grampa of Anne, Caroline, Ted and family.

Time rolls on but memories last

Sunshine passes, shadows fall

Love, remembrance outlasts all.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of our dear mum Margaret (née Lawrie), who passed away September 8, 2013. Nothing can ever take away The love a heart holds dear. Fond memories linger every day Remembrance keeps her near.

- Love Mary and Colin, William and Rosalyn and families.

MCDougall -

Remembering with all our love William Rose, died September 13, 1970 and Peteressa (née Currie) died September 7, 2003.

- Inserted by their family, Duncan, Mary, Margaret and grandchildren Scott and Jenny.

MACFARLANE -

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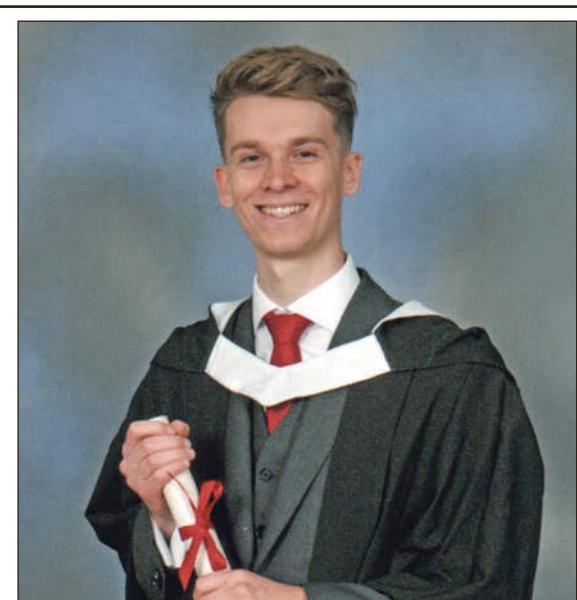
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GRADUATIONS



RUARI JESPERSEN

Graduated from Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen with a BA in Management with First Class Honours. Ruari is the son of Erik and Pauline and brother of Sam and Ross. He attended Park Primary and Oban High School and will shortly commence a graduate job with Shell Oil in Aberdeen



KATHERINE BILLIMORE

Graduated from University of Glasgow with BDS Bachelor of Dental Surgery, daughter of Colin and Elizabeth Billimore, granddaughter of the late Donald and Effie MacLennan, Caolas-an-Eilean, Isle of Coll, and Bernard and Martha Billimore of Gourock. Katherine is a former pupil of Rockfield Primary and Oban High School.



AMY KEENAN CAMPBELL

Graduated from University of Glasgow with an MSc in Sport Exercise, Science and Medicine. Amy is the daughter of Carol Campbell and Danny Keenan, granddaughter of Beatrice and Danny Keenan and Margaret and the late Len Campbell. Amy is a former pupil of Rockfield Primary School and Oban High School. Amy has now started a PhD at University of West of Scotland.

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MacEwan hat-trick helps Saints safely through to second round

Oban Saints	4
Mauchline United	0
Scottish Cup - 1st round	

TWICE beaten semi-finalists Oban Saints returned to the Scottish Amateur Cup trail last Saturday when they hosted Mauchline United in a first round tie at Glencruitten.

The visitors, whose small but vocal support, were enjoying the Oban sunshine, kicked off attacking the Mossfield end, however, it was Saints who were first to threaten. Willie Gemmell sent a free-kick from just inside the Mauchline half and wide on the right into the visitors' box for new signing Ally McKerracher who flicked Willie Gemmell's free-kick to Craig MacEwan but Craig couldn't get the better of Mauchline right back Ryan O'Donnell who saw the danger out.

The early pressure bore fruit for Saints in the seventh minute when Shaun MacIver burst through on the end of a Craig MacEwan pass to fire the ball into the roof of the net from 18 yards after good work in midfield from Keith Millar and Ally McKerracher.

McKerracher almost made it two 60 seconds later cutting

in from the right and flashing a low shot across the face of goal and narrowly wide of Andrew Clark's right-hand post.

A heavy challenge on Matthew Kelly on the half-way line by John Rutherford earned the Mauchline defender a stern talking-to from referee Tony McCann as the visitors battled to get a foothold in the game.

A sloppy five-minute spell from Saints gave Mauchline increased confidence and almost cost the home side the lead. In the 20th minute David Howay made a terrific run up the right wing and fizzed a low cross along the six-yard line inches away from skipper Liam O'Donnell.

Saints capitalised fully on this let-off with O'Donnell's opposite number Craig MacEwan rounding off an excellent move for the first of his three goals. MacEwan sent Fraser MacFarlane scurrying forward on the right but, with his path blocked by Steven Leitch, the Saints wide man turned back inside and laid the ball back to Keith Millar. Millar kept the ball moving across to the left for Daniel Croarkin who in turn picked out Ally McKerracher. McKerracher split Ryan O'Donnell and Campbell

Thomson with a perfectly weighted pass through the inside left channel for Craig MacEwan who slotted past Andrew Clark from eight yards beating the Mauchline keeper at his near post.

Fraser MacFarlane came the width of the post away from increasing Saints' lead in the 29th minute. Ally McKerracher hurdled three challenges before picking out Fraser MacFarlane coming in from the right. Fraser's shot beat Andrew Clark low down to his left but struck the outside of the near post and flew behind for a goal kick.

McKerracher's direct running continued to pose problems for the Mauchline defence with Andrew Clark having to come quickly off his line to smother at the Saints man's feet in the 32nd minute.

With experienced duo Willie Gemmell and Keith Millar rolling back the years and pulling the strings in midfield Saints continued to push forward looking to kill the tie off before the half-time whistle. Daniel Croarkin linked up with Craig MacEwan on the left who turned inside and sent an excellent diagonal ball into the box for Ally McKerracher to fire inches wide of the keeper's left hand post.

Another driving run from McKerracher in the 41st minute saw the Saints midfielder delicately lift the ball over the advancing Andrew Clark but unfortunately also just over the crossbar.

At the other end the visitors gave Saints a reminder of their threat on the break when Liam O'Donnell sent a low shot inches wide of the right hand post of Saints keeper Graham Douglas.

Saints began the second half still very much on the front foot with Ally McKerracher winning a free kick 32 yards out which Willie Gemmell scuffed wide of Andrew Clark's right hand post.

Keith Millar joined the attack after five second half minutes feeding Fraser MacFarlane but not receiving the return pass he had hoped for as Fraser pushed into the box himself be-



Saints' new signing Ally McKerracher, right, the former Dumbarton striker, with midfield colleague Keith Millar during last Saturday's Scottish Amateur Cup tie against Mauchline United.

Match report and photos: Derek Black

fore over running the ball and allowing Campbell Thomson to make the interception.

Keith Millar then sent Fraser MacFarlane in behind the Mauchline back four with a well-measured pass in the 54th minute from where the Saints wide man showed good composure to square the ball to the unmarked Craig MacEwan who, with the keeper left stranded, gratefully rolled the ball into the unguarded net for Saints third goal. Only a terrific sliding interception by John Rutherford on Ally McKerracher denied Saints a quick fire fourth when Ally once again drove at the heart of the Mauchline defence from the restart.

Presentable chances for MacEwan, MacFarlane, MacIver and McKerracher all came and went before manager Alex Craik signalled to the bench to ready the first changes in the 72nd minute. Daniel Croarkin, who had picked up an ankle injury, and Ally McKerracher,

who made an impressive return to the side made way for new signings Craig MacMillan and Ruairidh Horne. The replacements took up the full back berths with Matthew Kelly moving into midfield to take up the position vacated by McKerracher.

With fifteen minutes remaining a sublime piece of trickery by Craig MacEwan on the bye-line took out Mauchline keeper Andrew Clark. Unfortunately it also caught Shaun MacIver on the back foot and the big striker was fractionally too slow to reach Craig's ball from an acute angle allowing John Rutherford to get back and make the final score 4-0.

Saints Manager Alex Craik will be delighted by the progress made by his side in the last two games and more especially with the clean sheet. A sterner test awaits Saints in their next fixture where they welcome reigning Premier Division Champions St Joseph's FP to Glencruitten on Saturday, kick-off 2pm. Referee in charge is Peter Laing.



Craig MacEwan and Fraser MacFarlane congratulate Shaun MacIver on his opening goal.



Oban Bowling Club recently held their triples competition for the George Main Trophy and after a number of competitive games the victors were Ian Weir, Anne Stewart (skip) and John Fairly. On Sunday September 3 the very popular Boyd Fours trophy took place and after the qualifying rounds two teams contested the final which saw Anne MacDougall (skip), Alex Carmichael, Rosemary Miller and Mike Kelly come out on top against Maureen Goldie (skip), Donna MacLean, Bill Goldie and Emma Gargan.

Winners of the Marie Curie Shield mixed pairs held at Dalmally golf club: Jim Livingstone, Ann Munro, William Dougal and Lily McKay.

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Glencruitten

ANDREW McHardie won the Stableford finals at Glencruitten Golf Club on Saturday with a total of 36 points. James Scott was runner-up with 35 points. Andrew also won the Ginty Trophy with a score of 73 - 11 = 62. James Scott was again runner-up with a score of 88 - 25 = 63.

The Medal finals take place on Saturday and the Glencruitten Family Cup takes place on Sunday.

Tobermory

GENTS September Medal - 1 Tom Nunn 83-13-70; 2 William MacCrone 77-06-71; 3 Graham Davidson 82-08-74.

Ladies nine-hole September medal - 1 Kathy McAdam 47-11-36; 2 Doris Hargreaves 59-18-41; 3 Jennifer Jack 51-07-44.

Taynuilt

COLLAGE Cup first round - 1 David Howie 65-03-62; 2 Rob Graham 78-14=64; 3 Robbie MacLarty 72-08=64; 4 Robert MacLarty 76-12=64; 5 Mark Henricksen 72-08=64.

MacDougall Cup first round and medal - 1 Allan Stewart 70-13=57; 2 Mark Grant 78-14=64; 3 Ian MacMillan 77-13=64.

Football

the wrong direction. Despite a dominant performance, Saints didn't have things all their own way and were indebted to Craig Campbell for a double block on Liam O'Donnell and Darren McGill in the 83rd minute.

In the final minute Willie Gemmell expertly lifted a free-kick into the box for Craig MacEwan who turned away from Ryan O'Donnell and Steven Leitch and, from six yards, slotted past Andrew Clark to clinch his hat-trick and make the final score 4-0.

Saints Manager Alex Craik will be delighted by the progress made by his side in the last two games and more especially with the clean sheet. A sterner test awaits Saints in their next fixture where they welcome reigning Premier Division Champions St Joseph's FP to Glencruitten on Saturday, kick-off 2pm. Referee in charge is Peter Laing.

The course played reasonably well and, as one commentator put it, 'the greens were amazing – a tribute to the greenkeeping team'. The event was much enjoyed by everyone with catering up to the usual high Dalmally standards and, importantly, it raised £100 for the wonderful Marie Curie charity.

The winners were William Dougal and Ann Munro with 34 points and Jim Livingstone and Lilly McKay, as runner-up with 30 points.

Gents' medal qualifier 5 - 1 W Dougal 64 (12); 2 J Tolland 67 (18); 3 G Melvin 68 (6).

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Women's shinty takes centre stage

SKYE Camanachd won the Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Cup and Glengarry lifted the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup as women's shinty took centre stage on Saturday September 2.

Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Cup final

Skye Camanachd 6

Lochaber 1

Skye Camanachd won the Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Cup for the first time with a 6-1 win over Lochaber in the final at An Aird.

A good-sized crowd gathered for this show-piece occasion which included a children's banner parade ahead of throw-up with Ardnamurchan Primary School judged to have the best display.

The match was a repeat of the 2016 final when four-goal Kirsty Delaney helped Lochaber secure a 4-2 victory. This was the first time the sides had met since that day and Skye captain Lorna MacRae, who scored both her team's goals 12 months earlier, was to play a key role.

Ahead of throw-up, the players were piped onto the field and they, along with managers Robbie Gordon and Michael Delaney, were introduced to Iain Fraser from sponsors Marine Harvest and Women's Camanachd Association president Lisa MacColl.

Skye took the lead after three minutes. Caitlin MacLean's low shot from distance was saved with her feet by Lochaber keeper Aileen Campbell but Lorna MacRae was quickly in to bundle the rebound over the line.

Lorna MacRae doubled Skye's advantage on 17 minutes when she collected a low Caitlin MacLean pass from the right and took a touch to the left before her back-hand effort beat the keeper.

Alison MacVicar gave Lochaber hope on 23 minutes when she sent the ball low into the net after Skye keeper Sarah-Jane Ferguson had saved a Kirsty Delaney effort following a free-hit on the Lochaber left.

Skye got back on the offensive and Lorna MacRae completed her hat-trick on 29 minutes,

accepting a Sarah Corrigall pass before taking the ball round the keeper and tapping it home to make it 3-1 at the break.

Lorna MacRae put the outcome beyond doubt on 46 minutes. Jenna Beaton's ball from the left gave MacRae an initial shooting chance but the keeper saved. Caitlin MacLean's effort from the rebound hit the post but Lorna MacRae followed up to knock the ball home from close range.

Jenna Beaton made it 5-1 four minutes later with a well-worked goal. Caitlin MacLean was again involved as she won a couple of challenges on the Skye right before finding Lorna MacRae in space. MacRae ran at the Lochaber defence before picking out her strike partner and Jenna Beaton struck the ball low into the net.

It was fitting Lorna MacRae rounded off the scoring. Sarah Corrigall cut in from the Skye left and her short pass found MacRae who took a touch past a defender before running in on goal and stroking the ball low into the net to make it 6-1 with 67 minutes played.

After the disappointment of losing out in the final to Glasgow Mid Argyll in 2014 and Lochaber last year, Skye tasted Valerie Fraser Cup success for the first time and Iain Fraser from sponsors Marine Harvest presented the trophy to captain Lorna MacRae.

Lorna also deservedly collected the player of the match award from sponsor Peter Gow.

The sides have still to meet twice more in the league this season with the title destination still in the balance.

Iain Kennedy was the match referee.

Skye head coach Robbie Gordon spoke after the match. 'The girls played really, really well,' he said. 'All the things we have practiced at training paid off today. Our movement was good, our passing was good and our shooting was good. Everyone played their part and we were dominant in every area of the park. It's not every day you win a Camanachd Cup and these girls have worked really hard and they deserve every bit of it.'

