

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Royal National Mòd gears up for 2017

Participant numbers expected to be highest in a decade

WIN SPOT THE £2.5K SHINTY BALL

Pioneer care scheme falters after too few people seek its support

SANDY NEIL
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LISMORE and Appin's 'successful' new care scheme is under threat after too few people signed up to it, resulting in the coordinator's post not being renewed.

The Appin and Lismore Community Care Scheme, a social enterprise model of home care employing local carers to care for local people, was due to be rolled out across Argyll after its 12-month trial ends in October.

A Lismore carer told us the innovative project was the 'ideal solution' to problems faced in remote Argyll, as growing numbers retire to 'paradise' only to find old age turns into a 'nightmare'.

But one carer on Lismore, retired teacher and 'potential client' Mary MacDougall, fears the island is now losing its 'highly successful' home care service, saying: 'My 90-year-old mum receives care from this group, and she and I are anxious about this.'

She told *The Oban Times* the care was 'inadequate' before because external carers didn't turn up due to cancelled or missed ferries, or left when they could not find clients in their allotted time.

In 2016 Appin Community Trust successfully bid for £17,000 from the Integrated Care Fund to employ a care coordinator, Elizabeth Bruce, for a year through Highland Home Care. A team of Lismore and Appin Carers were recruited and trained, even winning a Scottish Care Award this year.

Ms MacDougall continued: 'Care in the community, by

members of the community, seemed the ideal solution. We can give them the care. We have had the training. A person could be looked after in their own home without any distress.

'If an elderly person falls in Lismore, there is no doctor, no nurse. The person is lifted by helicopter to Oban. They cannot leave hospital until there is a care package in place. How much does that cost?'

The scheme, she said, had stopped ill and elderly islanders 'bed blocking' Oban and Glasgow hospitals, or forever leaving for sheltered housing and care homes far from family and friends on the mainland, 'which must be more expensive for Argyll and Bute'.

'But it seems, like all good ideas in Argyll and Bute, it's going to be scrapped and all the costly training will neither benefit our communities nor Argyll and Bute Council,' said Ms MacDougall.

'Liz has been given notice that her job ends on October 15. She made sure we were competent and confident to look after people. I would give Liz a full-time job and send her to other islands. They all have the same problem: a stretch of water between them and help.'

Islander John Livingstone, who died of cancer in August, spent his remaining time at home with family on Lismore thanks to Liz Bruce and the carers' support, his son Andrew said.

'It meant everything for him. He would have gone downhill a lot quicker if he had gone into hospital. We would not have been able to spend that much time with him. It worked very

Fab four celebrate degree success



Four former pupils of Oban High School graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Marine Science from SAMS UHI on Friday. Daniel Burt, Joni Anfield, Rebecca Kynoch and Stacey Felgate were among 19 undergraduates who presented with their degrees at a ceremony in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls. For full story and more pictures, turn to page four. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

well. They were able to tell us how to make a hard situation very much easier,' he said.

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership stated: 'Funding for the care coordinator would be generated from a percentage of the

funding they received for each client they supported. However, local residents in Appin and Lismore who receive care, like everyone else, have the legal right to choose their own care provider and the scheme has unfortunately been unable to

attract sufficient residents to retain the coordinator's post.

'They had issues in recruiting and retaining staff which means they have also not been able to expand their care provision.

'This model of care has been

highly recommended and it is important we work together to build on the framework. We will continue to hopefully find a solution, and our priority is to ensure continuity of care for the clients living in Appin and Lismore.'

Brave Ciara loses battle with illness

'BRAVE' Ciara Caskie Allan, 16, from Islay has lost her 13-year battle with illness.

Sharing the sad news on the Ciara Caskie Allan Appeal Facebook page, the family said: 'Sadly today we lost our brave little girl'.

'Despite her amazing courage, coupled with the most infectious smile and overwhelming personality our dearest Ciara lost her long running battle with her horrible illness.'

'No words can express how we are all feeling this evening, our home seems completely empty without her.'

'As a family we would all like to thank each and every one of you that gave Ciara your support and encouragement over her 13-year battle. One thing this journey has taught us is that thankfully there are still far more good people in this world than there are bad.'

'Tonight she sleeps in a better place free of pain and illness but forever in our hearts.'

'God bless you, Ciara.'

INSIDE YOUR OBAN TIMES THIS WEEK

Court hearing

AN OBAN woman cleared of killing her partner in a car crash in 2013 will have to pay his family damages following a civil case. Full story - page 3.

MacIntyre magic

OBAN golfer Robert MacIntyre fulfilled a dream when he represented Great Britain in the Walker Cup last weekend. Full story - back page.



Do You Suffer From Sore, Gritty or Red Eyes? Yes No

Are Your Eyelids Crusty or Inflamed? Yes No

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Oban man jailed for double theft

AN OBAN drug user has been jailed for 10 months for stealing two vehicles to get to Glasgow.

Eioun Smith, 41, of 3A Millpark Terrace, Oban, admitted stealing a car from an Oban garage on July 29, then a van and its contents from Taynuilt between July 30-31, and driving both without a full licence and insurance.

Smith's partner, Melissa McLaughlin of the same address, also stood accused of stealing the two vehicles, but her not guilty pleas were accepted by the Crown.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinny told Oban Sheriff Court on

Tuesday September 12: 'He [Smith] had picked her up in the first vehicle and as they reached Taynuilt it ran out of petrol. He made off to make other plans and returned with the van. CCTV showed two people get into a van and drive to Glasgow.'

'The van's contents are noted as missing. The owner has indicated the loss to be £3,200. All his tools were missing and the radio was removed. He feared the van would be written off given the lack of keys. He had not received a day's pay since the van was stolen.'

'He [Smith] said it was opportunistic. He could not

really remember what had been happening as he had been on drugs.'

Police suspect the tools were sold in Glasgow, Mr McGinny added.

Smith pleaded guilty to another charge of acting in an aggressive manner towards Ms McLaughlin on Albany Street on August 4 after the couple were interviewed at Oban Police Office.

'The suspicion was it was due to her frankness initially,' Mr McGinny said.

However, defence agent Kevin McGinness said Smith claimed 'it bore no relationship to what

took place in the police station'. Smith also admitted to failing to appear at Oban Sheriff Court on August 15.

Mr McGinness said: 'There is a significant record of previous convictions.'

Given Smith's record and the nature of the offences, Sheriff Patrick Hughes sentenced Smith to serve eight months in prison for each of the two thefts, to run concurrently, followed by a further two months each for the two later charges, again to run concurrently, totalling 10 months altogether. Smith was also disqualified from driving until he passed his test.

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Diver found safe on Jura rock shore

A DIVER reported missing off the east coast of Jura last week was found alive.

Islay's all-weather lifeboat was called out on Friday (September 8) to help locate the man.

The *Helmut Schroder of Dunlossit II* launched at 1pm and arrived near Nine Foot Rock, east of Lowlandman's Bay, at 1.45pm.

However, the rescue helicopter had already located the diver who made his way to shore and was assisted up the steep and rocky hill by the local coastguards.

The lifeboat with her crew of seven returned to the station at 3.30pm.

Shellfish toxin warning

MONITORING work undertaken on behalf of Food Standards Scotland has identified raised levels of shellfish toxins in East Loch Roag in Lewis.

Eating shellfish such as mussels, cockles, or razor fish from these areas may pose a risk to human health and notices to warn the public and casual gatherers have been posted at various locations on the shore.

Commercial shellfish harvesters in these areas have been contacted by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and steps taken to postpone harvesting until algae levels subside. It is a sensible precaution to avoid eating shellfish from these areas until further notice.

The council is monitoring the situation and will remove warning notices when it improves.

Register of crofts online

THE Crofting Commission has launched its Register of Crofts online giving the public direct access to the register.

Chief executive Bill Barron said: 'This is a major step forward for the commission. Public access to the information will greatly improve our service to customers. The information available via the register online will be updated daily and will include such things as decrofting directions and apportionment orders.'

People are asked to go online and check details for their croft. If any information is incorrect, email the commission at info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk so records can be checked and if necessary updated.

Trad band overwhelmed by kindness after van set alight

DAVID MCPHEE
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MORE than £8,000 has been raised for a traditional music band from the Highlands and Islands after their van was set alight with their instruments inside.

Hò-Rò were heartbroken when they made the discovery last week, however, a crowdfunding page has been set up and so far 316 people have donated £8,103. The incident took place in the early hours of Wednesday September 6 in the Govan area of Glasgow.