Skye captain Lorna MacRae added: 'After last year's performance, we knew what we had to do today. This is the biggest

competition to win so it's great to get this success under our belts. We'll now concentrate on trying to win the league again.'

Marine Harvest Challenge Cup final

Glengarry 7

Ardnamurchan 1

Glengarry were Marine Harvest Challenge Cup winners, beating Ardnamurchan 7-1 in the final at An Aird.

Glengarry went into this 1pm throw-up sitting mid-table in Marine Harvest North Division 2 whilst Ardnamurchan are newly-crowned Marine Harvest South Division 2 champions.

Glengarry, managed by club stalwart Ewen Cameron, took the lead after 13 minutes when referee Duncan Kelly awarded them a penalty. Joanne Gillanders converted from the spot, sending the ball past player/manager Laura Bradley in the Ardnamurchan goal.

Glengarry went on to stamp their authority on the game and Leona Falconer grabbed a first half hat-trick with goals on 30, 33 and 35 minutes to make it 4-0 at the break.

Elaine Cameron added to Glengarry's dominance with goals on 42 and 50 minutes and Emily Gordon produced a seventh on 64 minutes.

Ardnamurchan, who were co-captained by Kate Bradley and Lucy MacMillan, fought until the death and Annie MacDonald gave them some consolation with a goal on 70 minutes.

Glengarry captain Leona Falconer was presented with the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup by Iain Fraser from sponsors Marine Harvest.

Glengarry's Joanne Gillanders was named player of the match.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Tayforth 5

Kilmory 4

Tayforth threw away a four-goal lead before eventually beating Kilmory 5-4 at Levenhall Links.

This was the second time the sides had met this season with Kilmory 10-0 winners at MacRae Park in July.

Calum Barton gave Tayforth the lead on 11 minutes and when Brendan Duggan hit a first half hat-trick with goals on 22, 31 and 36 minutes, the hosts looked to have an unassailable 4-0 interval lead.

Kilmory fought back in the final third of the match though and Hal Jones hit a hat-trick with goals on 60, 72 and 74 minutes to narrow the deficit to a single goal.

When Alex Cunningham made it 4-4 with five minutes remaining, Kilmory looked good for a point.

Tayforth sealed victory though when Brendan Duggan notched his fourth goal of the afternoon with three minutes remaining to make it 5-4 meaning Tayforth go third in the division.

Stevie Parr put Taynuilt in the lead on 21 minutes but John Sartain equalised on 27 minutes.

The visitors took a 2-1 lead into the break after Ewan MacCorquodale found the back of the net on 35 minutes.

Ewan MacCorquodale extended Taynuilt's advantage a couple of minutes into the second half and Robbie Brown made it 4-1 on 50 minutes.

Ewan MacCorquodale completed his hat-trick three minutes later and although John Sartain got his second to make it 5-2 on the hour, Liam Higgins made it 6-2 on 64 minutes and Ewan MacCorquodale scored his fourth goal of the afternoon on 67 minutes to make it 7-2.

Late counters from Kieran Gallagher on 75 minutes and Kieran MacKay on 82 minutes reduced the deficit, but Taynuilt still ran out 7-4 victors.

Grant Irvine and Roddy



The victorious Skye team with the Valerie Fraser Cup. Photographs: Neil Paterson.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Lewis Camanachd 1

Lochcarron 3

Two second half goals gave Lochcarron a 3-1 win over Lewis Camanachd at Shawbost.

Crisdean Finlayson put the visitors ahead on 21 minutes but Will Church made it 1-1 on the half hour mark.

Lance MacCuish five minutes into the second half and Liam Arnott on 73 minutes made it 3-1.

Paddy Sinclair hit the post late on in the match but Lochcarron stayed in front to take both points.

Lovat W/O v Boleskine

The match between the Lovat second team and Boleskine at Bargate was scheduled for the third time.

This fixture was cancelled on two previous occasions because of unplayable pitches with the latter call-off coming shortly before the match was due to start.

Boleskine were unable to raise a team for this one so Lovat were awarded the points.

Inverness P v Kilmallie P

The Kilmallie second team were granted a postponement of their match against the Inverness second team at The Bught Park.

Kilmallie made the request following the sad passing of former player Martin Duncan.

2017 shinty season run-in

There's everything to play for as we get down to the business end of the 2017 shinty season.

Marine Harvest Premiership title race

As the main contenders get ready to play their final fixtures of the season, the Marine Harvest Premiership title race looks like it will go down to the wire.

Kyles' remaining matches are split between their Tighnabruaich home and two journeys north. First up is a trip to Bargate to play Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup finalists Lovat on Saturday September 9.

They follow that with a home fixture against the other finalists – Newtonmore – at Tighnabruaich on Saturday September 16.

A mouth-watering meeting with fellow-challengers Kinlochshiel takes place at Kirkton on Saturday September 23.

It could then all come down to the final day when relegation threatened Glasgow Mid Argyll visit Tighnabruaich on Saturday October 7. The sides have already met three times this season with Kyles winning every match.

Kinlochshiel

Kinlochshiel have survived a spell where injury and suspension have tested their resources. Paul MacRae, Oliver MacRae, John MacRae, Colin MacDiarmid and most notably Gordie MacDonald have all had spells on the sidelines and their cup form arguably suffered.

They have kept their title push on track though and, with the exception of MacDonald who has been plagued with a knee problem, the squad is now back to full strength at just the right time. Like Kyles, Kinlochshiel have a difficult run-in starting with a visit to The Eilan to play Newtonmore on Saturday September 9.

Glenurquhart, who are battling the threat of relegation, visit Kirkton on Saturday September 16 and Kinlochshiel welcome Kyles Athletic to Kirkton on Saturday September 23 in a potential title decider.

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016



Glengarry captain Leona Falconer celebrates with the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup.



A jubilant Glengarry team with the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup.

The battle to escape the drop from shinty's top flight will be equally as fascinating as the contest at the top of the table as four clubs look to avoid the two

Marine Harvest Premiership relegation battle

Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

relegation places to the Marine Harvest National Division.

Glasgow Mid Argyll

Glasgow Mid Argyll are currently bottom of the table with five points from their 14 games played. They have been in free-fall in recent weeks, losing their last eight league games.

With four games to go, GMA will be the busiest of the relegation-threatened clubs and have a massive match against fellow strugglers Glenurquhart at Blairbeg on Saturday September 9.

A home meeting with Lovat and trips to Oban Camanachd and Kyles Athletic follow.

Kilmallie

Kilmallie have seven points from 15 games played and their final three matches are all at home starting with Oban Camanachd's trip to the Canal Parks on Saturday September 16.

Next up is a home match against Newtonmore a week later and they finish the season by hosting Lovat on Saturday October 7.

Two defeats against Glasgow Mid Argyll could yet cost them dear and it would be ironic if Kilmallie ended up second bottom of the league as it was their proposal to replace the previous play-off between the teams finishing second bottom of the Premiership and second top of the National which forced change ahead of the 2016 shinty season.

Glenurquhart

Glenurquhart have eight points from 16 matches with two games to go.

Manager Iain MacLeod is another who has had a long absentee list as Stuart MacKintosh, Lewis MacLennan, Neale Reid, Fraser Heath, John Barr, David Smart and Euan Lloyd have all missed chunks of their campaign.

Glenurquhart have already identified Glasgow Mid Argyll's visit to Blairbeg on Saturday September 9 as crucial to alleviating any relegation fears. The sides drew 2-2 at Yoker earlier in the season.

Glenurquhart finish the season with a trip to the west coast to play title chasing Kinlochshiel seven days later.

Lochaber

Lochaber have one match remaining and it's a tough one as Newtonmore visit Spean Bridge. The match is not until Saturday October 7 though so Lochaber face five Saturdays without a competitive game since they lost to Lovat on August 26.

Lochaber will have to watch nervously as the teams below them try to better their nine point total. One concern for Lochaber may be that their goal difference of minus-30 is the poorest in the division.

Marine Harvest National Division title race

The Marine Harvest title race could be decided this coming weekend but there is also another promotion place up for grabs.

Skye Camanachd

Skye Camanachd, with 21 points from 11 games, know that a draw against second placed Caberfeidh at Pairen nan Laoch, Portree, on Saturday September 9 will confirm a speedy return to shinty's top flight and clinch the league title. Skye's only

dropped point so far this year was against Caberfeidh in a goal-less draw at Castle Leod earlier in the season. Skye also have two more chances to reach the required points total as they welcome Inveraray to Portree on Saturday September 16 and finish the season against Fort William at An Aird on Saturday October 7.

Caberfeidh

Caberfeidh have just two matches remaining. They have taken 18 points from 12 matches and, after the Skye game, their final match of the season is at home to Beauly on Saturday September 23. Caberfeidh need to win both these matches to be sure of promotion and they will have one eye on third placed Fort William's results during the run-in.

Fort William

Fort William remain in the promotion race. They currently have 13 points from ten matches so they will narrow the gap on second placed Caberfeidh to a single point if they were to win their two games in hand.

Fort William's next two matches are against bottom side Inverness – at the Bught Park on Saturday September 9 and at An Aird a fortnight later.

Victor Smith's side finish the season with two home matches – against Skye on Saturday October 7 and against Inveraray at the end of October.

Inveraray

Inveraray still have enough matches remaining to stake a promotion claim. They have amassed 11 points from ten matches so they can potentially reach 19 points.

Inveraray's defeat to Beauly in their last match was a blow to their chances and they head for Ganavan to play Oban Celtic on Saturday September 9 before making the trip to Skye a week later.

There is a second meeting with Oban Celtic – this time at The Winterton – on Saturday September 23 and their final match of the season, away to Fort William, is scheduled for the end of October.

Marine Harvest south divisions

Three wins from their final five league matches will guarantee Lochside Rovers the South Division 1 championship.

The Oban side hold the advantage with 23 points from 13 league matches played and they have only dropped three points all season.

Lochside Rovers head for The Meadows to play a resurgent Bute on Saturday September 9. This will be a tricky fixture for Gareth Evans' side, especially as keeper Cameron Sutherland could be required for the first team's meeting with Kingussie as Gavin Stobart has picked up a suspension.

Lochside have another big game a week later when they face the Kingussie second team in the rescheduled Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final at An Aird. Rovers then make for Silversands to play second placed Aberdour on Saturday September 23.

Taynuilt visit Oban the week after and there's a trip to MacRae Park on Saturday October 7 before Lochside finish the season off at home to the Kyles Athletic second team on Saturday October 14.

Aberdour and Bute will look to

Inveraray

The Inveraray second team have all but clinched the South Division 2 title. A point from Inveraray's side final two games will settle matters in their favour.

Marine Harvest north divisions

The North Division 1 title race is a straight fight between reigning champions Newtonmore reserves and Aberdeen University.

Both sides still have three matches remaining, including a meeting at The Eilan in a fortnight's time.

Glengarry look odds on favourites to take the North Division 2 honours. The Craigard side hold a six point advantage over second placed Lochaber seconds, although they have played a game more, with the sides due to meet at Spean Bridge this Saturday.

Caberfeidh seconds are ten points behind, but have three games in hand.

GMA win Robert Wylie Memorial Cup

Glasgow Mid Argyll took the Robert Wylie Memorial Trophy south following a 3-1 win over Oban Celtic at Mossfield on Friday night.

Marine National Division side Oban Celtic had not been in action since the beginning of August when they lost to Skye in the league so this game was a useful work-out for manager Kenny Wotherspoon.

Marine Harvest Premiership side GMA last played in mid-August when they lost to Kinlochshiel, also in the league. With manager George Hay unable to travel, his assistant Dougie Luke took charge of the side.

GMA scored the only goal of the first half when former Kilmallie player Sebastian MacMillan gathered possession out wide and lifted the ball to just in front of the penalty spot where Calum Mclay came running onto it.

Mclay took a brilliant first touch and smashed the ball into the bottom corner of the net to make it 1-0.

GMA had keeper Robert Dunnings, a former Lochside Rovers player, to thank for some good first half saves which denied Daniel Madej, Daniel Macmillan and Ross Macmillan.

Jamie McFadyen put the visitors 2-0 ahead shortly after the restart when he gathered the ball on the wing and ran at the Celtic defence before sending a waist-high shot into the right of the net.

Oban Celtic replied instantly and Ross Macmillan went on a mazy run only to be brought down inside the 'D'. Referee Billy Wotherspoon, who had a good game, pointed to the spot. Macmillan dusted himself down and fired the penalty beyond Robert Dunnings to make it 2-1.

As the night started to draw in, visibility was becoming increasingly difficult and it was GMA who sealed the win. Calum Mclay played the ball along the by-line and keeper Iain MacFarlane saved at his right post.

However 16-year-old Angus MacInnes ran in to flick the ball past the keeper from a tight angle to make it 3-1.

Aberdour and Bute will look to

relegation places to the Marine Harvest National Division.

Members of the Wylie family with the Oban Celtic and Glasgow Mid Argyll squads after the Robert Wylie Memorial match at Mossfield Stadium last Friday night. 17_36celtic01



Winners Oban Camanachd Under 17s with the MacQuiston Cup last Sunday.

Photograph: Kevin McGinn.



Camanachd Association director Colin Cameron hands over the MacQuiston Cup to Oban Camanachd captain Craig Easton.

Photograph: Kevin McGinn.

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup final

The Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final between Lochside Rovers and the Kingussie second team will take place at An Aird on Saturday September 16.

The final was originally scheduled for Saturday July 29 but was postponed because of an unplayable pitch.

Iain Kennedy will be the match referee.

Scotland shinty/hurling preparations

Scotland's shinty/hurling preparations began in earnest with senior and U21 sessions taking place at The Eilan on Saturday September 2.

Scotland Head Coach Ronald Ross put the Scotland seniors through their paces and the players took part in a 12-a-side match.

Scotland U21 boss Allan MacRae also put his hopes to the test. There were only two south players at the session, Inveraray pair Scott MacLauchlan and Lewis Montgomery.

Oban Camanachd's Daniel MacVicar was injured whilst Ross MacRae and Scott MacDonald were playing for the Kyles Athletic second team against Ballachulish.

Lennon Campbell made it 2-0 straight after half time.

Blair MacFarlane played well when he came on as a substitute and made it 3-0 near the end.

It was a fair result and Oban Camanachd captain Craig Easton was presented with the MacQuiston Cup after the final whistle.

Fort William were represented by Arran MacPhee, Calum Shepherd and Alexander MacMillan whilst, Lochaber's Barry Macdonald, Caberfeidh's Blair Morrison, Beauly's Calum Morrison, Kingussie pair James Falconer and Robert Mabon,

Inverness U14 2 Kingussie U14 9

Kingussie's U14s won through to the MacMaster Cup Final, beating Inverness U14 9-2 at Smith Park.

Kilmallie's Innes Blackhall and Kingussie's Rory MacKeachan were unavailable.

MacMaster Cup final

Oban Camanachd U17 3 Col Glen U17 0

Oban Camanachd U17 won the MacQuiston Cup, beating Col Glen U17 3-0 in the final at The Winterton last Sunday.

This 1pm throw-up was played on a heavy pitch but, despite the wet conditions, both teams gave it their all.

Ewen Logan put Oban Camanachd ahead on 31 minutes.

Logan played a long ball in on goal and the ball ended up in the net off the keeper's stick.

Oban Camanachd took the single goal advantage into the break and although they had most of the territorial advantage, the Col Glen side which included players from Strachur, Bute and Aberdour, stuck to their task.

Lennon Campbell made it 2-0 straight after half time.

Blair MacFarlane played well when he came on as a substitute and made it 3-0 near the end.

It was a fair result and Oban Camanachd captain Craig Easton was presented with the MacQuiston Cup after the final whistle.

There was no further scoring during extra-time so the match went to a penalty shoot-out.

Portree's Martin Pringle scored the all-important penalty after the shoot-out went to sudden death.

There was further joy for Portree when Connor Gilpin was named player of the tournament.

The third and fourth play-off was an all-Kingussie affair with Kingussie B running out 2-1 winners against Kingussie A.

Event organiser Allan MacLeod said: 'I am delighted at the standard of play which was on display today from all nine teams which entered the competition.'

'We are very fortunate to have the event supported by Shinty Shop and we thank them for their continued sponsorship. Thanks also to Mike Cameron for refereeing and to Billy MacLeod and Fraser MacKenzie from Glenurquhart Shinty Club for their help on the day.'

MacMaster Cup semi finals

Lochaber U14 5 Kinlochshiel U14 3

Lochaber U14 reached the MacMaster Cup Final with a 5-3 victory over Kinlochshiel U14 at Craigard.

Lochaber made a strong start to the tie and were 3-0 ahead after 15 minutes.

The Spean Bridge side led 4-1 at the break and, despite a Kinlochshiel fight-back in the second half, they won through to the final.

Dillon Brookie grabbed a hat-trick for Lochaber, with Robbie Rydings and Max Campbell getting the others.

Ciaran Kellet, Zander MacRae and Archie MacRae were on target for Kinlochshiel.

Fixtures

Saturday September 9

Marine Harvest Premiership

Glenurquhart v Glasgow MA
John Angus Gillies
Lovat v Kyles Athletic
Archie Ritchie
Newtonmore v Kinlochshiel
Deek Cameron - 3pm
Oban Camanachd v Kingussie
Graham Cameron

Marine Harvest National Division

Inverness v Fort William
Calum Girvan
Oban Celtic v Inveraray
Lachie Wood
Skye v Caberfeidh
Innes Wood

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Kingussie v Fort William
Andy MacLean
Kinlochshiel v Glenurquhart
Brian MacKay
Newtonmore v Beauly
Robert Baxter - noon

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Kilmory v Ballachulish
Iain Kennedy
Bute v Lochside Rovers
Willie MacDonald - 3pm
Kyles Athletic v Aberdour
Scott McNeil
Col Glen v Glenorchy
Ross Brown
Tayforth v Taynuilt
David Mitchell

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Boleskine v Strathspey
John Matheson
Strathglass v Kilmallie
John Wood
Caberfeidh v Lewis
Martin MacLean
Lochaber v Glengarry
Des McNulty
Inverness v Lochcarron
Steven MacLachlan - noon

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour v Oban Lorn
Ewan MacDonald
Bute v Strachur
Neil MacDonald - Noon
Dunoon v Inveraray
Graham Fisher

</

Oban Lorne lose close game to Garnock

Oban Lorne	19
Garnock	25
BT West Division One	

OBAN Lorne kicked off the 2017/18 league season at Glencruitten on Saturday with the visit of familiar rivals Garnock RFC.

The Green Machine were full of confidence going into the new season after winning their inaugural Tower 10s competition and producing a good show against National Division 1 opposition Hillhead Jordanhill RFC in pre-season.

Head Coach Corrie Louw had a strong team to choose from and welcomed Tommy Sutherland, Jack Baxter and Rufus Stones back into the starting line-up. Notably there was a place on the bench for returning prop Liam Burns along with back line players Dave McCabe and Calum MacLachlan who were being rested due to some niggling injuries. Unfortunately Oban Lorne were dealt a blow in the build up of the game with Bulgarian back-rower Vladi Mihov returning to his homeland due to family concerns. Oban Lorne would like to wish Vladi well and thank him for his contribution over the past season.



Tommy Sutherland crashes through the Garnock defence.

Oban kicked off in front of a large crowd of both home and away supporters enjoying the last of the summer sunshine.

Both sides struggled to create any rhythm to the game in the opening 10 minutes with the game shaping up to be a physical battle due to the size and power of the opposing packs.

Garnock took the lead on 12 minutes as they spun the ball wide from a five-metre lineout.

The opposition full back finished off a move on the left hand touchline with the Oban defence gifting the back line a huge overlap to score.

The resulting conversion was a success giving a 7-0 lead.

Infringements

The home side did not let this dent their confidence as they managed to sustain a long period of pressure in the Garnock half. Penalty after penalty for various infringements were awarded to the men in green by referee Andy Summers as Oban's attacking threat looked very threatening.

Garnock were lucky to keep 15 men on the field after a disgraceful off-the-ball challenge on captain Craig Wright, that angered the Oban team and home support but gifted Oban



Oban Lorne pictured before their opening league game against Garnock at Glencruitten last Saturday. Photos: Stephen Lawson

yet another penalty in the pressure zone.

Garnock were eventually reduced to 14 men after more indiscipline close to the line. On this occasion Oban elected to kick at goal which was missed narrowly.

Despite dominating possession, territory and play at the scrum, Oban failed to make any of the chances count and were made to rue this on 30 minutes when Garnock scored again from a five-metre lineout, this time from a driving maul. 12-0 to the visitors.

Garnock extended their lead to 15-0 before the break. Oban's coaching team decided to make a tactical change to their team with Dave McCabe coming into the back line and Rufus Stones dropping to the bench.

Despite trailing at the break Oban were confident in their ability to get back into the game.

The general opinion around Glencruitten was that the men in green had played well but could not make their dominance at times count near the try line.

A few changes were made at half-time with Liam Burns and Calum MacLachlan being introduced to the side.

Oban started the second half well, aided by a powerful scrum and an improving lineout. Stand off Iwan Rhys Roberts was directing his back line well with breaks from Craig Wright and Dave McCabe putting Oban on the front foot.

Ten minutes into the second half Oban hit back with their first try of the day. Dave McLaughlin raced into a gaping hole in the defence 20 metres out allowing the full back to touchdown near the left hand post. Craig Wright converted narrowing Garnock's lead to 15-7.

Oban were buoyed by this and continued to show their strong attacking intent with some powerful running from the pack and creative play in the back line.

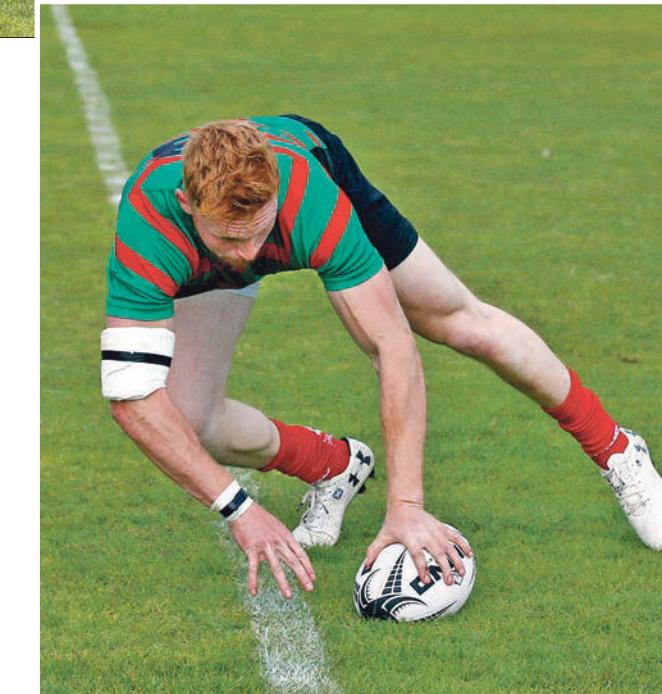
A second try was gifted to Oban Lorne mid way into the second half. A poor pass in the Garnock midfield was hacked through by the boot of Craig Wright, who surged over the line and managed to touch the ball down just before it landed over the dead ball area. Unfortunately a straight forward conversion was missed but Oban were back into the game at 12-15.

Oban had 15 minutes to close out the game but were undone in the closing stages with some

Confidence

The Green Machine were now full of confidence and were playing in a manner rarely seen at Glencruitten over the past year or so. Garnock's noisy support was silenced on 65 minutes when Wright scored his second try of the game from a flowing move of good handling to touchdown on the left-hand touchline. This time the conversion sailed over as Oban made a superb comeback from 15-0 down to lead 19-15.

Oban had 15 minutes to close out the game but were undone in the closing stages with some



Oban Lorne captain Craig Wright touches down for one of his two tries against Garnock last Saturday.

poor decision making and lapses in defence that gifted Garnock two tries.

Credit must be given to the visitors who were very clinical with their chances and impressed with some outstanding support play that aided in their two late tries.

The home side did press for a winning try in the last minutes of the game but were undone by giving away a silly penalty near the try line just as they were building up for a chance of a winning score.

In the end it was a 26-19 win for a well-organised Garnock side in a very entertaining match

Rugby

to open the season.

Oban's spirits were high after the match despite the loss as the team knew they had performed well enough to match one of the league's top sides.

With a losing bonus point gained, Oban sit mid-table after week one and have another tough fixture away to Kilmarnock this Saturday.

Killie recorded a 31-25 win at Annan on Saturday and will provide stern opposition for Oban Lorne. Kick off is 3pm in Kilmarnock.

MacIntyre tees off in Walker Cup Golf



Robert MacIntyre

OBAN golfer Robert MacIntyre will compete for Great Britain and Ireland this weekend in the Walker Cup.

The 21-year-old golfer joins a team of 10 that will take on the USA at the Los Angeles Country Club on September 9-10.

The Great Britain and Ireland team hope to retain the bi-annual competition, which they won back in 2015.

MacIntyre has also taken a step forward in regards to turning professional next year, as he recently signed an am-to-pro agreement with the management company Bounce Sport.

'I'm delighted to be joining Bounce Sport for the next stage of my golfing career,' he said.

'It's been something I've been thinking about over the past year and to finally get things going is great.'

'Bounce Sport have done a great job with other golfers at the end of their amateur careers and the start of a new chapter for them in the professional ranks, as both guys look like they are finding their feet well.'

Scottish Amateur FL results and fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's results

- Scottish Amateur Cup first round - Oban Saints 4, Mauchline United 0; Kilsyth 6, Tarbert 0; Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils 3, Claremont 2; Dunoon 7, Rosehill Star 1; Premier

Division Two - East End United 3, Lochgilphead Red Star 7.

This Saturday's fixtures - Premier Division Oban Saints v St Joseph's FP; Premier Division One - Claremont v Dunoon;

Rosehill Star v Campbeltown Pupils; Premier Division Two - Houston v Lochgilphead Red Star; Tarbert v Carlton YM.

Oban Saints youths' results and fixtures

Youth Football

LAST weekend's results -

Under 13s no game; Under 14s no game; Broomhill 0, Under 15s 6. On target for Saints were Connor Moore (3), James Beaton (2) and Ryan Barclay.

Scottish Cup - Yett Farm BC 1, Under 16s 6. Scoring for Saints were Euan Finlay (2), Lennon Campbell, Aaron McKay, Cammy Clark and Daniel Sloss.

Under 17s 0, Larkhall Thistle 3.

This weekend's fixtures - Helensburgh v Under 13s; Ardencaple v Under 14s; Under 15s v Celtic BC; Under 16s v Westerton United; Helensburgh v Under 17s.

Cyclists gear up for Oban Sportive

THE ROTARY Club of Oban, working in partnership with North Argyll Cycle Club (NACC), is to stage its fifth consecutive Sportive cycle challenge on Sunday September 24 to raise funds for local good causes.

The cycle challenge involves two country routes - the Loch Avich route extending to 52 miles and the longer Kilmartin

Fraser Inglis in the forefront at the finish last year. Fraser is a well-known former shinty player with Oban Camanachd and now equally highly regarded as a shinty commentator for the BBC. He finished the 52-mile route in three hours and 29 minutes.

route at 84 miles, with each offering different levels of climb.

The start and finish points are at the Atlantis Leisure Centre in Oban.

This year, however, a timed hill climb is to be included on the way back for both routes, from the junction at Taynuilt up the glen to the top of the hill. NACC is also holding its annual hill race up the road to Cruachan dam on the afternoon before the Sportive.

The Sportive involves chip timing, route cards, feed stations, signage, marshalls, with Broom Wagons for each course and clearly much work goes in to putting the event on although the level of participation - not

Cycling

entries - is very much influenced by the weather.

Entries so far are looking good with cyclists coming from Kinross, Berwick, Aviemore and London-based Rapha Cycling Club, and it is to be hoped that the weather on the day will reward the organisers and the cyclists.

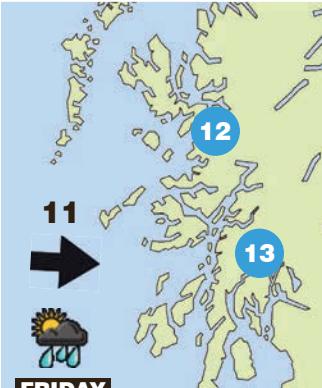
For more information visit www.obansportive.co.uk. Oban Rotary Club and NACC are grateful for the support they receive from BID4Oban, Dawn-fresh Seafoods Ltd, Atlantis Community Leisure, MacQueen Bros, the Rusty Cycle shed and Tesco.