The band took to social media and told their fans what had happened and in just 24 hours the story had reached 120,000 people.

A promoter called EPL Events saw the post and decided to start a crowdfunding campaign titled Helping Hò-Rò.

Writing on social media, they said: 'Please help this great young band get back on their feet.'

'We were lucky enough to have Hò-Rò play for us [in] 2015



Fans have contributed to the crowdfunding to help Hò-Rò get back on their feet after the incident.

at our first ever event and we certainly would love to see them back here again.

'So please take the time to contribute something, anything, to keep this young band's dream alive.'

In just 12 hours the campaign had raised a total of £2,500.

Sean Cousins, the band's acoustic guitar player, told *The Oban Times*: 'The support

has been unbelievable. We are gobsmacked. You don't realise how much people appreciate you until something like this happens.'

'We have had offers from places such as the Nevis Centre to let us put on a gig free to raise money.'

The band is made up of six members, who are now based in Glasgow but come from South

Uist, the Isle of Lewis, Glencoe and Inverness.

'We have never asked for anyone to donate anything,' Sean added. 'But people are doing it off their own backs and it is just amazing. We really appreciate it.'

'We know we need a van, but we don't know what's happening with the insurance.'

'So having that from our

supporters really helps us out because it gives us a wee bit of relief.' An additional £5,000 has since been donated to the Helping Hò-rò campaign.

The band have again responded to the generosity of their fans on social media.

'We would like to say such a massive thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all of your support since the incident on Wednesday,' they wrote on Facebook.

'From the kind messages we've received to the very generous donations people have been giving, we honestly can't thank you enough!'

'We would also like to thank Ewan at EPL Events for setting up the donations page to help us get back on our feet.'

'You guys are just the best, love from all of us at Hò-rò.'

A spokesperson for Police Scotland said: 'At 4.15am police received a report of a van on fire in Harrison Drive on Wednesday September 6.'

'Officers attended and a 47-year-old man was arrested in connection with the incident.'

Bid to replace 'unfit' Barra hospital

AN OUTLINE business case for a new hospital on the Isle of Barra has been submitted to the Scottish Government by NHS Western Isles.

The plan, submitted to Health Minister Shona Robison, aims to replace the existing St Brendan's hospital building in Castlebay which has been deemed 'not fit for purpose'.

Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant welcomed the submission, saying plans for the new hospital have been delayed over a number of years.

'It is long overdue,' she said. 'I look forward to this finally being progressed so that Barra can have the fit-for-purpose hospital it desperately needs.'

A government spokesperson said: 'NHS Western Isles recently submitted its outline business case and it will be reviewed by the NHS capital investment group.'

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Ulva community buy-out back on track

THE ISLE of Ulva is back off the market again after a community group re-submitted its corrected buy-out plan, writes Sandy Neil.

The Inner Hebridean island, which went on sale for £4.25 million, was quickly taken off the market in July when the North West Community Woodland Company applied to the Scottish Government under the Community Right to Buy Legislation.

Last week the company briefly withdrew its application, as a director John Addy explained: 'An application was made to the Scottish Government and in July a hold was put on any sale of Ulva pending a decision by Scottish ministers on whether to agree to register the community interest and trigger the right-to-buy process.'

'Since that application was made, and after our initial legal searches had been carried out, we became aware that the ownership of certain parts of the Ulva Estate was now different from the information

included in our application. We also learned that certain parts of the estate would not be put on the market. Other matters surrounding boundaries of land and details of executors also came to light after the application was submitted.'

'As these matters would mean that the application would inevitably be declined by Scottish ministers on these issues, the decision was taken to withdraw it.'

Sale

'Instead we have submitted a new application which addresses the above matters. This means a further prohibition has been put on the proposed sale while this new application is considered by Scottish ministers.'

Ulva, possibly derived from the old Norse for 'wolf's island', inspired Sir Walter Scott's poem *The Lord Of The Isles* in 1815, and children's author Beatrix Potter after her cousin Caroline married the Laird of Ulva and dedicated two of her books to Caroline's son 'Francis William of Ulva'.



It is hoped the community buy-out would reverse depopulation on Ulva.

The 7.5-mile-by-2.5-mile island was also home to the Victorian explorer Dr David Livingstone's paternal grandparents, and the birthplace of Major General Lachlan MacQuarrie, known as the 'Father of Australia', in 1810. At its height the population stood at more than 800, but it suffered a remorseless loss of people with more than 500 cleared in the four decades after 1841 alone.

The 4,600-acre island, which went on sale for the first time in 70 years, comes with a manor

house, church, a restaurant and a tearoom and sporting lodge plus eight more properties.

The North West Mull Community Woodland Company wishes to reverse Ulva's depopulation, doubling its inhabitants from five to 10 in five years and up to 30 after 20 years, and turn around its 'economic and social decline'. Mr Addy said: 'The agents for the estate have said it is currently running at an annual loss of around £100,000 and there are presently just

a handful of permanent residents.'

'This sale marks a crossroads in the history of Ulva and North West Mull. It provides a golden opportunity to ensure the survival and bolster the development of a fragile and remote community, enabling a vibrant and sustainable future for generations to come.'

'This is just the first step of many in the ambition to buy Ulva and its associated holdings at Ulva Ferry on the mainland of Mull for the

community. We are under no illusions about the scale of the task.'

'The default position would be continued private ownership with no assurance of significant community benefit. Indeed there could be every chance of continued decline of economic activity and community participation in the event of Ulva becoming a private recreational estate for an absentee landlord - possibly with restricted or much more difficult access than at present.'

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Members of Maclaines clan come home to Lochbuie

MACLAINE clansfolk from all over the world recently gathered at their ancestral homeland of Lochbuie in Mull.

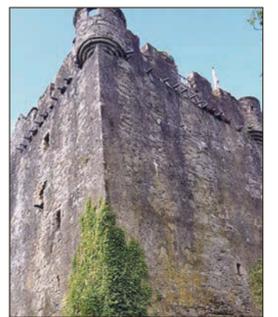
Led by clan chief Lorne Maclaine - the 26th Lochbuie of Lochbuie - the more than 50-strong group came from as far afield as the United States, Australia, South Africa, Hong Kong, Bulgaria and the United Arab Emirates, as well as a home contingent from Scotland and England, for the event on August 25-27.

They attended a dinner at the Isle of Mull Hotel in Craignure on Friday evening and on Saturday had a guided tour of Moy Castle, the ancient 15th-century seat of the Clan Maclaine - now accessible to visitors again after extensive restoration - where they were welcomed by the Mull and Iona Pipe Band.

On Sunday they visited Iona, crossing from Mull on the aptly named Lochbuie ferry.



Members of the Clan Maclaine gathering explore Moy Castle.



Moy Castle - now open to visitors again after extensive restoration.

Earlier in the week they attended the Argyllshire Gathering, marching to Mossfield Park under the Maclaine banner. They had also been special guests at the Edinburgh Tattoo for a clan night featuring the Maclaine

and Kincaid clans. Clan chief Lorne Maclaine said regular gatherings such as this were vital to maintaining kinship and traditions: 'We're not the biggest clan by any means, but we're certainly one of the most active in arranging events that

bring members together - wherever in the world they are.'

'Gatherings in Mull are particularly important as they put our people in touch with their heritage which for some spans many generations from their original Maclaine ancestry.'

Oban mum to pay damages to grieving family

AN OBAN mother of three who was cleared of killing her partner in a car crash on the A85 near Connel in August 2013 has been told she will have to pay his grieving family damages after a second court ruled she failed to prove her negligence did not cause the accident.

Veteran Vincent Kennedy, 32, died after Veronica MacKenzie collided with another vehicle in the accident which also claimed the life of an elderly woman from Fort William who was a passenger in the other car.

MacKenzie, 36, was cleared of causing Mr Kennedy and Mary Gillies' death by careless driving following a trial in 2015.

But last week the case went before Edinburgh's Court of Session after Mr Kennedy's sister Nina raised a civil action.

She claimed the accident was caused by MacKenzie's negligence and not the slippery conditions described at the criminal trial.

Oban Sheriff Court had previously heard from MacKenzie

that the road was wet on the day of the crash and that she was unable to avoid the collision.

Her solicitor claimed that in the three years leading up to the accident, Transport Scotland annually checked the road conditions at the scene of the crash and found skid resistance 'very low', but failed to upgrade it.

But judge Lord Uist last week said she was to blame and she now faces having to pay Mr Kennedy's family for the loss, injury and damage they sustained as a result of his death.

Lord Uist will decide later this year on how much they should receive.

He said in his judgement, published last week: 'No other driver experienced a skid causing an accident over a period of about seven years.

'That fact is, to me, a very strong indication that, at the time of the accident, the road was not so slippery as to be the sole cause of a vehicle going into a skid there.

'In these circumstances the

defender has failed to discharge the burden upon her of establishing that the cause of the accident was something other than her negligence.

'I shall find the defender liable to make reparation to the pursuers and continue the cause for a proof on quantum of damages.'

Glen Millar, a partner with Thompsons Solicitors who represents MacKenzie, said: 'Ms MacKenzie continues a long fight back to full fitness from her own devastating, life-threatening injuries while at the same time dealing with the loss of her beloved partner and bringing up the couple's three young children alone.

'She has taken strength from Lord Uist's decision and from the fact that, for a second time, after hearing all evidence relative to the accident a court was unable to make any specific finding of negligence by her.'

It is not known if Mr Kennedy's stepson and two children with MacKenzie will benefit from the action.



The Oban Times editor Susan Windram hands over the MacDonald Cup to Billy Forteith and Finlo Cottier. 15_T37_Cup for banned speedboat race finds new home_01

Oban speedboat race cup finds new home

A SILVER speed boat trophy last awarded more than 40 years ago has found a new sporting home: the Round Mull Race, writes Sandy Neil.

Octogenarian Donnie McLeod was the last winner of the MacDonald Cup in the 1960s before a speed limit was imposed in Oban Bay. The cup, sporting two fish-shaped handles and an engraving of two racing yachts, was donated by The Oban Times and handed down from winner to winner.

But when the ban put an end

to the competition, Donnie had no-one to pass it on to, so he hoped it could find a new home.

Oban Sailing Club has now stepped forward to present the prize at its annual Round Mull Race, which races 120 miles over three legs from Oban to Tobermory, then Tobermory to Bunnassan, and then back to Oban.

Billy Forteith, principal organiser of the Round Mull Race, said: 'It is an open race that anybody with a keel boat can enter. You do not need to

be a member.' Finlo Cottier, commodore of the 'thriving' Oban Sailing Club on Dungal-lan Road, said its membership, which has grown recently from 120 to more than 200, could benefit from its range of boats and training from dinghies to powerboats.

Professor Cottier, senior lecturer in polar oceanography at SAMS, said: 'We are trying to create a club that is working with lots of groups in the community and make sailing accessible to everyone.'

Record-breaking Mòd heads to Lochaber

THE ROYAL National Mòd (Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail) will return to Lochaber next month for what is set to be a record-breaking year for the festival.

Participant numbers at the Mòd this year are expected to exceed 3,600 – the highest in a decade.

The nine-day spectacular of Gaelic music, arts and sport will take place in Fort William for the first time in 10 years and will this year welcome representatives from towns and cities the Mòd hasn't seen in generations.

Thousands of competitors from Scotland and across the world, including a delegation of American competitors, will take part in 200 competitions.

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'We're excited to be returning to Fort William for the first time in 10 years and to do so with a record number of participants is just terrific. We've had a very busy year in the run-up to the festival, from running our popular Mòd roadshow which encourages children to take part, to our Mòd Academy bringing dedicated Gaelic tutors to 14 schools throughout Scotland.

'We're thrilled to have local celebrities Robert Robertson, Ross Wilson and Na h'Oganaich as part of this year's opening ceremony.'

Scotland's biggest Gaelic cultural festival starts on Friday October 13 with a torchlight procession through Fort William to the Nevis Centre where the opening ceremony will be held.

Highland councillor Alister Mackinnon said: 'We are delighted the Royal National Mòd is returning to Lochaber, an area where Gaelic and its associated culture remains part of the community.'

Oil rig crash report reveals safety errors

A TUG towing an oil rig which ran aground off Lewis last year was sailing too close to the shore, used a line in 'poor condition', and had 'no contingency plan' for stormy weather, a damning report has found, writes Sandy Neil.

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) last Wednesday concluded its inquiry into the £20m Transocean Winner disaster, leading to calls for prosecutions from environmental charity Friends of the Earth Scotland.

Both Na h-Eileanan an Iar's MP Angus MacNeil and MSP Dr Alasdair Allan urged the return of an Emergency Towing Vessel (ETV) to the West Coast.

The decommissioned rig was being towed past the Hebrides from Norway to Malta by the Dutch registered tug ALP Forward last August, when the tow line was lost in rough weather. The semi-submersible 17,580 tonne rig grounded on Dalmore beach near Carlaway on Lewis' north west coast at 6.52am on August 8. It was removed for scrappage earlier this year.

It sparked pollution fears due to

the 280 tonnes of diesel on board, and two of its four fuel tanks were damaged, leaking 53,000 litres of fuel.

The MAIB's inquiry found: 'The effect of the wind and waves on Transocean Winner led to the loss of ALP Forward's ability to control the direction and speed of the tug and tow. After being dragged backwards by the tow for over 24 hours, the tow line, weakened by the repeated sudden loadings, parted and the tug was unable to pick up the emergency towline.'

Dr Allan said he was 'troubled' by the report: 'Although no lives were lost and there was no significant environmental damage, the incident served to point to the huge danger the island economy and environment would face, if a vessel carrying a large amount of hazardous cargo found herself in a similar position.

'The report says that the decision by the master of the tug to leave Stavanger, given the weather forecast, was "borderline" and that voyage planning "did not consider the effect of high winds". The report raises a number of worrying points, such as

the lack of essential information, instruction or guidance in the towing vessel's towing manual. This would have left the crew with insufficient information to carry out their duties, and the fact that the report says that "such arrangements may not be unusual in ocean towage" is deeply worrying.

'It also raises questions about why the nearest ETV was 12 hours away in Orkney. It is clear the West Coast remains at risk of future incidents occurring. Instead of seeing this incident as a wakeup call, the UK Government has so far been deaf to the collective calls for a second ETV based in the Western Isles.'

The rig's owner Transocean paid the Maritime and Coastguard Agency £400,000 of its bill for the operation on top of the £17m spent so far recovering it, with the final bill expected to reach £20m.

ALP Maritime Services BV said: 'We have received the report and are currently reviewing the findings and reasoning behind it. This will take some time and we will be able to comment once the review has been completed.'

Gearing up for winter driving

PLANS are in place to keep Argyll and Bute moving this winter.

There will be 38 vehicles available round the clock to keep roads open and the number of drivers will be increased.

More than 15,000 tonnes of salt are being stockpiled and 12 road surface and weather monitoring stations will be used.

Policy lead for roads and amenity services Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'With our winter maintenance plan and a budget of £1.645 million, we remain committed to keeping Argyll and Bute moving which is why we have again put in place a robust maintenance plan to keep our roads as clear and safe as possible.'

Pipe band fundraiser nets £5,000

OBAN HIGH School Pipe Band raised more than £5,000 last weekend when members took turns playing for 500 consecutive minutes.

The fundraising success means both bands that competed this year will be able to attend the UK Championships in Belfast next June.

The sponsored session started at 9am at the performance area at Stafford Street and continued until 5.30pm.

Nan Johnstone of OHS Pipe Band said: 'The day could not have gone better because we were blessed with the weather.

'We were delighted. Once all the money is counted we are definitely going to be over £5,000. That's with support from local businesses along with people who made it out on the day.

'We'd like to thank everyone for their support – people are very generous. From the parents to the local businesses, to the public and tourists, we are very fortunate.

'We'd like to thank the band themselves because it was them that sustained it.

'And at the top of it all there's Angus [McColl, pipe major] – without him we wouldn't have a band.'



Zoe Cook, Emma Hill, Jennie MacLean and Robbie MacKay of Oban High School Pip Band take a break from their sponsored play on Stafford Street on Saturday. The young pipers and drummers played for eight-and-a-half hours without stopping to try and raise funds to send both young bands to Belfast next year. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

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Nicole's flying high thanks to Life Link

AN OBAN woman who suffered from depression is raising money by jumping out of a plane for the charity that helped her, writes David McPhee.

Nicole Lopez, 21, and her friend James Cameron, 22, are set to complete the skydive in aid of Life Link on November 5.

Life Link aims to help young people and adults manage their stress more effectively and achieve their full potential.