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NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

WEATHER

Thursday	Heavy rain Winds moderate south south westerly Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.
Friday	Heavy rain showers Winds moderate westerly Temperatures 11°C to 13°C.
Weekend Outlook	Heavy rain showers on Saturday Light rain showers on Sunday Winds moderate west north westerly Temperatures 10°C to 15°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday September 7, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	
Thur	00.19	0.8	12.31
Fri	00.53	0.7	13.03
Sat	01.27	0.7	13.37
Sun	02.03	0.7	14.16
Mon	02.43	0.9	15.00
Tues	03.31	1.1	15.55
Wed	04.31	1.3	17.07

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)



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85 pence

School musicians pipe out season

see
page
three



also in your Lochaber Times this week

- Wild's Ben Nevis success
- Tourism group gets funding
- Win an overnight stay for 2 at Links House

Hospital replacement timetable confirmed

NHS HIGHLAND has confirmed the replacement for the Belford Hospital will continue to be a rural general hospital, with construction due to start in the next four years.

Funding for the new hospital was included in NHS Highland's five-year capital plan published in March 2017 and will be part of a wider re-design of health and social care services in Lochaber.

In October 2015 Highland Council bought land in Fort William at Blair Mhor from Tesco for £2 million and made it available for a new hospital.

Dr Brian Tregaskis, clinical lead for the Belford Hospital, said: 'I am pleased work to progress the new hospital is under way. There will be in-patient beds, 24/7 medical and nursing cover, accident and emergency, operating theatre, surgery, outpatients, renal and maternity services.'

'We are exploring a range of options to provide care both in the hospital and in the community.'

Working in collaboration with NHS Highland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, West Highland College UHI and the Scottish Government, the Highland Council helped secure the Blair Mhor site for a new hospital and potentially a new science academy for the West Highland College.

Dr Tregaskis continued: 'In common with other rural general hospitals there have been increasing difficulties to recruit surgeons, anaesthetists and physicians and this is not set to improve. Therefore we will have to be innovative and will explore all options to design and deliver solutions that will work for Lochaber.'

Smelter firm reveals £170m Laggan wind farm plan

Acharacle's Charlie makes history with an Oxford first



IT IS just over nine hours by car from Acharacle to the fabled academic spires of Oxford, but it is a journey that has taken years of effort and hard work for Charlie-Anne Fleming.

And Charlie, 18, will make history next month when she makes that 486-mile journey from her Highland home to Oxford as the first pupil from Ardnamurchan High School to gain a place to study at the city's world-famous university.

Charlie will take up a place at Lady Margaret Hall to study law, after gaining straight 'A' passes in all her SQA results, including three advanced higher.

Turn to page three for more.

MARK ENTWISTLE

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PLANS for a £170 million wind farm on land at Glenshero, near Laggan, have been announced by GFG Alliance, the owner of the aluminium smelter at Fort William.

GFG Alliance this week announced the wind farm, to be developed by its subsidiary SIMEC Energy, will have up to 54 turbines.

SIMEC says the development of renewable energy across its estate lands will contribute low-cost, low-carbon power for industrial schemes such as the smelter and the planned Fort William alloy wheels factory, as well as its steel mills in Lanarkshire.

The next step will be consultation with the local community and stakeholders, culminating in a planning application next year.

GFG says it wants to bring the local community into the wind project with opportunities for shared-ownership and cheaper energy costs for residents.

The company has already unveiled a broad spectrum of ideas for the use of the surrounding estate lands. A London-headquartered international group of businesses, GFG bought the smelter from Rio Tinto Aluminium last year, along with 114,000 acres of some of the most beautiful landscape in Scotland.

East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust (ELLCT) has been trying to buy the land for the community and last month the *Lochaber Times* reported that the community buy-out option was still apparently on



A recent photo shows Sanjeev Gupta, executive chairman GFG, with Paul Wheelhouse MSP above the Lochaber smelter.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

the table. Asked about the community buy-out proposal, a company spokesman said: 'That all forms part of the same overall discussion we're having and will be having with community and other stakeholders about the land so that should unfold over the coming months.'

GFG now intends discussing its proposals with community groups and local stakeholders.

These include a major enhancement of the existing hydro power stations and examining scope for several further small-scale hydro plants around Lochaber and Kinlochleven.

Jay Hambro, chief investment officer for the GFG Alliance and chief executive of SIMEC Energy, says Glenshero is a unique project for the company.

'It would be built in an environment of zero subsidies, using steel rolled and finished in Scotland and then generate clean

energy to support the Scottish metals industry,' he said. 'It is also an exciting opportunity for us to work with the local community and encourage their investment alongside our own. This is truly a win-win project for all parties.'

Duncan Mackison, newly-appointed chief executive of JA-HAMA Highland Estates, the GFG division which manages and develops the estate lands, said: 'We will engage with local stakeholders to bring in those interested in investment in the wind project and make sure the local area shares the potential benefit of the energy generation.'



Councillors' dismay over centralisation

A SENIOR Lochaber councillor has put his name to a motion ahead of today's (Thursday) meeting of Highland Council, urging the local authority to make it clear to Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon that its members feel betrayed over the on-going centralisation of services away from this region.

The plea for the local authority to involve Ms Sturgeon has been sparked by the row over the proposed closure of the police control room at Inverness.

The motion, submitted jointly by Andrew Baxter, councillor for Ardnamurchan and Fort William, together with Council Leader Councillor Margaret Davidson, demands an explanation over when and by whom the decision was made to recommend to the Scottish Police Au-

thority (SPA) that police jobs be moved from Inverness to the Central Belt. Today's motion follows the recent presentation by Police Scotland of its plans to members at the council's Lochaber Area Committee. That presentation saw Mr Baxter, chairman of Lochaber Area Committee, publicly express dismay over what he said seemed like a 'fait accompli' regarding the closure proposal.

After the council presentation at the end of August, Assistant Chief Constable John Hawkins told the *Lochaber Times* his desire was to bring on-going improvements to call-handling to all communities across Scotland. He also referred to proposals for the creation of the national database enquiry unit which would see the creation of a facility

in Inverness working alongside staff in Glasgow. A paper outlining the plans are due to be presented to the SPA board on Thursday September 28 but, speaking ahead of today's council meeting in Inverness, Mr Baxter said there were growing fears over how the planned changes would impact on future policing in Lochaber.

Mr Baxter added: 'There are real concerns over what centralising the police means when it comes to local officers and local knowledge of the area.'

'You just need to look at what is happening with the movement of these huge dump trucks from Glensanda. It's ridiculous that requests for information have to go through a police department in Glenrothes.'

Learn to Ring this September @ the Tulloch Ringing Centre, near Roy Bridge

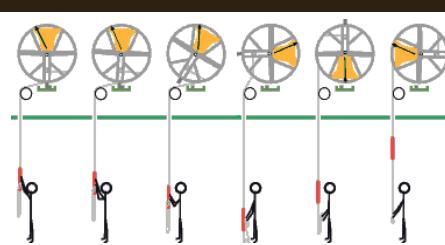
Bellringing is the perfect mix of physical exertion and mental stimulation, producing one of the best loved musical sounds.

The Tulloch Ringing Centre is hosting a one week 'Learn to Ring' course from Mon Sept 18th – Fri Sept 22nd.

In a social, team setting the course cost is £25 for Lochaber residents and £50 for all others.

For more info about the course see www.tullochbells.com & general information about ringing in Scotland can be found: www.SACR.org. Any questions?

Email tullochbells@gmail.com



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FW

WHAT'S ON

THE KILMALLIE Singers start their winter programme tonight, Thursday September 7, at 7.30pm in Kilmallie Church of Scotland Hall, Caol. The evening will begin with a short annual general meeting, followed by a rehearsal for a performance in April 2018. Work will begin on the group's traditional Christmas Carol concert later this year. New members are welcome. Contact 07936 413309 for further information.

LOCHABER Local History Society will welcome Dr Iain McNicol from Appin to the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, tonight, Thursday September 7. Dr McNicol will give an illustrated talk on prisoner of war camps in Kinlochleven during the First World War.

THE ROYAL Scottish Country Dance Society of Lochaber is hosting events during the second weekend of September. Tomorrow (Friday September 8), there will be two sets by The Sorries and a Scottish Country Dance set performed by Angela Young, starting at 7.30pm at the Ben Nevis Hotel, North Road, Fort William. Tickets are £8. Morning classes will be held on Saturday September 9 at Kilmallie Community Centre, Corpach, from 10am to 11.15am and from 11.35am to 12.50pm. Classes cost £4 each.

AS PART of World Suicide Prevention Day, suicide awareness charity Chris's House is organising a walk on Sunday September 10. Leaving from Caol Community Centre at noon, the group will walk to the canal basin at Corpach and back along Caol shore towards the centre. There is a minimum £1 donation. Contact 07876 425913 for more information.

FORT William Photographic Society will meet on Tuesday September 12 at 7pm in the Salvation Army hall. Glencoe photographer Karl Griffin will talk about basic camera techniques, followed by a discussion of members' photos from recent club walks and on the themes of red and waterfalls. Non-members are welcome.

THE ANNUAL general meeting of Lochaber Sports Association will be held on Wednesday September 13 at 6.30pm at Lochaber Rugby Club, Banavie.

THERE will be an opportunity for owners of small businesses based in Lochaber to discuss business-related issues with local MP Ian Blackford at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church of Scotland, in Fort William, on Wednesday, September 19, from 5.30-7pm. No need to book but please contact Gillian Sloan at info@galleryinthefort.co.uk to confirm attendance.



Sensei James Knight (with black leggings) teaches defensive movements to student Alex Farquhar.

Ancient Japanese martial art of Aikido is fighting fit in Lochaber

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

'Warriorship is none other than the vitality that sustains all life'
— Morihei Ueshiba, *The Art of Peace*



Sensei James Knight speaks to the dedicated members of Lochaber Aikido Club.

EVERY Thursday night, the community hall in the village of Roy Bridge turns into a little piece of Japan and the transformation brings with it a sense of calm and positive energy.

For that one night each week, the space becomes the dojo - or training hall - for the members of the Lochaber Aikido Club and it is here that for the past two years men, women and youngsters have been devoting themselves to learn this traditional Japanese martial art.

But you'd be forgiven for thinking that, upon hearing the term 'martial art', that it means the classes are all devoted to learning how to fight because there is more to the art of Aikido than fighting.

True it is about struggle, but it is the struggle to develop and improve oneself as a human being that is the real battle each Aikidoka - or Aikido practitioner - faces.

Founded by Morihei Ueshiba, Aikido is a Japanese martial art that utilises a comprehensive system of throwing, joint immobilisation, striking and

pinning techniques, coupled with training in traditional Japanese weapons such as sword and staff.

But to Ueshiba, his martial art is about more than vanquishing an aggressive opponent, and just as equally is an intense physical

and spiritual training regimen to perfect human character and develop genuine wisdom.

The term 'do', meaning 'way', is common in Japanese martial arts such as judo and kendo, and in various non-martial arts, such as calligraphy (shodo), flower

arranging (kado) and tea ceremony (chado or sado).

Therefore, Aikido literally translates as the 'way of combining forces', in that 'aiki' refers to the principle of blending with an attacker's movements.

The Lochaber club was set up

by Sensei James Knight, a fifth dan ranked black belt and instructor with the Ki Federation.

There are numerous organisations for the different styles of Aikido that can now be found in the UK.

For its part, the Ki Federation, which is one of the biggest organisations, teaches students to develop calmness, positivity, co-ordination and self-confidence for daily life through their practice of Aikido.

There is no tension, aggression or competition involved.

Learning how to cultivate a calm mind and relaxed body is the way to deal with the myriad pressures, stresses and strains that the modern 21st-century world assaults us with day in and day out.

Sensei Knight, who moved with his family to the area just three years ago, says the club is thriving and growing steadily.

'Our adults' class has been going for about two years, with the juniors' class for about six months longer,' he said during a break in teaching Thursday night's students.

'We are only a small club, but with a very dedicated group of students — they are a very interesting mix of people and abilities.'

'Our main emphasis is relaxation. If anyone comes along to a class expecting it to be all about

fighting, they will be surprised.

'The best way to describe our Aikido would be that it is something akin to mindfulness under physical pressure.'

Sensei Knight, who has practised Aikido for 24 years, says the art is a great way to equip people to cope with the tribulations of modern living.

'If you sit at a desk all day, that's not good for your body. We strive to achieve the co-ordination of mind and body, learning how to be relaxed and absorb pressure - from wherever that comes and to give out pressure by moving people around.'

Students in the adult classes range from men and women in their 30s through to those in their 60s, but it is open to all ages.

Classes are suitable for all levels of fitness and the art can be practised equally by men and women of any age or ability.

Sensei Knight added: 'It is by learning to relax and co-ordinate our body movement with our mind that we can improve our health and fitness and enhance the overall quality of our lives.'

For more information contact 01397 712715, email info@lochaber-aikido.org.uk or visit Lochaber Aikido Club Facebook page and website (www.lochaber-aikido.org.uk).

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Transport bosses pledge A82 road closures won't impact Mòd

TRANSPORT bosses are promising a series of overnight closures of the A82 will not impact on this year's Royal National Mòd, due to be held in Lochaber next month.

The closures, which will start later this month, are to allow for more than £400,000-worth of essential maintenance work on the Ballachulish Bridge on the A82. The work, which involves replacing the bridge expansion joints in the bridge deck, will get under way on Monday for up to seven weeks.

Temporary traffic lights will be in place continuously during the work and there will be a temporary 30mph speed limit to keep road workers and motorists safe during the improvements.

To allow teams to access the bridge joints in the centre of the carriageway, four overnight road

closures are required. These are scheduled for October - dates to be confirmed - between 10pm and 6am and will be timed to avoid clashing with any traffic travelling during the Mòd in Lochaber.

During the four overnight closures, light vehicles will be diverted via the B863 to Kinlochleven, adding an estimated 30 minutes to the journey.

BEAR Scotland's representative for the north west Eddin Ross said: 'We only ever close roads when it is essential and our teams will be making full use of the four overnight closures in October to carry out as many repairs as possible.'