'Earlier this year I was diagnosed with depression for the second time round,' Nicole said.

'This time was so difficult, the smallest of things were incredibly hard for me; getting out of bed, showering, going to the shops, just being near people and having to smile was incredibly challenging.'

'It got to the stage where I was going to work and breaking down in front of customers, I was taking at least three panic attacks a shift. With the support of my amazing management, and all my friends and family, I went and got help.'

'I was referred to Life Link, a charity-based counselling service that offers short-term sessions, normally about four.'

'Because my counsellor could see how badly I was doing, she managed to get my sessions extended to six.'

'Each week we did a core assessment to see how well I was doing; 40 meant you needed serious psychiatric help, and zero meant no mental health problems at the moment.'

'On the final week, she told me that on my first session I was sitting at 36 and in just six sessions I had managed to come all the way to just seven.'

'If it wasn't for Life Link, I would still be a massive mess and probably ended up in hospital.'

To donate to Nicole's fundraising page, visit www.gofundme.com/nicoleandjc.



Nicole will do the skydive with her friend James Cameron.



Anti-clockwise from above centre: former Oban High School pupil Rebecca Kynoch graduated with a BSc, first-class honours in marine science from SAMS on Friday, overcoming the many challenges associated with dyslexia. Rebecca, centre, is pictured with her proud mother, Sarah Wollacott and grandmother, Ann Kynoch; joint winners of the Johanna Fehling Memorial Prize for best published paper by a PhD student, Kati Michalek, left and Winnie Courtene-Jones; Jamie Rodgers, who won the Tim Boyd prize for oceanography and SAMS UHI first sporting blues award for captaining the university sailing team; SAMS UHI Student of the Year Shannon Lafferty, who received her award from SAMS UHI Director Prof Nicholas Owens; Daniel Burt, Connel, received the SAMS Council Award for Academic Excellence; and four-year-old Kimiya MacCorquodale congratulates her mother, Maryam, on her graduation and her award from SAMS UHI.

Iranian mother wins SAMS student award

AN IRANIAN student who raised her baby and worked part-time while achieving a first-class honours degree at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS UHI) in Oban, has been presented with SAMS Award for Special Achievement.

University of the Highlands and Islands student Maryam MacCorquodale, 37, picked up a BSc Marine Science (Hons) at the SAMS UHI graduation on Friday (September 8). A total of 19 undergraduates gained their degrees and seven postgraduate awards were made at the ceremony in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls. They each received their scrolls from the university's deputy principal Professor Crichton Lang.

Maryam had pursued an early passion for science at university in Tehran but left Iran to pursue her education, studying business information technology at Strathclyde University in Glasgow. But after graduation she failed to find employment. After unsuccessfully applying for around 70 jobs and on the verge of returning home, Maryam found a live-in job at the



The BSc Marine Science graduates with Prof Keith Davidson, Associate director for education, UHI deputy principal Prof Crichton Lang, and Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell.

Pierhouse Hotel in Port Appin and there she met her husband Graeme.

It wasn't until she moved to the Appin area and became aware of SAMS UHI that her love of science was rekindled and she applied for the undergraduate course.

But she almost declined a place on the degree course after receiving the offer at the same time she found out she was pregnant with her daughter, Kimiya, saying: 'There were

many times when I struggled to balance everything. When I found out I was pregnant, my husband and my father-in-law convinced me to take the place on the course.'

'Throughout what was a very challenging degree, I worked nights at the Knipoth Hotel, near Oban, then at the Pierhouse. Thankfully I found a very supportive childminder in Fiona Moore but I often struggled to do everything well. 'Then, the day before my

third year exams Kimiya had an accident and was in hospital. It all became too much for me and I didn't know whether to come back for my fourth year. But a real regret of mine is not pursuing science as a teenager. At that time, when things were difficult, I gave up and I didn't want to repeat that story.'

Maryam said she was lucky to have had supportive lecturers, who inspired her to pursue her studies in biotechnology and microbiology in particular. She now hopes to find a PhD, or work as a support scientist on a project.

Fellow graduate Shannon Lafferty, who is a deputy president with the Highlands and Islands Student Association, was awarded the SAMS UHI Student of the Year title.

Graduates Daniel Burt, who is from Connel, and Jamie Rodgers were awarded the SAMS Council Award for Academic Excellence and the Tim Boyd Prize for Oceanography, respectively. Jamie, the university sailing team captain, also received SAMS UHI's first Sporting Blues award. Daniel, one of four former Oban High

School pupils graduating this year, has been accepted for a Masters at the University of Hamburg.

This year's ceremony saw the first graduates of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degree in Aquaculture, Environment and Society (ACES). ACES Masters graduate Stewart Beattie accepted the award for the best ACES dissertation on behalf of Brazilian student Patricia Alves Pereira.

The Johanna Fehling Memorial Prize for the best published paper by a student was shared between PhD students Kati Michalek and Winnie Courtene-Jones, who have both won national awards for their research in 2017.

Keynote speaker was Argyll and Bute MSP and Scottish Brexit secretary Michael Russell, who said he was proud to have SAMS UHI in his constituency.

Prof Keith Davidson, SAMS UHI Associate Director for Education, paid tribute to Prof Graham Shimmield and Prof Ian Bryden, two major contributors to SAMS UHI, who both died in the past year.

Rockfield open day brings in the crowds

ON SATURDAY September 2 the Rockfield Centre hosted its 'Spread the Word' party with more than 200 people visiting the community huts over the course of the day.

Staff, volunteers, supporters, centre users and visitors to Oban all came together to raise a glass of fizz to achieving the first major funding milestone for the project, the recent award of almost £1 million from the Big Lottery Fund.

As well as all the congratulating and cork-popping, it was the perfect opportunity for the centre to launch its programme of activity for the autumn.

Those attending the party saw displays of some of the activity over the past year and had the chance to test out some new concepts for future groups and plans.

The September programme is packed with plenty of interesting and engaging activities.

There are the regular weekly and monthly music workshops, such as Songwriting Sessions, Scratch Choir, Fiddle Workshop and Let's Make a Scene, a relaxed, open mic night for new music and spoken word.

There are also some new regular heritage events, courtesy of heritage officer Jamie Yates. The Monthly Blether is an informal get-together for Obanites, old and new, taking the topic of 'journeys' as its theme for sharing memories or old photographs. Know Your Roots? is a genealogy club with a difference, focusing not on official records and research but on telling stories and using family history to inspire creative projects, such as songs, poetry or visual art.

This month there's even more to enjoy: the return of Breege Smyth's ever popular machine sewing classes, plus the second Wurdplay spoken word open mic event run by Jamie Livingstone, which takes place on Saturday September 23.

The featured artist at Wurdplay will be award-winning Northern Irish poet and performer Rachel McCrum and as usual there will be plenty of room for local writers to perform their work.

Most of the activities are free to attend and where there is a charge the centre always includes some free places for those who can't pay.

For more information on anything in the programme visit the website, therockfieldcentre.org.uk, or check out the Facebook page for details.

If anyone has any ideas for future activities, why not get in touch or pop by for a visit? After all, The Rockfield Centre is owned by the community – and that means everyone.



The heritage project was very popular on the day.

Photograph: Ewan Munro

Plenty of vroom and broom action worth celebrating

AUTUMN is here, no doubt about it, the leaves are changing and the brambles look ready for picking - there's also a wee chill in the air first thing in the morning and last thing at night - but there are still lots of things to look forward to.

Apart from fruit picking and jam making, we have Motorfest to look forward to this weekend on Sunday (September 17) from noon to 4pm.

It is taking place in Station Square this year, which will make it more accessible for everyone wanting to enjoy all things vehicle related, including Oban and District Classic

WHERE IS THIS?



Vehicle Club. Tonight (Thursday) we also have a live screening in Oban Phoenix Cinema of Carmen on the Lake from the

water stage at Lake Constance in Austria which promises to be a stunning setting.

A few other things well worth attending this week include 1001 Olive Trees in St John's Cathedral on Friday (September 15) at 7pm with the San Ghanny Choir sharing songs and stories from occupied Palestine, after their recent sold-out performance in Edinburgh.

On Monday (September 18) there will be more wonderful music, this time from Oakleas Rise and The Blue Moon Travellers, beginning at 7pm in the Corran Halls.

On Tuesday (September 19) Tom Heap presents A Familiar Shiver - How the Arctic touches our lives (See p14 for full story).