'We've arranged the programme to limit the impact to road users as much as possible and have taken account of events such as the Royal National Mòd in Lochaber when planning our programme to avoid any impact.'

View from the Chamber

THIS week, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce CEO Lesley Benfield discusses the importance of the marine environment to businesses in Lochaber and exciting new developments in this area.

Lesley writes: 'We all know that our area's marine environment of coastline and lochs encompasses some of the world's most beautiful and varied waters for outdoor sports, marine wildlife, scenery and heritage.'

'But it's sometimes easy to forget that it is also extremely important to our local economy, with more than 15 per cent of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce membership having business interests in marine or inland waterways.'

'Within the chamber's membership, many tourism businesses offer water-based activities, include canyoning, white-water rafting, canal trips, wildlife-watching, cruising, sea kayaking, canoeing, sailing, fishing, diving, scenic

commercial fishing, aquaculture, fish farms and seafood production.

'Within the marine environment, Lochaber has two top priority projects of national importance which are significant for job creation and economic impact: the Fort William Pontoons (short-stay) allow visiting cruise ships to bring their passengers ashore in tenders, but are equally suitable for some other vessels; and the planned creation of the Thomas Telford Corpach Marina, a fully-serviced yacht facility, together with a public slipway which will offer valuable new facilities.'

'Businesses in Lochaber are ideally placed to benefit from the opportunities that our marine environment offers. At the chamber, we're committed to helping our members achieve their business goals.'

'If you'd like to join our thriving Chamber of Commerce please, give us a call on 01397 705 765.'

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce
WORKING FOR BUSINESS IN THE OUTDOOR CAPITAL OF THE UK

MSP calls for 'mass building' of new houses in Lochaber

MARK ENTWISTLE
markentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

MSP KATE Forbes has welcomed proposals to build 400 new homes in Fort William and says she wants to see 'mass building of houses in Lochaber' despite the extra traffic congestion this would create on the area's already struggling roads.

Ms Forbes was commenting on Lochaber Housing Association's screening application, lodged with Highland Council, for the construction of 400 new affordable houses in the town's Upper Achintore.

In July it was announced

plans to build at least 200 new affordable homes at Upper Achintore were to progress following the award of a £1.2 million grant from the Scottish Government to Lochaber Housing Association. The grant was awarded through the Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply Programme, which supports the government's aim of delivering 50,000 affordable homes, including 35,000 for social rent, by 2021.

Asked if she had concerns that doubling the number of houses proposed for the Upper Achintore site to 400 would only seriously increase growing traffic problems, Ms Forbes said

poor infrastructure could not be allowed to stall growth and jobs creation.

'We cannot let unsuitable infrastructure limit the potential for growth, jobs and reliable sources of income,' she told the *Lochaber Times* this week.

The constituency MSP for Lochaber said affordable housing was a massive challenge in Lochaber, especially in and around Fort William.

'Housing is, without a doubt, the single most frequent subject that people write to me about or ask for my help with,' she said.

'I am, of course, always happy to help with specific individuals but I would really like to see mass

building of houses in Lochaber. If the housing list is already as long as it is, it will only get longer with the potential influx of new jobs and work opportunities. It is very important we are building the right houses - ones that are truly affordable and with different numbers of bedrooms.'

And Ms Forbes added that new housing needed to be in the right places. 'There's no perfect site for housing but I hope the planning department at Highland Council will do what is in the best interests of local residents,' she added. 'We have a long way to go, but I am pleased to see proposals for building a lot more houses in Lochaber.'



Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes says she would like to see 'mass building of houses' across the region.

Man arrested in connection with town theft

POLICE have charged a man in connection with a theft from commercial premises in Fort William.

The 27-year-old was detained in the early hours of Monday September 4 in connection with an incident at a property in Ben Nevis Industrial Estate.

A number of items were found to have been removed from the premises. These have since been recovered.

The man is expected to appear at Fort William Sheriff Court in due course.

Lochaber Times
newsdesk
01397 703003

Young school musicians pipe out season

LOCHABER Schools' Pipe Band held its last street parade of the 2017 summer season last week after weeks of playing for visitors in the centre of Fort William.

Fortunately the streets remained dry on Thursday allowing the band to perform its usual wide range of traditional, lively sets.

The weather has been erratic all summer, with the band forced to call off four of its parades, but it still managed 15 nights of entertainment in the High Street.

The band was playing with a new set of Andante drums, partly funded by a grant from the Helen and SG MacGregor Bequest Fund.

Collections during these street parades are a vital source of income and enables the band to provide uniforms, instruments,

free tuition and membership to youngsters from local primaries and Lochaber High School.

The final night was also the band's opportunity to bid farewell to departing members.

Ewan McGregor, a piper for three years, is leaving the area to join the army, and Emilli Donoghue, a bass and tenor drummer for six years, is starting a college course in early education and childcare.

They both received a photographic memento and certificate from Lochaber High School head teacher Jim Sutherland.

Also recognised was snare drummer Rachel Fraser, who was presented with a shield for dress and bearing.

The band is currently having a short break from performances and rehearsals but will be back together for the Loch Ness Marathon on Sunday September 24.



Award winners Emilli Donoghue, left, Ewan McGregor, centre, and Rachael Fraser, right, surrounded by band members in Cameron Square during the final street parade of the summer.

Acharacle's budding legal eagle Charlie set to soar at Oxford

THERE was much delight among teachers and staff of Ardnamurchan high and Acharacle primary schools this summer when former pupil Charlie-Anne Pleming gained entry to the prestigious University of Oxford.

Charlie, 18, is the first pupil from either the primary or secondary schools to be offered a place at Oxford, where she will read for a law degree at Lady Margaret Hall next month.

Charlie, her family and former teachers are over the moon at her acceptance to study at the famous university.

'I've always wanted to study law and to get the chance to do that at Oxford is amazing. I wasn't expecting it,' said Charlie, who already had an unconditional offer to study law at Edinburgh University before her exam results this summer secured her a place at Oxford.

Mum Jackie and dad Peter are delighted their daughter has done so well. 'It's been a highly stressful year for Charlie with all the studying she had to do. But she has always been very focused when it comes to something she wants,' Jackie, who works part-time at Acharacle Primary School, told *The Lochaber Times* this week.

'She just set her mind to go for it and now she'll soon be off to Oxford University. It's a fantastic achievement and we are all very proud of her.'

In June, as her secondary school career drew to a close, Charlie was honoured with the Lochaber Housing Award for Academic Excellence at a special pupil assembly. She was also the recipient of the Rotary Club of Lochaber Prize for Endeavour.

Despite her excitement, she admits to being a little nervous about the move south. 'I'm a little bit anxious about moving, but also very excited and looking forward to it. The nice thing is I only have to be away for two months at a time,' Charlie



Charlie-Anne Pleming, from Acharacle, now finds herself making the news and not just reading about it, with her entry to the University of Oxford. JJP F36 Local Lass off to Oxford- Charlie-Anne Pleming

added. Speaking this week, a member of staff at Acharacle primary school said everyone at the school was thrilled for Charlie and Ardnamurchan high head teacher Christopher Millar-Craig commented: 'We are obviously all so delighted for Charlie. She worked very hard and has done extremely well, getting three straight 'As'. She is also a very good Gaelic speaker. She has a lot of good background skills.'

As for her future plans after her time at the university, which was immortalised in Evelyn Waugh's novel *Brideshead Revisited* and the 1980s television series of the same name, Charlie hopes to practise human rights law.

'That's what I'd really like to do, but I am well aware you don't always get to do what you want right away and have to work towards it,' she said.

Road operator's wide load concern

ROADS operator BEAR Scotland has told *The Lochaber Times* it flagged up its own concerns about wide loads being moved through Fort William at one of the busiest times of the year.

Asked to comment on local frustrations over the transport of giant dump trucks from Glen-sanda Quarry on the Morvern Peninsula, a BEAR Scotland spokesperson said: 'We always encourage the transportation of particularly wide loads to be undertaken outside busy, weekday periods to minimise the disruption caused.'

'We raised specific concerns about these wide loads moving through Fort William at this time of the year. We've been alerted to a further planned large load movement this week (today, September 7) and more again next week.'

'As such, we've restated our advice to those involved about



One of the giant dump trucks, carried on a transporter, slows traffic through Fort William on Tuesday. F35 A82 Trucks 01JP

avoiding busy times given the impact, particularly on Fort William.'

The Scottish Parliament will hear the tales of traffic woes along the A82 and around Fort William following the lodging of a parliamentary question by Highland MSP David Stewart.

Mr Stewart will tell fellow MSPs and government ministers that roads not fit for the 21st century are definitely not suitable for the transport of abnormal wide loads, such as the current shipments of giant dump trucks.

'Why convey these massive vehicles along roads that are frankly not fit for purpose of the 21st century in any case, never mind using them for the transportation of such large bulk loads?' commented Mr Stewart.

'Constituents advise me that some tailbacks include in excess of 300 vehicles and the local roads policing unit apparently has no say in the timings of these convoys which are being arranged from the Police Abnormal Loads Unit in Glenrothes.'

'Surely common sense needs to be applied here so I wait with interest to hear why this nonsensical situation has been allowed to arise.'

Road crash probe unit for Fort 'unlikely'

THE CHANCES of Fort William getting its own road accident police unit are 'quite unlikely', according to a Lochaber police sergeant.

At a meeting last month, members of Kilmallie Community Council raised concerns over the lack of a police road accident investigation unit in Fort William after a number of road traffic collisions (RTCs) this summer led to road closures of up to seven hours.

Community council member Jim Ramsay said: 'When the new police station was built they said there'd be sufficient numbers and trained people to cover road accidents.'

Currently, Fort William and Lochaber relies on police accident investigators from Inverness or Dingwall.

Sergeant Andy Bilton explained: 'It's to do with kit primarily, rather than local people that are trained. The kit is in Inverness and it is hugely expensive - the camera is upwards of £1m. Having the equipment locally is quite unlikely. The units in Inverness and Dingwall cover the Highlands which means if there is a collision in Caithness or Sutherland, for example, they have to go out there and cover it too. The Highlands actually are the most equipped for RTCs than we've ever been.'

Members highlighted the units in Inverness and Dingwall could easily be blocked on their way to an accident in Lochaber if other sections of the A82 are also closed.

Sergeant Bilton continued: 'A big problem is the lack of availability of diversion routes. Traffic Scotland only put diversions on trunk roads.'

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Island renewables meeting a success

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has described a meeting with Scottish and UK Government officials over island renewables as very positive.

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Industry and Energy Richard Harrington MP and Scottish Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy Paul Wheelhouse MSP met local authority officials to discuss the delivery of the Conservative Party manifesto to support island renewables.

At the meeting, officials from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy outlined the process for the future.

This included the recognition of 'remote island wind' as a distinct technology category; the resubmission of the state aid application to the European Commission and the UK Government's official response to the 2016 Island Wind consultation.

Two parallel consultations around 'remote island wind' and how projects can deliver benefits to the community will also be launched in the autumn.

Comhairle director of development Calum Iain Maciver said: 'This was an important and positive meeting that clearly sets the agenda for the next period. The minister and his officials were positive about prospects for the islands and were keen to hear how the islands could benefit from the establishment of a renewables industry. Island representatives discussed with the Minister the transformative economic potential of renewables, the strategic goal of ensuring communities across the islands benefit from the establishment of the new industry, the different types of benefits that will accrue as well as the different types of methodologies for disbursing these benefits.'

'There are still challenges, but the meeting with Mr Harrington has reinvigorated prospects for island renewables.'

'There now appears to be a broad consensus between the UK and Scottish Governments, the three island local authorities and the developer that progress can and will be made. The comhairle will continue to work hard to help deliver on the potential arising from the meeting.'

MSP explores possibility of 'protected status' for Skye

MSP KATE Forbes is exploring the possibility of Skye being given 'protected status' to ensure the tourist hotspot remains unspoiled.

Writing on the issue of tourism pressures on the island, Ms Forbes also called for Skye to have a shared transport system for 'time-poor' tourists to ease pressure on the island's creaking roads infrastructure.

Over the past few months the Skye MSP has been discussing the issue extensively with tourism groups, including SkyeConnect, as well as other local businesses and residents and recently spent a week on the island as part of her

summer tour. The island's 10,000-strong population is reported to have grown at least six-fold during the height of the current summer season, exacerbating problems with basic amenities such as toilets, parking and litter bins.

Ms Forbes MSP said what was needed was a map that recognises online travel website TripAdvisor's huge impact on setting the destination agenda for visitors.

'We need to help visitors travel to hotspots in another way, not in hundreds of cars or mega-size coaches, but with some sort of shared transport system,' she stated.

'It is already happening to some extent, but needs to grow. Tourists want to visit key sites, take a selfie and move on.'

'Let's help them do that and at the same time take traffic off the road.'

She added: 'The question is not whether there are too many tourists, but about whether it creates a sustainable future for Skye – permanent jobs, higher incomes and opportunities for entrepreneurs. The state has a role to play. We need to protect the land and alleviate pressure at the pinch points. The sheer numbers walking to the Fairy Pools, or leaving bits and pieces at the Fairy Glen, undermines the marketing man's

definition of Skye as 'unspoiled'. That's why I've been exploring the possibility of some kind of protected status for Skye which would recognise the incredible geological, natural wealth of Skye.'

Before the summer Ms Forbes organised the first of a series of meetings to identify and find solutions to pressures caused by increases in tourism.

It is hoped the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Fiona Hyslop MSP, will address a gathering of community representatives, local businesses and public bodies at the second meeting later in the year but a date has still to be finalised.

Projects share £290k cash windfall

COMMUNITY projects on the islands of Canna and Sanday, as well as in Gairloch, will share a £290,000 cash boost from Highland Council's capital discretionary fund.

Isle of Canna Community Development Trust was awarded £10,000 to create a non-tidal vehicle access track on Sanday which will allow use of the road bridge that connects Sanday with Canna without being dependent on tides. Councillors also approved £200,000 for Gairloch & District Heritage Company Ltd towards the costs of developing a new community heritage hub in the former council roads depot.

Councillor Alister Mackinnon, chairman of the corporate resources committee, said: 'These well-deserving projects will make a huge difference to the communities they are located in.'

Fossil fanatic honoured

FOSSIL fanatic Dugald Ross has been honoured by a palaeontology charity.

The Palaeontological Association awarded Dugald the Mary Anning Award last year for his many contributions and dedication to palaeontology but he wasn't able to attend the ceremony in Lyon.

To make sure his achievement was celebrated, Dugald was presented with his award by palaeontology experts earlier this year. A self-taught fossil hunter, he has published numerous academic papers and safeguards fossil sites on Skye for Scottish Natural Heritage. For decades, Dugald has collected fossils in his time off from working as a builder and a crofter.

Former pupil delivers lecture

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig's 2017 lecture will be delivered by a former student.

Julie Fowlis, who has won acclaim as a singer and musician and has showcased her Gaelic heritage to audiences worldwide, will deliver this year's lecture on Thursday September 14.

The lecture begins at 4pm and will be followed by a drinks reception at 5.30pm.

Tourism group gets funding for full-time post



Shirley Spear, Anne Gracie and Rob Ware, interim directors of SkyeConnect, sign the contract with Highlands and Islands Enterprise for funding for a project officer.

SKYECONNECT, the new destination management organisation (DMO) for Skye and Raasay, has been given funding by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to employ a full-time project officer.

Formed earlier this year, the organisation brings together the business and tourism industry on the islands, working with organisations and people including Highland Council, councillors, VisitScotland, the Scottish Government, Business Gateway and HIE together with community bodies and residents.

SkyeConnect has also welcomed the support of Kate Forbes MSP who has been a driving force in highlighting the challenges and opportunities for tourism on Skye and Raasay -

the second most popular visitor destination in Scotland after Edinburgh.

SkyeConnect has been collaborating with other DMOs across the Highlands and islands which included presentations at the first of a series of tourism forums in June.

In the next few weeks an extensive recruitment process will start to seek a high-calibre candidate to join SkyeConnect and its interim board to map the way forward to establish the company as an effective tourism and business hub representing the communities of Skye and Raasay.

Shirley Spear, interim chairwoman of SkyeConnect, said it was all about ensuring a sustainable future for tourism

in Skye and Raasay, in a continuing climate where 'tourism is everyone's business'.

Councillor John Gordon, elected member for Eilean a' Cheò, added: 'SkyeConnect has worked hard to get to this place and we congratulate everyone involved. This is excellent news for our area and an important development in having a more strategic approach for Eilean a' Cheò.'

Ms Forbes said: 'After a busy summer, it's great to see progress on the tourism front. I've long said that what is lacking on Skye is a strategic plan for the future and I have high hopes this new project officer will be just the person to do it. This summer is evidence we need a plan to make the most of tourism.'

All hands on deck for RNLI's Maritime Day

KYLE of Lochalsh RNLI hosts its Maritime day on Saturday and organisers are hoping for another good turnout for what is the branch's main annual fundraiser.

'We are looking to build on the success of last year's Maritime Day and this year's will be the biggest yet, with demonstrations from Kyle and Mallaig lifeboats as well as Kyle Fire Brigade,' said branch press officer Andy MacDonald.

The British Underwater Testing and Evaluation Centre will be present and is once again allowing the public access on to some of its boats.

Coastguard, police and mountain rescue will be there during the day, while

musical entertainment will be provided by Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band.

Weather permitting, the local kayaking club will be getting people out on the water while on shore there will be an obstacle race, rope throwing competition and more.

This year there will also be a tractor pulling competition where teams of six people will see how fast they can pull the branch's launching tractor over a set distance.

The day starts at noon and will be rounded off with the annual Kyle Fire Brigade raft race at 6pm. Anyone wishing to enter the raft race should contact Mike Henderson on 07990 793108 or Kyle Fire Brigade's Facebook page.

Staffin church repairs get lottery fund boost



Staffin church was closed last year.

THE HERITAGE Lottery Fund (HLF) has backed a project to bring a Staffin church back into community use.

Kilmuir and Stenshool Church of Scotland in north Skye is to receive development funding of £25,400 for essential repairs.

Rev John Murray, local parish minister, said: 'We're delighted the Heritage Lottery Fund has given us this initial support. Public worship has been a feature of this building for the past 187 years and it's great we are a step closer to preserving this heritage for the community.'

The building had been used continuously since 1830 until structural issues led to

its closure last year. It is a Grade B listed building with links to Thomas Telford and a close association with the area's Gaelic community.

Lucy Casot, head of HLF Scotland, added: 'Scotland's historic and diverse places of worship are so often at the heart of our communities. Thanks to National Lottery players, HLF funds urgent structural repairs and improved facilities and visitor information.'

'Developing our heritage to be at the heart of community life at Staffin is an excellent example of how HLF can help conserve a much-loved building so it can continue to serve its local community.'

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Call for wild land protection

MOUNTAINEERING Scotland is calling for absolute protection for wild land in planning policy.

The representative body for hill walkers has hit out at planners following the outcome of a judicial review which upheld plans for a wind farm to be built on a wild land area in the Highlands.

Views from northern mountains, such as Scotland's most northerly Munro Ben Hope, will be impacted by the 22-turbine Creag Riabhach wind farm, with five of the turbines standing within a wild land area on the Altnaharra Estate in Sutherland.

Mountaineering Scotland chief executive officer David Gibson said: 'This outcome emphasises why the Scottish Government must change its present policy. Wild land areas must get the same absolute protection as National Scenic Areas and National Parks.'

Anger grows over unofficial dump

FRUSTRATION is growing over the continued dumping of waste at Mount Alexander industrial site near Banavie.

At a Kilmallie Community Council meeting last month, members condemned the regular disposal of waste materials at the site.

Secretary Russell Leaper said: 'It is becoming an unofficial dump. There's years of accumulation. I'll be contacting the Scottish Environment Protection Agency again as they should explain why they haven't done anything about it in five years.'

The community council has previously raised the issue with the protection agency and local police.

Tributes paid to Lochaber man

NEILL BO FINLAYSON

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FRIENDS and family have paid tribute to a Fort William man who died suddenly last week while on a golfing holiday.

Martin Duncan, 35, from Caol, died while on holiday in Ireland with around 20 members of Fort William Golf Club, including his father, James Duncan, who is a steward at the club.

The group had not long arrived on their trip when Martin, an offshore worker, collapsed. His death is believed to have been caused by a heart attack.

Martin leaves a widow Siobhan and two young daughters.

Tributes were paid to Martin last week as Lochaber's sporting community came together to mourn the loss of one of its most popular figures. A keen golfer



Martin Duncan.

and shinty player, Martin was involved in a number of clubs in the area, most prominently Fort William Golf Club and Kilmallie Shinty Club. Having represented the club for many

66

Martin was gifted with great ability. Everyone's thoughts are with Siobhan and the family

•••

Kilmallie Shinty Club

years, Kilmallie paid tribute to Martin at the weekend as players and supporters released 50 blue and white balloons - to



Players and supporters release blue and white balloons at Canal Parks in tribute to Martin.

mark the club's colours - in his memory. It was a fitting tribute to hold the tribute at a youth match given that Martin was a keen supporter of youth shinty and often watched his nephew play for the club at Canal Parks.

A statement from Kilmallie Shinty Club said: 'Martin played at every level for Kilmallie Shinty Club and was gifted with great ability. Everyone's thoughts are with Siobhan and the family at this time.'

The club called off all of its senior matches at the weekend as a mark of respect.

This has been a particularly difficult year for the club as it is still reeling from the death of fellow internationalist Duncan Rodger, 29, who passed away in May this year.

Martin's funeral was held at St John's Church in Caol on Tuesday.



The happy group of Korean divers who took part in the Underwater Centre's first Korean language course.

Korean divers notch up a first for underwater centre

A DOZEN Korean commercial divers have obtained their Health & Safety Executive (HSE) diving certification on the first Korean-language HSE diving course at The Underwater Centre, Fort William.

The 12 divers from Deep Sea Works, South Korea, completed the course - normally delivered in English - entirely in the Korean language.

The Underwater Centre uses translators to deliver courses to groups of non-English speaking divers, allowing companies from non-English speaking countries to obtain this globally recognised diver certification.

The centre had all the course documentation - including dive plans, log books and course material - translated into Korean.

The course was delivered in Fort William with the assistance of an on-site interpreter. As well as translating the instructions and feedback from the assessors, the interpreter also helped with everyday issues, including explaining the centre's restaurant menu.

Deep Sea Works specialises in civil engineering, diving and construction work. The company's chief executive Im Chang Yung chose the centre after being impressed with its instructors and facilities when he undertook his HSE Closed Bell training in 2008.

Chang Yung was delighted with his team's experience at the centre, giving it top marks for course content, delivery, facilities and staff.

'I would definitely recommend The Underwater Centre to other companies and I will be sending my next group of divers to do their HSE ECA in November,' he said.

The centre's air diving training manager Ali MacLeod was pleased with the smooth operation of the course.

'We had allowed a buffer of an extra week for working in another language, but we didn't need it.'

'The process worked really well and the on-site interpreter was fantastic. It also helped that the candidates were some of the best divers we have ever assessed on the HSE ECA.'

The centre has also delivered non-English speaking courses at its school in Tasmania.



BID4Oban bids for renewal



BID4Oban's five-year term is up for renewal. The company is now in the process of balloting local businesses who are currently levy payers for a second and exciting term. Ballot papers have been sent to all eligible parties and these must be returned no later than Thursday 5th October 2017.

BID4Obans Chairman Graeme Bass said: 'I am delighted to present the new business plan for the second term of BID4Oban, which has been sent to

all levy payers. It outlines our key priorities and gives a taste of how we can continue to improve and make Oban a stronger and more prosperous town by working together for the benefit of local businesses and the wider community.

'Supporting BID4Oban is a great opportunity to continue working together and make Oban a great place to live, work and visit. The cost to businesses is low and, through BID4Oban, we can access external

assistance and funding that is not available to individual businesses or local authorities.

'By ensuring BID4Oban continues, we can keep working together to increase footfall, stimulate investment and enhance the reputation of our town. The purpose of BID4Oban is to support our business community, increase trade and improve our business environment.'

BID4Oban Limited was formed in November 2012 as a result of a resound-

ing 'yes' from Oban's business community to support joining forces to create Scotland's first whole town Business Improvement District. It was formed as a not-for-profit limited company to deliver BID4Oban's objectives.

The Vision of BID4Oban is to create a vibrant and vital town centre, with a supportive and involved business community. This ensures that every business trading in Oban benefits from the collective involvement of all business's in the BID.

The Key Objectives for the next five-year term are clearly outlined in the recently published business plan sent to all eligible levy payers. It is also available online at the company's website - www.bid4oban.co.uk

- To improve the economic opportunities for the businesses in the Oban
- To increase footfall, both local and visitor
- To make the BID 'cost neutral' for each business by way of incremental benefits it brings to the town in terms of investment and sponsorship
- To address the issues of individual sectors by partnership working
- To improve businesses relationships with each other, the local authority and the community
- To market the town to a local, regional, national and international audience in conjunction with Oban and Lorn Tourism Association. This will ensure Oban is effectively marketed throughout the UK and globally as a fantastic destination to visit.
- To give businesses a strong, unified voice when dealing with both the local authority and Scottish Government.
- To support local voluntary groups whose aims align with the BID in terms of funding for new and existing events.



months in increasing numbers and extend the season. In addition, we have to work with and occasionally lobby the local authority to ensure that local strategies do not negatively impact on trade.'

Over its first five years, BID4Oban has produced a whole range of initiatives that have improved the town.

Among them are the introduction of BID4Oban town ambassadors, who

have interacted with more than 49,000 visitors; shop-front improvement grants have been issued to many businesses; numerous events have been supported financially



including Oban Live; In addition, in kind support and advice has always been available. It has provided local business liaison during the implementation of the CHORD projects which included Stafford Street, Station Square and George Street improvements.

BID4Oban has also been responsible for putting up over 700 hanging baskets and floral arrangements around the town over its current term; In partnership with Argyll and Bute Council we have enhanced the Christmas lights throughout Oban ensuring a welcoming and festive atmosphere. Along with the reindeer parade in November these investments ensure a vibrant town centre is created. The recent installation of BID4Oban WIFI in the main centre of Oban has enhanced visitors experience, we are now working with Scottish Government

to extend and enhance this service; The town diary and updating the what's on in and around Oban is an integral part in working with many organisations to highlight events. Our fantastic town centre fireworks display in November and Hogmanay are now an integral part of established events. Most recently BID4Oban has worked with local businesses to establish ad-hoc markets to enable them to promote both local produce and merchandise.

BID4Oban works closely with the Cruise Group to ensure we capitalise on the many shipping lines now visiting the town and with the establishment of the new Pontoons in the town this attraction of Oban will only increase in this sector.

The "Love Oban" brand has been established for all our marketing and this will be enhanced in a second term. BID4Oban launched the Love Oban Gift Vouchers and these have been a fantastic suc-

cess since its launch. Love Oban Voucher sales now top £32,000 and a major marketing plan is now in place to ensure Obanites, their friends and visitors benefit from this initiative.

BID4Oban is managed by a dedicated team to manage its resources. This includes Andrew Spence - BID Manager, Yvonne MacLean - Administrator, Kay McDonald - Digital and Town Ambassador and Joe Reich - Town Ambassador. They are there to support and enhance the BID and encourage additional funding from all available sources.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell added: 'BID

is important in helping local business to improve the environment for itself and the communities it serves. BID4Oban has got off to a good start and has clearly made a difference to the town. However, there is much more to be done and I hope the town's business community will keep faith with the project and back it for the next stage.'

Graham MacQueen MBE, from MacQueen Bros, said: 'Oban is a very different, much improved place since the formation of our BID company. All Oban businesses must surely re-elect BID4Oban to continue making our town a shining example of success'.

A series of drop-in meetings will be held at the BID4Oban offices at 43 Stevenson Street, Oban, PA34 5NA

Raasay

Alasdair Day is interviewed at the distillery.

New distillery gets ready for opening

RAASAY'S first legal whisky distillery will officially open on Saturday September 16.

R&B Distillers intends to have the first Raasay whisky ready to drink by 2020.

Co-founder Alasdair Day said the uniqueness of the location would lend something extra special to the brand. He said: 'It is the location – an island off an island with complex geology, water and island climate with probably the best views from any distillery in Scotland – that makes Raasay ideal for our innovative Scotch whisky distillery.'

The Hebridean island's 120 residents have watched eagerly as the disused Gothic villa hotel, Borodale House, has been transformed into the new distillery, adjacent visitor centre and Na Tuaisceart Club members' accommodation.