For more information on any of these visit Oban Town Diary online where all that and so much more about local events is available.

I'm also delighted to share that I recently awarded the Bid4Oban Customer Service Award to Carla Maelver of Farmfoods, which has promoted a storm of congratulations for her on the LoveOban Facebook page.

The Gem Box and its manag-

eress Mairi were also awarded The Golden Broom for the immaculate appearance of their shop frontage last week and again had a fantastic response on Facebook.

It's wonderful to see the people that put so much effort into what they do being recognised for all their hard work, so please if you know someone who deserves that recognition get in touch on the LoveOban Facebook page or telephone 01631 569915.

Last week's photo was taken in High Street and I've decided to test you a bit this week to see who strays off the beaten track.

Are you thinking about taking on a new employee?

You could be eligible for an Employment Grant to assist with up to 50% of salary costs through Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway Local Growth Accelerator Programme.

Please contact the Business Gateway team to find out more details.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF COMPLETED APPLICATIONS IS 23RD OCTOBER 2017.

To contact the Business Gateway team call 01546 604030 or email bg@argyll-bute.gov.uk

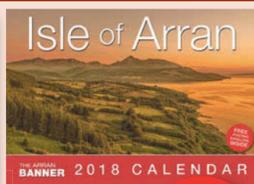


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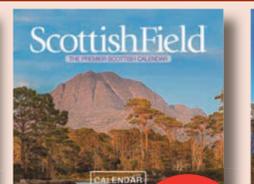
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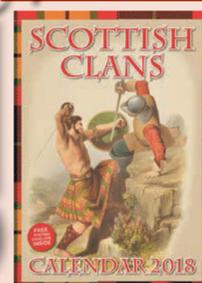
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Plans for shop behind hospital shelved

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcphoe@obantimes.co.uk

THE APPLICATION to build a shop behind the hospital in Oban has been withdrawn by the developers.

Macleod Construction initially submitted a planning application to build a retail outlet at McKelvie Road, Glenshellach, Oban, on May 22 of this year.

However, following a number of objections, the construction company has decided to withdraw it.

A spokesman for Macleod Construction said in a letter to Argyll and Bute Council: 'Due to the excess number of objections by the local community to the development, I regretfully withdraw our application to build on this site.'

'If in the future a shop is required by the community, we will try to find another plot within the development, which hopefully will be satisfactory to all parties involved.'

Jim Lynch, councillor for Oban South and the Isles, said: 'I am disappointed. This place needs a shop.'

'There were 24-25 objections –

but most people feel we need a shop here. Hopefully we can get something sorted.

'It would take a big chunk of traffic away from Soroba Road.'

'Folk were telling me they were under the impression that a shop was going to be built, so they have had their hopes dashed.'

Roddy McCuish, depute provost and councillor for Oban South and the Isles, said: 'To say I am disappointed is an understatement, but I fully understand the developer's reasons for pulling out.'

'The [planning, protective services and licensing] committee has been pushing for a shop in that area for some time and I heard this many times leading up to the election from the silent majority who live up there.'

'It works in Soroba, Dunollie, Dunbeg, and Connel.'

'People will always use the supermarkets, but for milk, papers and bread they would use the nearest shop and in my opinion this would help a little with traffic on Soroba Road as there would be no need to travel to the garage for everyday items.'



Clockwise from top: All of the volunteer award winners celebrating on stage at the Argyllshire Gathering Hall; Oban High School pupils with their Saltire Awards, with mentors Joan Reynolds and Aisling Clark; Elaine Boyce, winner of the Young Volunteer Award; and volunteers from Oban War and Peace Group with the winners shiel. Photographs: Kevin McGlynn

Volunteers in the spotlight at annual awards

PEOPLE from Oban, Lorn and the islands were again celebrated at this year's Argyll and Bute Volunteer of the Year Awards. The Oban War and Peace Museum was crowned Organisation of the Year, while Taynuilt's Elaine Boyce was chosen as Young Volunteer of the Year. The annual event, organised

by Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface (TSI), was held in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Friday September 8. Opening the event was theatre company Street Cones with a 'powerful performance of how volunteering can help with re-offending and rehabilitation of ex-offenders'. However, the

real show-stopper was the War and Peace Museum. It was selected as this year's top organisation thanks to its volunteers who contribute more than 700 hours each month to keep the museum open. The museum was described as 'a truly inspirational organisation that shows the true worth

of volunteers'. Another star of the show was Elaine Boyce, who left school in December 2015 to start a hairdressing apprenticeship. Shortly before leaving school, the 17-year-old started volunteering in the support department at Oban High School and has continued doing

so along with undertaking her apprenticeship. 'It takes a special kind of person to encourage and understand those with additional support needs,' Argyll and Bute TSI said. 'And we have found that person in Elaine.' Full story, visit www.obantimes.co.uk

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M'ALBA | MY ALBA

Ri thighinn air BBC ALBA ... Coming up on BBC ALBA ...

Steòrnabhagh gu Serbia - Smàladh an Teine

Diluain 18 Sultain, 9f
Monday 18 September, 9pm

Turas de 1500 mìle, thar 3 là gun sgur, le carbadan nach eil idir cleachdte ris a lethid. Sin a tha ro bhuidheann de luchd-smàlaidh à Steòrnabhagh ann an cuideachd feadhainn eile à Alba is iad a' toirt 5 seann charbadan smàlaidh agus carbad èiginneach gu ruige Serbia, far a bheil fìor fheum orra.

We follow the journey of an intrepid group of Stornoway firefighters, as they join forces with other Scottish firemen to take 5 retired fire engines and an ambulance 1500 miles across Europe, to Serbia, where they are given a new lease of life and purpose.

DIY le Donnie - An Dùbhlán

Bho Diluain 18 - Diardaoin 21 Sultain, 8.30f
From Monday 18 - Thursday 21 September, 8.30pm

An tèid aig Donaidh air sgioba de luchd-ciùird agus na tha dhith air de ghoireasan, a chruinneachadh airson ùrachadh a dhèanamh air togalach an Retirement Centre ann an Steòrnabhagh? Oh, agus chan eil aige ach 5 là bho thoiseach gu deireadh!

Donnie Macleod and a team of local tradesmen attempt to renovate the community-run Lewis Retirement Centre in Stornoway in five days. With the local workforce giving their time and all of the building materials to this charitable project free of charge, the pressure is on!

Bannan S4

Bho Diluain 18 Sultain, 10f
From Monday 18 September, 10pm

Tha trì mìosan air a dhol seachad agus chan eil Màiri a' faighinn fois is i air a buaireadh le na cuimhneachan a th' aice air oidhche na h-ionnsaigh. An uair sin tha srainnsear a' nochdadh a' sìreadh Phàdruig agus iad làn cheistean.

3 months have passed and Màiri is still struggling to cope with the memory of the night she was attacked. A stranger arrives looking for Pàdruig and asking a myriad of questions, which causes more angst for Màiri and others in Camus.

Sgiobair nan Taighean-solais

Diciadain 20 Sultain, 9f
Wednesday 20 September, 9pm

Tha fairge cho cunnartach ri gin air an t-saoghal timcheall cladaichean na h-Alba. Cha dèan ach na maraichean as fheàrr cùrsa tro na cuantan fiadhaich - nam measg sgiobair bàtaichean-freastail Bòrd nan Taighean-solais an Caipitean Eric Mac a' Ghobhainn. Tha sinn ga leantainn fad bliadhna.

Only the most skilled of mariners can navigate Scotland's wild waters - among them, Captain Eric Smith of the Northern Lighthouse Board. As skipper of their tender vessels - the Pharos and Pole Star - it's Eric's job to sail to the places other mariners are told to avoid.

Seirm

Bho Disathairne 23 Sultain, 9pm
From Saturday 23 September, 9f

Air fhilmadh mu choinneimh luchd-èisteachd anns an ionad tharraingeach Hillhead Bookclub, tha an t-sreath seo le Màiri Anna NicUalraig a' taisbeanadh measgachadh den cheò is luchd-ciùil a b' fheàrr aig fèis Celtic Connections. Am measg na bhios air an àrd-ùrlar bidh tè a tha air iomadh duais Grammy a chosnadh, Mary Chapin Carpenter.

Filmed before an audience in the bohemian chic of Hillhead Bookclub, this series showcases a collective virtuosity and features eclectic performances from the best of the Celtic Connections festival. Hosted by acclaimed musician and broadcaster Mary Ann Kennedy, Seirm boasts a cast of musicians from across the globe, including multiple Grammy winner, Mary Chapin Carpenter.