The distillery team, which will be integral to whisky production, was announced in July and comprises Norman Gillies, an island resident; Iain Robertson, a young distilling graduate; and Chris Anderson, a master distiller with dec-

aes of whisky production prowess.

The young brand subsequently secured grants from the Food Processing Marketing and Co-Operation Grants Scheme, as well as Highlands and Islands Enterprise, for the development of a visitor centre, which is projected to bring in 12,000 visitors to Raasay in the first year.

The distillery on Raasay will be furnished with two copper pot stills sourced from Frilli in Tuscany, and R&B predicts it will be able to produce 150,000 bottles of Scotch whisky a year.

The distillery will be independently owned and operated and is expected to generate employment for up to 10 per cent of the island residents.

R&B stands for Raasay and Borders, two landscapes brought together through one whisky company.

Mr Day's great grandfather, Allan MacDonald, hailed from the Hebrides while his other great-grandfather, Richard Day, was a master blender in the Borders in the early 19th century.

Kilchoan

A £1,500 grant from the Scottish charity Paths for All and permission from Ardnamurchan Estate means Kilchoan Primary School pupils will soon have a safer route between the school and their sports hall facilities at the local community centre.

The plan to make an accessible and safer route will mean that the children no longer have to walk along a stretch of winding single-track road which has no pavements or significant verges, and is also the vehicular access road to the community centre, play park, sports field, learning centre and the ferry.

Adults will also benefit from the new route, which

joins the back of the Kilchoan Hotel grounds and allows everyone to avoid the narrow road junction with Pier Road.

The grant, which was successfully applied for by West Ardnamurchan Community Development Company, will cover the cost of materials for a bridge over the burn to be reinstated along with new pedestrian gates and a pathway.

The community will be doing all the work and volunteers are being recruited for a working party for one weekend in September.

Look out for more details or contact the development company at wadc.info@gmail.com.

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Loch Sunart

The group wants to raise awareness of the uniqueness of Loch Sunart and the Sound of Mull.

Lottery cash boost for Sunart and Mull marine action group

A LOTTERY grant of £9,000 will enable more talks and information sessions, shore and water-based activities, work with local schools and the development of systems for recording, researching and sharing information about the marine environment off the coasts of Sunart and Mull.

West Highland Coastal Trust (WHCT) successfully applied to the Big Lottery for the grant to develop the new Loch Sunart and Sound of Mull

community organisation known as CAOLAS.

The group, which has support from across Morvern, Sunart, Ardnamurchan and Mull, was set up in 2015 when Loch Sunart and the Sound of Mull were being designated as Marine Protected Areas.

'The seas off the West Coast of Scotland are a valuable resource for our communities and for the diversity of the marine life they support,' said Alasdair Firth, chairman of the new group. 'However, our

communities are not always aware of the value and importance of these rich ecosystems, and how fragile they are and vulnerable to impact and pressure.'

'Through CAOLAS we plan to raise awareness and encourage local participation in managing our marine environment in a sustainable way.'

Supported by the West Highland Coastal Trust, CAOLAS will now be able to plan activities to raise awareness of the uniqueness of Loch

Sunart and the Sound of Mull and encourage more community involvement in its management, protection and preservation.

Hugh Raven, chairman of WHCT, who lives in Morvern, said the group was delighted that, thanks to the Big Lottery, the trust was now in a position to support CAOLAS.

If anyone would like to join CAOLAS or find out more about the group and its activities, please contact Alasdair or Dale at caolas.lssm@gmail.com.

Glenug and Acharacle**Lochaber pair cycle length of UK for charity**

TWO Lochaber students have raised more than £5,000 in aid of a Highland mental health charity by cycling the length of the UK.

Jamie Begg and Chris Dacre, both 20, and from Glenug and Acharacle, took up the challenge of cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats in memory of Jamie's mother, Anne-Maire Clegg.

Jamie, an architectural student at Edinburgh University, said: 'The final day was definitely the hardest for us. It was raining, Chris's bike pedal broke and I even lost my jacket.'

'But what really kept us going was the support that we were shown along the way. We had people wishing us good luck at each place we passed, and the support we received from family and

friends was incredible.'

Jamie and Chris received donations along the way, but the majority of their fundraising took place via their JustGiving online site, which currently sits at a total of £5,019.57.

Jamie commented: 'My mum suffered from mental illness for a number of years and she never did make a recovery. Almost exactly two years ago she took her own life and it had a huge impact on me, the rest of my family, friends of the family and neighbours who'd tried to help her.'

'So, along with the fact that Birchwood Highland covers the Fort William area, that's our underlying reason for choosing to support the hugely important work that they do.'



Chris and Jamie at the finish point at John O'Groats.

Fort William

Members of the crew at Fort William Fire Station joined members of the public for an open night event last week. The evening also saw a demonstration involving a mock road traffic accident. JWP/F36 Fort William Fire Station open night

Ardgour

A SPECIAL celebration was in order at the 40th Ardgour Horticultural Show held in Ardgour Memorial Hall on Saturday.

The show encourages people with an interest in gardening, flower arranging, baking and jam-making to get together to not only celebrate these past-times but to help raise money for the Ardgour and Kingairloch churches.

To mark the landmark show and celebrate their commitment of more than 40 years, small gifts were presented to Bill David-

son, and John and Katie Maitland. Chairman John Maitland said: 'It was lovely to see so many local people there, from children and new babies to older members of our community.'

'The show has always been about bringing people together.'

A farewell gift was also presented to Dugie and Anne MacDonald, who will shortly be moving to Milton Keynes.

John thanked Dugie and Anne for their active support of the show and Dugie for teaching the

school children about gardening.

Ardgour Primary School were popular winners of the shield for the best vegetables, while Cathie Carmichael won the overall baking prize despite the best efforts of her niece, Zoe Boyd MacKay.

Keeping it in the family, Betty Boyd was the 'judges' choice' of garden while Alex Boyd won best kept garden. Judges Carolyn Harbison and Les Snelgrave commended Betty for the wide range of plants in her garden.

RETRO**Roamer**

More late summer 1980s musings.

□ The Scottish Office's delaying tactics regarding Aonach Mor seem to be never ending. It is coming up for a year since a decision was 'imminent'. Meanwhile, STV continues to advise that the £7 million ski project on RANNOCH MOOR is in the balance! Shades of the old days on Fort William High Street when Duncan Grant would send us youngsters across from Marshall's to MacLeod's shop for 'The Big Weight'. Meanwhile John MacLeod was despatching another young group over to the garage for 'The Long Stand'.

□ Bet you got a shock when you tried the Lochaber District Council number at the weekend – and found yourself connected to the Police Station. No, it wasn't a cop coup. It was just that the council's answering machine was making no comment – and the calls were being diverted to the Constabulary.

□ Drinking champagne from a slipper may be a regular occurrence for the Hooray Henrietta. But spare a thought for 'Interesting Steve D' who found himself with a pint of lager in his wellies. In a collision with another Pulp Mill Club customer the full contents of his glass finished up awash in his green wellies. As full as a boot, in fact. Had Steve D not been so surprised, and somewhat wet around the ankle, he might have poured the bootful back into his glass and complained that the lager was cloudy.

□ Bill Bryce was fuming. By his beard, he was. Bill had just come back from the Loire Valley where everything was wonderful, and he could park his motor anywhere. But all good things came to an end when he left his Land Rover in Viewforth on his first day back in the office. You see, Bill couldn't get into his private, paid-for parking bay (probably occupied by French tourists). So he returned a few minutes later to review the situation – and found that he had qualified for a £7 ticket from the men in white coats.

□ Spotted on the Ben Nevis mountain track last Sunday. Plimsolls and trainers galore. One French family in wellies. Italians sporting ski poles (for balance?), and a right royal looking woman with parasol. All of this in a noon temperature of 75 degrees. But no mad dogs or Englishmen, apparently.

□ Hoity-toity customer in Matheson's. 'I'm looking for a tallboy,' she announces. 'Well, you've come to the wrong man!' Wee Donald replied.

□ Down Memory Lane went our mountain rescuers at their slide show. Not lantern slides, right enough, but some of the shots were bordering on the antiquarian. Like, for example, George (Harrison) Archibald, Wee Willie (Anderson) Harris and the Man with Two Surnames, complete with long hair and banjos. Terry Confield and Alex Gillespie sporting flowing locks, Donald Watt's Beatnik look – with centre parting, Bearded and longish haired George Bruce, looking as if he'd just stepped down from a Player's cigarette packet. There's more but I'd better not mention his surname as John Stevenson will get the blame for telling me about the one whose ears were sticking out like a mini with its doors open.

□ Conternation in Monzie Square on Friday. There was no morning coffee. Nor afternoon tea. The plug for the kettle had given up the struggle and a new one was required. Girl Friday was despatched to Woolies. Came back with – a shaver plug. Coffee or tea, anyone? No chance.

□ When you set foot inside the front door of Lochaber House the Magic Eye comes into operation. So it must have been quite entertaining for the upstairs audience to watch the antics of the Yanks who were looking for a stamp machine alongside the lift shaft. Maybe a wee notice would be in order. Or a loudspeaker message could be broadcast to the many tourists who confuse Lochaber House with the Post Office.

□ Livy was livid. He'd hunted all over the 'Lochaber Look' to find 'Ben' – and so have a chance to win £10. He had stood on his head, got down on all fours, bent over backwards (next month Livy is just going to turn the paper round instead). Finally, however, Livy located Ben. He went for the scissors to cut out the competition advert. It was only after he'd posted his entry that Livy realised he'd actually sent away the advertisement next to it.

□ With the West Highland Line poised to enter an era of hi-tech radio signalling later this year, I hear that the Baravie Station personnel have been given a very exacting task. They have been instructed to produce an inventory of all the railway property for which they are responsible – and which has been in the station since Nineteen Oatcake. So they have to fill in a questionnaire as to the year the coal scuttle was provided, how many Tilley lamps there are, the number of chains in the toilet, the date of the platform seats and whose initials are carved on them, and so on. It beats me why ScotRail doesn't have this info on its own files.

□ Skip, change of step. Yes, folks it's the Lochaber District Council Country Dance Appreciation Society's variation on the theme. Yet again. For the fourth time in no time at all, the council has decided to demolish the steps leading up to Ross Place. Soon the residents have to decide, like the Grand Old Duke of York's men, whether they're going to be up or down – on a daily basis.

□ A Braes angler was out for a walk when he came across a fair-sized salmon on the banks of the River Roy. 'Ah!' he thought. 'This one must have been landed by an otter.' Without further ado he got out the knife he uses for such purposes and, having 'prepared' the salmon, went to get his car to facilitate the spiriting of it away. As he was organising this, an angler who had actually caught the salmon and who, too, had gone for his car, appeared on the bank. He saw the fish with the marks of the knife on it and thought to himself, 'Just as well I got back here quick, or an otter would have been away with the whole fish!'



Many Roamer readers will recall this exhibit of a Highland croft interior which featured for many years in the West Highland Museum.

Viewpoint



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

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

There is no doubt Fort William is crying out for more housing, particularly affordable housing, and there will be many people with the same views as MSP Kate Forbes who this week welcomed plans to build 400 new homes in the town. But to do so without serious consideration to the extra traffic this would generate, and how our struggling infrastructure would cope, would be extremely short-sighted.

Ms Forbes said poor infrastructure should not be allowed to stall growth and jobs creation, but the reality is that without that key infrastructure the town will struggle. It does already, particularly during the summer when

an influx of visitors seriously impacts the day-to-day flow of traffic in and out of the town.

No-one wants to stand in the way of Fort William growing, but we need to include road improvements and upgrades to any housing plans to make it work in reality.

Work on the business park – which is relatively small in the grand scheme of things – is currently causing congestion. Imagine what it will be like if you add works traffic and temporary traffic lights that will no doubt have to be put in place to allow the building of 400 or more homes.

Bring on the houses, but not without road improvements.



Days gone by – 1988

Les Horn from Onich emailed *The Oban Times* to say: 'Here's a picture of the pupils and staff at Achaleven School in 1988 where our children attended when we stayed in Ferryfield at Connel. Should jog a few memories.'

MacPhail



ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk

ON AUGUST 31, the Highlands and Islands of Scotland went into mourning for the most charismatic character to emerge from the area in living memory.

As news of the death of Norman MacLean spread, the extent to which he was revered by so many was made clear in the tributes paid.

Born in Glasgow of Tiree and Uist parentage, his multifaceted genius, personality and identity gave him a unique ability to step in and out of various personas effortlessly and be authentic and shine while occupying each one.

As a writer, as a musician, as a singer, as a comic, as an academic, as a mimic, as a linguist and as an actor he excelled and in any one of these spheres he could have carved a successful career.

However, it is the sum of all these talents, topped off with the sparkling charisma of a Hollywood celebrity that made Norman the anomaly he was and which meant he was undoubtedly destined for international success.

Sadly, the success never materialised, because time and time again Norman would, as he said himself, 'hit the self-destruct button'. His immense talents and attributes were counterbalanced with many tragic flaws, which

manifested most clearly in his addiction to alcohol.

It is my own and many others' firm belief that without this addiction, he would have been a household name throughout the English-speaking world and not just as he was in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

Norman's comedy was an integral part of my teenage years, and listening to his tapes became almost part of our school curriculum such was the extent to which they were played in the common rooms and changing rooms during break times.

Through my early 20s I was lucky to work with Norman, playing at countless gigs with him throughout the country over the course of a few years. When working, he was supremely professional at all times and approached it with the energy of youth, which considering that at this time he was in his early 60s was remarkable.

He was always immaculately dressed, always on time and always performed with total conviction to the show. I realise this sounds unlikely given his reputation, but as with many aspects of his life it was 'all or nothing'. When he was sober, he was incredible. If he was

drinking, he would simply not turn up.

He was a constant source of encouragement during the early years of Skipinnish Records and kindly wrote the cover notes for the first two Skipinnish albums. We subsequently released on CD his comedy recording Fully Wrapped and Standing, which was recorded in the Royal Hotel in Oban and had always been my favourite of all his recorded output.

The last time I worked with Norman was during the Mòd in 2009 when he used the Skipinnish Ceilidh House to perform book readings from his newly-penned and hard-hitting autobiography, *The Leper's Bell*. The adulation shown to the man by fans who came to hear him read excerpts was amazing to witness, and he approached these events with the same professionalism that he showed when performing comedy.

Norman lived out his latter years in probably the most fulfilled period of his life. He was writing steadily, was aware of the love that a population and those around him had for him, and seemed to be at peace with his journey – and that is infinitely more important than any amount of international stardom.

He was always impeccably dressed, always on time and always performed with total conviction to the show. I realise this sounds unlikely given his reputation, but as with many aspects of his life it was 'all or nothing'. When he was sober, he was incredible. If he was



A call for live-streaming of Argyll and Bute Council meetings online garnered plenty of support.

Colin Martin posted: 'It's interesting that the equipment is already in place because the Provost told me in an e-mail the other day, "I was being continually pestered to sign a petition which I felt had not been properly evaluated economically." If the equipment is there what justification does he have in not turning it on!'

Steve Letford agreed: 'What possible valid objection could anyone have to this? Anything that informs and engages the electorate surely leads to us making better decisions at council elections and consequently getting councillors who are better for us and Argyll and Bute - and by golly we could do with that considering some of the representatives we have just now.'



states in the Highway Code about legally sized vehicles and loads allowed on the road.

'The planning team should read this before planning the square.'

Social media

The movement of an extra wide load through Oban last Wednesday, which caused damage to railings on the pedestrian island at Argyll Square, caused comment.

Finlay MacDougall complained: 'Once again, highlights the poor planning of Argyll Square. Not to mention the joke that is George St, with three sets of lights plus various traffic islands. Zero traffic flow and idiots jumping in front of cars!'

Nicola Wilson asked: 'Why didn't they take it around the other side...against the traffic...like they did on Esplanade?? Bet it's our council tax that'll foot the repair bill to.'

James McCahey wrote: 'Road system's a joke; need a bypass.'

Mark Stuart said: 'Might this be a call for an Oban by-pass?'

William Burgess offered: 'It clearly

states in the Highway Code about legally sized vehicles and loads allowed on the road. The planning team should read this before planning the square.'

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.

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.

Consistently opposed to warden cuts

Sir,

I don't often reply to letters written about myself in the local press but I feel the need to respond to a letter from *The Oban Times* (August 31).

The letter points out meetings I have not attended while failing to mention the meetings I have attended.

The letter also mentions a Trust Housing meeting about the cuts to warden hours at sheltered housing on Islay. While not being able to attend this meeting due to being unable to get staff relief that day, I had been in contact with numerous residents of sheltered housing on Islay as well as Trust Housing officials.

I wrote a letter to *The Oban Times* about just this matter. I pointed out that, as a board member of the Housing and Social Care Partnership, I have made it clear that I am completely against this decision as it goes against a national drive to support people in their own homes. I believe it will disproportionately affect island communities and will have serious short- and long-term consequences. It is important that the HSCP listens to all partners around the table – elected councillors (there are four of us) have as much to contribute as the NHS appointed members.

I have to say, though, that when I stood for the council, on many of my leaflets and on my campaign page I made it clear I believe we needed councillors who did more than just have a good record of attending meetings. My view has not changed.

I also feel obliged to point out that large numbers of my constituents contact me every day voicing concerns about the SNP and its mishandling of Scotland's devolved powers.

Judging by some of the letters in the local press about me and the increasingly bizarre and offensive posts on my Facebook campaign page, it is my opinion that many separatists are not so much angered by my actions since being elected but are simply angry that a vocal and proud Unionist was elected.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Islay.

Residents' views are being ignored

Sir,

Regarding BEAR Scotland's ill-conceived plans for improvements to the A828 during September, I agreed that the road needed some maintenance and improvement, but its suggestion of 10 full daytime closures was just ridiculous.

The road is of crucial importance to all communities between Connel and Ballachulish and any closure or restriction would have had significant impact.

This road was closed over several

Beachd Ailein



ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

AIR AN T-SEACHDAIN SEO CHAIDH thug mi tarraig air an fheum air eolás a thoir dha dráibhearan air mór-rathaidean agus rathaidean singilté dithcheall agus tha mi leantainn le cuspair eile a shaoleas mi a tha deatamh ann an sábhailteachd siubhach ná duthcha. 'S e sin siubhainn air dà chubheall, air rothairean agus rothairean-einnsean! Chan eil duine a shiúblhas a' Ghàidhleachtach, tro mhiosan an t-samhradh gu h-áraid, nach eil mothachail air na bheil de mhótar-baidhsagalair na rathaidean, agus glè thrioc iad nan treudan de suas ri fheiceadair neò còr.

A réir coltais tha leithid sin de bhuidhnean aig amanann a' cur cuairt air caob mhòr de dh'Alba ann an latha agus tha na rathaidean lùbach, cas nas tarraigheach dhaibh na feadhainn fharsaing chòmhnaid. Chan eil e doirbh a thuiginn carson a thà pòsadh de rathaidean cumhang agus astar a' cruthachadh shuidheachaidhean cunnartach, air an sin gu sónraichte far am bheil móran de luchd nam motair-baidhsagal a' feuchainn ri cumail suas ri chéile agus a' dol seachad air carbadan nas slaoaiche far nach eil sin idir ionchaidh. Tha bhuil ann agus tubaisteach a' tachairt tric, cuid aca sin fior dhora is feuchainn a' call am beathá.

'S e rud a tha annasach mun t-suidheachadh gum bheil a' mhòr-chuid de luchd nam motair-baidhsagal sin seachad air meadhain-aois, nas fhaigse air seagasd seach triceadh! Nach saoileamaid mar sin gum biadh barrachd túir acar air an rathad, ach tha aon mhathas co-dhùiù gum bheil iad air ire de thréanadh faothain agus gum b' fheudar dhaibh deuchainn air an deaghannach airson cead- dráibh dhaoftaing air an inneal a tha fionn smachd. Tha lagh cuideachd a' dèanamh cinnteach gum bheil motair-baidhsagalair air an cumail ann an deagh staid shàbhailteachd le àrachas ionchaidh orra guis dion a thoir dha mhòr-shluagh. Chan ionann sin idir agus na rothairean a tha cuideachd cho lionmhor air na rathaid-

ean agus na sàidean. Dh'fhaodte a ràdh gum bheil an suid-

nights during May and June. Minimal effort was made by BEAR Scotland to highlight this work so I wrote to complain.

I was assured that BEAR Scotland 'listen to the views of locals' and 'take every effort to minimise disruption' but now, with more extensive (and significantly more disruptive) works planned, it slipped out on an announcement on its website on a Friday afternoon, giving 10 days' notice of the impending works, and had the cheek to say that it was 'consulting extensively' with locals, business owners and road owners.

What a load of nonsense. There was no meaningful consultation. BEAR Scotland made its plans with no intention of even considering the impact on local communities or on what local people, local businesses or general road users actually thought.

Despite emails to BEAR Scotland, I've had no personal response to my comments or suggestions. This attitude from an agency of government is totally unacceptable.

Local communities deserve better. Ewan Mathieson, Appin.

It is the drivers who are dangerous

Sir,

There is a lot of talk at the moment of the 'Stay Alive on the A85' campaign, but I'm sure I'm not alone in wishing that the stress should be on the bad drivers, not on the road itself.

I've driven the empty road many times at night and it's done me absolutely no harm at all.

I was driving behind an Audi at 10am today in wet conditions and very poor visibility. The driver continually drifted across the double white lines in an effort to get past slow-moving traffic and eventually made his move, crossing the lines at great speed and overtaking several vehicles at once.

I don't see the point of speed limits and more double white lines as they are all too often ignored.

What we need are cameras to catch the inconsiderate idiots who think they are good drivers but in fact are not. People who deliberately put the lives of others at risk simply to overcome their own impatience should be banned from the road forever.

Maurice Wilkins, Laurel Road, Oban

What happened to pledge of police unit?

Sir,

Should the A82 be closed with a major accident at Onich, drivers travelling north would need to divert back to Crianlarich, then through Killin and Pitlochry to Spean Bridge.

When the new police station at the Blar was proposed one of the ad-

heachadh leotha-san nas miosa buileach leis nach eil smachd cunbalach air oideachadh luchd-cleachdaidh, sean neo òg, agus chan eil deuchainn ann gus comasan luchd-cleachdaidh a dhearradh mun tèid iad air an rathad. Leis nach fheum iad àrachas de sheòrsa sam bith a bharrachd, tha iad nan cunnart dhaibh fhéin agus dhan mhòr-shluagh! Thug an tubaist dhuilich ann an Lunnainn bho chiomh ghoirid far an deach boireannach og a marbhadh nuair a bhualaidh baileasgal innse ire a' chunnabha seo gu aire às ùr. Saol nach eil feum air tréanadh oifigeil rothaireachd agus deuchainn comais, agus fiu's àrachas gus daoine a dhion?

HIGHLAND motorists are well accustomed to groups of motorcycles burning up our roads during the summer in particular, and sadly too many accidents occur. It has to be said, however, that motorcyclists have to pass a proficiency test and their machines must be maintained and insured against at least third-party risks.

Pedal cyclists are subject to no regulation, or even a minimum age threshold for their being on the road.

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

Le taic bho



SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG

www.smo.uhi.ac.uk

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



The bales on the Camerons' croft at Onich are proving popular with youngsters.

Purple bales put smiles on faces at Onich

ANGUS and Elaine Cameron's croft at Onich is proving to be a magnet for tourists and their cameras, thanks to bright-coloured bale wrapping.

The wrapping - and smiley graphics - have been supplied by agricultural supplies firm Carrs Billington, which continues to support WellChild, a national children's charity that does amazing work for seriously ill children.

Mrs Cameron told *The Lochaber Times*: 'The amount of people who have stopped to look at the bales or take a photo has been unbelievable.'

'It's a worthwhile cause and it is also really nice to see the bales making so many people smile.'

Carrs is trying to top the £13,000 donated last year from the proceeds of the purple wrap and netting and from fundraising activities by company staff.

Anyone buying the purple wrap receives graphics to help personalise their bales. The company is also encouraging buyers to send in photographs for the Facebook pages of WellChild and Carrs Billington.

The display with the most 'Likes' will receive a pair of tickets and accommodation to the WellChild Awards.

Through their UK-wide network of children's nurses, home makeover projects, family support groups and research, WellChild makes it possible for children with serious illness to be cared for at home with their families wherever possible.

Research centre staff step up with big care team donation

A FORT William care fund has received a generous donation from a Lochaber marine research centre.

Staff of FAI Ardtroe Marine Research in Ardnamurchan visited the Belford Hospital last week to hand over a £2,270 cheque to Lochaber Cancer and Palliative Care Fund.

The money was raised through a climb up Ben Nevis by staff at the Ardtroe research facility, who were joined by friends in Acharacle.

The care team is grateful to everyone in the area for their support to the Lochaber fund.

The fund is used locally to support oncology patients in the Lochaber community both in health centres and the Belford

Hospital. It provides specialist equipment and contributes to education projects across the area to increase the knowledge and confidence of healthcare professionals working with those affected by cancer and their families.

The fund also pays for complementary therapies for patients and carers.

Right: Tracy Cameron of Ardtroe hands over the cheque over to Anna Strachan, as members of staff from Ardtroe and Belford Hospital look on.



Public volunteers sought by NHS

NHS HIGHLAND wants to recruit public members to its clinical governance committee and area clinical forum.

Volunteers from local communities are needed to join board members and senior clinicians and managers to help oversee the board's work in a number of key management and clinical areas.

NHS Highland chairman David Alston said: 'These forums are really important areas and I believe it is essential we have lay members' input to the decisions they make.'

A lay member will be expected to attend five meetings on the clinical governance committee and six meetings of the area clinical forum in a year and be willing to be consulted in between these meetings.



Chrissie MacEachan cuts the ribbon to officially open the Mòd Shop on the High Street. IF F36 Mod Shop 01.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Town gets in the mood for Mòd

RENNED Gaelic singer, Mòd Gold Medallist and choir conductor Chrissie MacEachan cut the ribbon to officially open the Mòd Shop in Fort William High Street.

The Mòd Shop will be open three days a week - Thursday, Friday and Saturday - from 11am to 3pm until the beginning of October when it will open five days a week.

The shop will be trading throughout the Royal National Mòd, being held in Fort William this year, and will close on Saturday October 21, the last day of the festival.

The shop will help to raise funds to support the Mòd visit to the town in October.

Regain control of your electric heating

Partially upgrading a system of manual electric storage heaters to Dimplex Quantum heaters is all it took for homeowner Amy Ahmed-Dolphin to cut her heating bills by more than £500 per year – and improve comfort and controllability too.

Quantum is the world's most advanced off-peak heater and the perfect replacement for an old, outdated storage heater - it uses low-cost, off-peak energy to make it the most economical off-peak electric heating system on the market today. Intelligently adapting to match climatic conditions and your lifestyle, delivering heat only when it is needed, 24 hours a day, it can be installed as a standalone heater or part of a system.



The house is far more comfortable, even in the coldest days of winter¹

Amy Ahmed-Dolphin said: 'The results were instantaneous. From the very first time we turned the Dimplex heaters on, we could see the benefits they delivered. We have greater control, we're no longer relying on supplementary heaters in the evening and the house is far more comfortable, even in the coldest days of winter. And that's without even calculating the cost savings of course.'

'At the point we upgraded the heating system, we were paying an average direct debit of £119 per month to the energy company. Now, we've dropped to an average of less than £73 per month.'

Dimplex Quantum, is up to 27 per cent cheaper to run than a standard storage heater system and up to 47 per cent cheaper to run than an electric convector or radiator system - all because of its efficient use of low-cost, off-peak energy.



www.dimplex.co.uk/quantum

See the Quantum for yourself

We are in Kilmallie Community Centre, FORT WILLIAM 12th Sept & Corran Halls, OBAN 13th Sept
Go to www.dimplex.co.uk/town-near-you for further information

Dimplex®

REDRING

MAKE YOUR HOME MORE COMFORTABLE THIS WINTER

If your old storage heaters are ready for replacement or it's time for a living room revamp that won't break the bank, please join our experts to talk about your electric heating options.

12th September
9.30am – 5pm

Kilmallie Community Centre, Station Road, Corpach, Fort William PH33 7JH

13th September
9.30am – 5pm

The Corran Halls, 54 The Esplanade, Oban PA34 5AB



For further information contact us on:

Tel: 0800 028 6122

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