Talamh gu Truinnsear

Bho Diciadain 27 Sultain, 9f
From Wednesday 27 September, 9pm

Canaidh iad gur e farmad a nì treabhadh agus ma 's e tha còir gun cuir an gàrradh aig Fraoch Nic an Deòir ann an Ìle spionnadh dhan duine is leisge. Eadar farrasgagan is peasair ìth-slàn, figean is gorm-dhearcan, tha Fraoch a' sealltainn an dà chuid an saothair agus an stòras a tha ri fhaighinn às a' ghàrradh.

The series follows Heather Dewar over a year of planting, weeding and cooking. Against the backdrop of the stunning Islay countryside, she shares her gardening knowledge and favourite recipes.



DIY le Donnie - An Dùbhlán



BBC.CO.UK/ALBA | BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER



Talamh gu Truinnsear

OT

Western Isles

POLICE in the Western Isles are appealing for information after items were stolen from two vehicles in Stornoway.

Both incidents occurred between 8pm on Saturday September 2 and 8am on Sunday September 3.

One incident involved personal items being removed from a car parked on Goathill Road in the town.

These were recovered soon after in the local area.

The second involved items being removed from a van parked on Keith Street.

Some items which were removed have since been recovered but some low value personal items remain outstanding.

Sergeant Jane MacKenzie said: 'We are appealing to anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in these streets on the night in question to contact us as soon as possible.'

'I would also take the opportunity to remind people to make sure their property and vehicles are secure at all times to deter opportunist thefts.'

'Any information can be passed to police in Stornoway by calling 101 or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.'

Appin

CHILDREN in Appin will be able to celebrate Christmas in style, thanks to the Appin SWI.

The SWI held its annual coffee evening in aid of Christmas parties and raised a total of £450.

The fundraiser took place on Thursday August 31 in the Appin Hall.

A mouth-watering selection of cakes and scones were on offer for everyone to enjoy, as was a good 'blether'.

After the raffle, president Brenda MacLeod thanked everyone for coming and announced that the sum of £450 had been raised for the children's parties.

Western Isles

THE PROGRAMME has been announced for this year's Hebrides International Film Festival.

The event kicked off yesterday (September 13) and runs until September 17 in venues across Lewis, Harris, Uist and Barra, with fascinating films from island cultures, rural environments and native peoples from across the world.

The 2017 programme features 22 films that have been produced by communities from New Zealand to Norway.

For the full list of films on show, visit www.hebfilmfestival.org

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North Connel



Some of the young prize winners with their certificates.

North Connel horticultural show sees a growth in floral art

DESPITE the year's challenging weather, the number of entries for the North Connel and District Horticultural Show in the flower and vegetable classes were similar to previous years.

In the vegetables, though entries of runner and French beans were sadly lacking, there were some admirably large vegetables and a heart-shaped, pink potato which, though not a winner, was a joy to see.

There was a marked increase in the number of floral art entries, including some from the Lynn of Lorne Home, and photographs, which were judged to be of a very high standard.

Entries came in from across the district, which includes Barcaldine, Benderloch, Bonawe and North Connel.

It was good to have a number of people exhibiting for the first time, along with folk entering



Maurice Wilkins congratulates Ritchie Robb for his winning leeks

again after some time away.

After the doors opened there was a real buzz of excitement, especially in the old hall where there was a vast and colourful display of work from local children to be found, along with an

excellent exhibition of adult art and craft work.

Following tea with a delicious selection of cakes, the many families and visitors attending were able to applaud the presentation of trophies by Maurice Wilkins and to join in the drawing of a raffle which included many generously donated prizes.

Trophy winners were as follows: Championship Cup (most points, flowers and vegetables): Ritchie Robb; McLeod Shield (runner-up to champion): Paula Gillespie; Lees Milne Cup (best in show): Ritchie Robb (leeks); Oban Times Cup (flowers): Eileen Hill and Fiona Shaw; Campbell Godley Quaich (pot plants): Fay Harvey; Dundonald Vase (flowering shrub): Lynn Amos; Agnes MacKay Quaich (pansies/violas): Jim

Mackie; Tensfeldt Cup (vegetables): Ritchie Robb;

Children's Baking Cup (seven years and under): James Steward; Silver Rose Bowl (children's baking eight to 14 years): Olivia Wood; An Claddich Quaich (baking): Eileen Hill; Best Eggs Quaich: Paula Gillespie; Achnacreebeag Cup (floral art): Jill Bowis and Jane Eccles; Graham Stooke Photography Cup (adults): Jill Bowis; Photography Shield (under 15): Caitlin McPherson and Rachael Steward; Silver Vase (children 10-14): Ruairidh Newiss; Donald Morrison Cup (children nine and under): Megan Hart and Calum MacMillan; Jean Campbell Cup (best exhibit in children's section): Calum MacMillan, (picture of a garden alien); Schools' Challenge Cup: Barcaldine School (plums).

Luig



THE PUPILS at Luig Primary School were delighted to find a new bench in their garden when they returned to school after the summer holidays.

Darran Mellish, the owner of West Coast Tool and Plant Hire, Oban, and a parent of one of the children, kindly donated the bench for the children to enjoy in the garden.

The children all love the bench. One of them said: 'We will enjoy using it for chilling and chatting at play times.'

Highlands and Islands

THE UNIVERSITY of the Highlands and Islands has appointed three new vice-principals.

The vice-principals will dedicate two and a half days a week to supporting the aims of the university and will fulfill the duties of their existing roles at colleges and research institutes on a part-time basis.

West Highland College UHI principal Lydia Rohmer was one of the three new appointments. She is responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the tertiary nature of the university's education provision are optimised.

Professor Stuart Gibb, director of the Environmental Research Institute at North Highland College UHI, was also selected to take up the role.

He will focus on developing the university's international strategy.

And Iain Macmillan, principal of Lews Castle College UHI, will work to identify areas that can be improved and shared across the partnership.

The university's principal and vice-chancellor, Professor Clive Mulholland, welcomed his new colleagues, saying: 'We have strengthened our senior management team with these excellent appointments from across our region and I look forward to seeing the positive contributions each will make to the development of the university.'



Iain Macmillan



Lydia Rohmer



Prof Stuart Gibb

Dunoon

A CONFERENCE commemorating the centennial of the Great War will take place in Dunoon.

Kicking off the two-day event will be Trevor Royle, who will talk about Argyll residents who were involved in the battle.

The event is on October 6-7 in the Burgh Hall, with a free exhibition from October 2.

The organisers say it is very much a community event, with local art groups, eight schools, a choir, Men's Shed, Veterans and

Cadets as well as many individual residents taking part.

The Studio Cinema will show a film from 1922: *A Couple of Down and Outs - the original War Horse Story*, as well as Spielberg's modern version.

There will also be a concert featuring music from the time and two showings of a specially-commissioned play titled *Home Fires, Broken Sons*.

Visit www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/whats-on/cowal-call-arms.

Oban

A COMPANY based in Mull and Oban has raised £2,800 for an Oban charity fighting to defeat cardiovascular disease.

TSL Contractors has been collecting funds for the past year and recently presented the cheque to Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) at the Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban.

ABCD is a charity which was set up by a group of volunteers in 2000.

Since its inception, the charity has raised more than £100,000.

ABCD supports many different projects ranging from provision of medical equipment, training of health professionals, and support of healthy living initiatives.



Scottish Opera

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At Random

MARTIN LAING
miaing@obantimes.co.uk

Useless leaders

Yvonne MacHugh is an entirely admirable young woman who has fought relentlessly to have her fiancé, Billy Irving, freed from a prison cell in India.

As the fourth anniversary of Billy's nightmare approaches, Yvonne is again trying to persuade our flaccid United Kingdom government to get its finger out and do something - anything - to help him.

Oh, there have been fine words from Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Prime Minister Theresa May but these politicians have been useless.

Former paratrooper Billy was jailed after being convicted of firearms offences while working to protect shipping from pirates in the Indian Ocean. The vessel he was aboard strayed accidentally into Indian territorial waters.

Our supine leaders at Westminster have been found utterly wanting in trying to help Billy. Now Yvonne has arranged for their son, toddler William, to hand in a petition at Downing Street demanding action from the Foreign Office when they travel to London on October 12.

We have highlighted the plight of Billy, Yvonne and William on numerous occasions, so it is scandalous that still nothing has been done by our government.

Rest assured, we will continue to keep a spotlight firmly shining on this troubling issue.

Scrum down

So, the lads who make up Jura Rugby Football Club played their first game back at the start of the summer.

As we reported last week, it only took them some 30 years from first mooted the idea of forming a club to actually scrumming down.

Rugby is a wonderful sport and it's great news that so many people on the island have collaborated to make the game possible, from the hotel which allowed them to play on its land, to the donation of posts and the supplying of smart new strips.

The addition of the rugby club is a boost to Jura and those behind it are to be commended. Let's just hope that it doesn't take another 30 years until the next match.

Star quality

Bumped into Paul Brannigan last week in the Oban Inn.

For those of you who don't know him, Paul is an actor, perhaps best known as the star of the brilliantly comic film, *The Angels' Share*. He was also in *Sunshine* on Leith.

Much to my good lady's extreme embarrassment, I asked Paul for the awful selfie published here.

He could not have been more accommodating or pleasant, even insisting on a second photo because he didn't think the first one was good enough.

It's great to discover how down to earth and charming some of our stars can be.

Bid worth backing

BID4Oban, the business organisation, is seeking support from entrepreneurs across the town for a second term.

The company has drawn up a business plan for the next five years and is urging people in the business community to vote to approve it. Given the sterling work done by BID4Oban during its first five years, this is an appeal definitely worth supporting.

From the wonderful town ambassadors (Kay MacDonald and Joe Reich), to the installation of 700 hanging baskets across the town, the enhancement of the Christmas lights, the great fireworks displays in November and Hogmanay, and countless other initiatives, the team thoroughly deserve a yes vote.

But there is a deadline so I would urge all involved to make sure they get their vote in and back BID4Oban.

What do you think?

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

Deputy editor Martin Laing with actor Paul Brannigan in the Oban Inn last Wednesday evening.

Oban man's sacrifice in the Salonika Campaign

MHAIRI LIVINGSTONE
editor@obantimes.co.uk

STRUMA Cemetery, north of Thessaloniki in Greece, is a peaceful place.

Surrounded by elegant Cypress trees and far enough away from the friendly taverna and barking dogs of Kalakastro, it is tended meticulously and with respect by the local people. It is a fitting place for the dead of the Salonika Campaign to lie.

Among them is a boy from Oban. He was a member of the 1st Argyll Mountain Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. He was 22.

William John McRae was born in Argyll Square, Oban in 1895, the fourth son of William McRae and Annie MacIntosh. His father was a joiner who had come from the McRae heartlands of Kintail to find work and had met and married Annie MacIntosh, whose roots were on Lochawe-side.

William had built a fine, two-storey villa for his growing family on Glenmore Road and named it Balmacara after his own family home in Ross-shire. However, by the outbreak of war in 1914, three of their seven children, including their only daughter, were already dead.

Young Willie was enrolled in Rockfield Road School as pupil 3378 and, following family tradition, attended the Free Church. He was an enthusiastic member of The Boys' Brigade, attending weekly meetings in the Memorial Hall adjacent to the Congregational Church and taking part in parades and church services. During his formative years, he, like his brother Alister, became an accomplished piper and when he sailed from Greenock on a stormy August day in 1914, his pipes were stored safely in the hold between horses, guns and kitbags. He and his comrades were confident of being home by Christmas.

With training completed at Bedford Barracks, the men from Argyll sailed for war through the Straits of Gibraltar, stopping in Malta briefly and on to the island of Lemnos, off the Turkish coast for quick training in amphibious landing. They arrived at Gallipoli on April 25, 1915.

Incredibly, the Nominal Roll of 271 N.C.O.s and men of 4th Highland Mountain Brigade, including the Argyll Mountain Battery, has survived and is in the safe keeping of Argyll and Bute Council Archives in Lochgilphead.

It was in the pocket of a Warrant Officer when he went ashore at Gallipoli on the 25th



Clockwise from main photograph: William John McRae is pictured here fourth from the left, middle row; William John McRae's gravestone in Salonika; The Nominal Roll of 271 N.C.O.s and men of 4th Highland Mountain Brigade, including the Argyll Mountain Battery, has survived. It was in the pocket of a Warrant Officer when he went ashore at Gallipoli on April 25.

April. The stains of the salt water are clearly visible and it contains the names of all the men from the Brigade who took part in that catastrophic campaign. Among them, William John McRae.

As part of the 29th Divisional Artillery, the 4th Mountain Brigade was first ashore on West Beach, Cape Helles. Being highly mobile and carrying relatively light artillery, they were to provide the first cannons on the ground once the beaches had been secured.

The mountain gunners were in continuous action until August when they were withdrawn to a nearby island, refitted and returned, as the first artillery ashore, for the second wave of landings at Suvla Bay to the north.

From August till December 26, they fought on at Suvla, though this action was also doomed to fail. Most of the men were still wearing the uniform, boots and kit they had on when

they first landed in April. Here, as in the south, they suffered indescribable deprivation, were constantly in jeopardy from sniper bullets, artillery shells or the new menace, aerial bombs, and suffered from extremes of heat and cold, rain and frost, shortages of food and water and disease.

The Allied offensive of autumn 1916 had captured more than 400 square miles of territory but had failed to destroy the enemy, so a conference was held in Rome in the new year to discuss the Balkan Front.

General Maurice Sarrail's plan was to mount the main assault by Serbian forces from the Moglena Mountains, the French and Italians were to hold the road along the River Crna and the British would advance towards Serres in the Struma Valley. This aimed to prevent the Bulgarian forces moving westward to regroup against the main Serbian attack.

Sarrail's previous autumn

offensive had seen the Argyll Mountain Battery providing direct artillery support for the attack, which advanced its guns with the infantry. Under Major E.G.W. Carter, the brigade had been equipped with new 2.75-inch mountain guns and animals and all available field artillery was dug in along the River Struma. Adding might to this firepower were the six-inch howitzers of XXXV11 Heavy Group.

To ready themselves for the attack, men from 2/Cameron Highlanders, 1/Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and 1/Royal Scots established bivouacs - tents using a combination of waterproof sheeting, sticks, string and pegs - between the Serres road and the village of Mekes. As the fighting started, the pipe-major picked up his pipes and "walked quite calmly at the head of his unit. The poor chap had not gone very far when he was hit, he fell but went on playing his pipes as if nothing

had happened.'

For the last few months of the Salonika Campaign, the Allies successfully held back the Bulgarians along the Struma.

Various records, including war diaries, have survived from these dark days. Eye witness accounts also provide an insight into the desperate living conditions for the men. In the Struma Valley, life could be very unpleasant as the river frequently broke its banks, flooding the surrounding plain.

'The trenches were full to their brims with water, the dugouts were full to their roofs. All we could do was to bivouac on the occasional patches of dry ground that appeared above the floods. The weather was bitterly cold. It was impossible to dry anything. The ground all around our line was overgrown with long grass, brushwood and, occasionally, with small patches of jungle. The enemy sharpshooters had constructed frequent pits, just deep enough to hold one man, who, by standing upright, could fire, under cover of the long grass, right into our posts.'

From time to time, whale oil was issued to be rubbed into the feet, offering some protection from the cold and wet. Mosquitoes and flies were legion and made life a misery. Ants and beetles, three-four inches long, added to the infestation. Summer resuscitated the snake population and wild dogs were endemic. Even cats had to be eliminated as they got into the cook houses and stole food.

Throughout the campaign, therefore, disease, rather than the enemy, would claim the most casualties. The ratio in the British Salonika Force of non-battle to battle casualties was 20:1.

By the summer of 1918, the Salonika Army was full of listless, anaemic, unhappy, sallow men whose lives were a physical burden to them and a material burden to the army; who circulated backwards and forwards between hospital and convalescent camps, passing only an occasional few days at work with their units, then being sent away to do the round of hospital and 'Con. Camp' again.

Having survived shelling and gun-fire, dysentery and malaria, searing heat and bitter cold, William John McRae died of an intestinal obstruction in a casualty clearing station in the Struma Valley.

On his gravestone, his parents paid this tribute: 'Dear Willie your life was lovely and pleasant and you died in glory.'

He died on November 9, 1917, 100 years ago. He was 22.

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MORVERN lines

Scotland's noble thistle

THE MOST Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle is the highest honour that can be awarded to Scottish men and women for service to their country.

Given that the thistle is Scotland's national emblem and its prickliness is enshrined in her motto, 'Wha daur meddle wi' me', it is not surprising that it is commemorated in our oldest order of chivalry.

There are several different legends about how the thistle became Scotland's badge. The most popular goes back to 1263 when King Alexander III, whose father died on Kerrera, was defending the country from marauding Vikings. The story goes that one night the Norsemen tried to surprise the sleeping Scots near Largs in North Ayrshire.

In order to move more stealthily under cover of darkness, the leaders removed their footwear. But as they crept barefoot they came across an area of ground covered in thistles. One of them stood on a thistle and shrieked out in pain. His cries alerted the Scots who got together and defeated the Norsemen at the Battle of Largs, which saved Scotland from invasion.

The important role that the thistle had played was quickly recognised and soon became the national emblem and was used on silver coins as early as 1470 and remaining on some Scottish bank notes to this day.

No-one knows exactly when the Order



Her Majesty The Queen wearing the robes of the Order of the Thistle.
Photograph Julian Calder

of the Thistle was established. Some historians think that it was founded in 809 by Achaius, King of Scots. Others say that King James V, who received important Roman, French and English honours, established the Order of the Thistle in 1540 because he was embarrassed that he had no personal honour to bestow in return. As it is recorded that he later conferred membership of the 'Order of the Burr or Thissil' on King Francis I of France, his claim has some merit.

When King James went into exile the Order fell into temporary disuse but was revived by his daughter Queen Anne. Her Hanoverian cousins and successors kept it going by awarding it

to the loyal Scottish nobility, but it was left to Sir Walter Scott to rekindle the enthusiasm by suggesting that King George IV wear the Insignia during his famous visit to Edinburgh in 1822.

Since official records began in 1687, only 237 Knights and Ladies have been created. Originally they were drawn from the peerage until the dawning of the Scottish Enlightenment when they began to be joined and replaced by outstanding Scottish thinkers, lawyers, statesmen, politicians and scientists - a trend that continues today.

Her Majesty The Queen is Sovereign of the Order which is restricted to 16 Knights and Ladies. Appointments, which are for life, are the personal gift of the Sovereign and are bestowed on the Feast of St Andrew, its patron saint.

Knightships have been given to Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, former Secretary General of NATO and the UK's Minister of Defence; Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, 25th Chief of the Clan Cameron and Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire; Lord Maclean of Duart and Morvern, Chief of the Clan Maclean, Lord Chamberlain to Her Majesty The Queen, and Sir Fitzroy Maclean of Dunconnell - diplomat, soldier, adventurer and politician and author of Eastern Approaches, allegedly the inspiration for Ian Fleming's James Bond.

The robes and insignia worn by the Sovereign and Knights are spectacular. The mantle is of green velvet, lined with white taffeta and tied with large green and gold tassels. The magnificent star of the Order, emblazoned on the left shoulder, consists of a silver St

Andrew's saltire, with clusters of rays between the arms. The broad hat, worn by the Sovereign and the Knights and Ladies, is made of black velvet with a plume of soft, white egret feathers. Suspended from the neck is a gold collar, called the 'St Andrew', illustrating, in gold enamel, St Andrew wearing a green gown and purple coat, holding a white saltire. When a Knight or a Lady dies the badge and star are returned personally to the Sovereign by the nearest relative of the deceased.

When King James VII revived the Order of the Thistle in 1687 he had part of the Abbey Church at the Palace of Holyrood House converted into a Chapel for the Order. The following year, however, James was forced to flee the country and the chapel was destroyed by an Edinburgh mob furious with him for his allegiance to the Roman Catholic faith. The Order was left without a permanent chapel until 1911 when one was added to St Giles' Cathedral by the renowned Scottish architect Sir Robert Lorimer. Although small, the interior of the Thistle Chapel is exquisitely decorated with carved and painted fittings of extraordinary detail including angels playing bagpipes.

Along its sides are the Knights' stalls which are capped by richly carved canopies with the shields and crests of each member rising above. The richest effect of all, however, is reserved for the Sovereign's stall at the west end of the chapel - a colourful tribute to remarkable Scottish workmanship.

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Momentum builds as food and drink celebration heads in to second week

Union getting behind #onethingfortnight

NFU Scotland has been getting behind Scotland Food and Drink's annual campaign to convert as many people as possible to buy fresh, local products.

With so much wonderful Scottish produce coming into peak season, this year's Food and Drink Fortnight – which started on 2 September – has, through the #onethingfortnight tag, been encouraging the public to buy something out of the ordinary, or cook something in a different way, or even switch from a foreign product to something locally sourced.

With one week to go, social media successes show that the Scottish public have been embracing the message and making small, everyday changes which will make a big difference to Scottish producers.

These have included switching from processed cheese in a packed lunch sandwich to cheese from a local dairy, using fresh Scottish raspberries in a dessert, and having seasonal Scotch lamb chops for dinner.

The campaign has coincided with #LoveLambWeek and Quality Meat Scotland's Wham Bam Thank You Lamb campaigns. It is hoped that a promotion of Scotch lamb will provide a much-needed boost to the meat's popularity as peak season arrives.

Scott Walker, NFU Scotland Chief Executive, said: "Scotland produces some of the finest food and drink in the world and that is in no small part down to our farmers, crofters and growers who pride themselves in what they do day-in-day-out to produce some of the finest tastiest produce you will find anywhere."

"All too often we take for granted what is right here on our own doorstep. By being involved in campaigns like #onethingfortnight, we as an industry are able to shout about our fantastic produce we have here in Scotland."

"It is important that the valuable momentum built up by Food and Drink Fortnight in week one is carried through, not just for the next week but in making lasting changes to the produce that Scottish consumers buy on a regular basis."

"I encourage everyone to search out Scottish food and drink and whether it is trying something you haven't tried before or cooking something different with the fantastic ingredients we produce here in Scotland #onethingfortnight is a chance to experiment and enjoy what farmers spend a lifetime producing for the people of Scotland."

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Clearing town centre congestion a priority

THE HIGHLAND Council is to look at ways of easing congestion through Fort William as a matter of urgency after continued tailbacks on the A82.

A motion put to the council this week, signed by Councillor N McLean, Councillor A Baxter and Councillor M Smith stated: 'Highland Council acknowledges that congestion on the A82, as it passes through Fort William, has reached a point where it is causing unacceptable delays for all road users. Highland Council acknowledges the economic impact and wider inconvenience caused by the current situation is unacceptable and needs urgent action.'

'Highland Council urges Transport Scotland to bring forward the proposed strategic transport appraisal of the wider Fort William area.'

'Highland Council will write to the transport minister to provide an update on the current position and urge that the appraisal is carried out as a priority. Concurrent to the appraisal process, short-term measures must be investigated and executed by Transport Scotland to bring immediate relief.'

High volumes of traffic in the town this summer resulted in regular tailbacks of up to seven miles on the A82, meaning three-mile, south-bound journeys through the town could take up to an hour.

Councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of the places committee, added: 'Work is under way on a pre-appraisal to be led by the council with help from Transport Scotland and HITRANS which I hope will take us further forward in getting improvements.'

Highland Council plans cuts to tackle 'challenging' budget gap



Left to right: Rev Morag Muirhead, Rev Alan Ramsay, May McIntyre and Rev Richard Baxter.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Special service marks three celebrations at Duncansburgh Macintosh Church

A TRIO of anniversaries was celebrated at a special service in Duncansburgh Macintosh Church in Fort William earlier this month.

The service marked 10 years since the union of the Duncansburgh and Macintosh congregations.

Two notable figures at the church also marked important milestones.

The well-attended day marked the 60th anniversary of May McIntyre becoming a church organist.

May is a stalwart of the congregation and the church was pleased to celebrate the special day with her.

And it was the 50th anniversary of Rev Alan Ramsay becoming a minister. Rev Ramsay was the last minister of the Macintosh Church before joining with the Duncansburgh congregation.

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
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HIGHLAND Council is in the 'most difficult financial period local government has ever experienced' according to one member as councillors prepare for a £160million budget gap in the next five years.

At a full council meeting last week, members agreed on a strategic approach to tackle the 'uncertain and challenging financial outlook' that has been projected over the coming years.

A financial outlook for the period 2018-2023, presented to the council earlier this year, identified a potential budget gap of around £160m in the funding of existing core services. The forecast was based on a number of assumptions, in particular the anticipated reduction of Scottish Government grant funding.

The £160m is roughly equal to the total annual spend on primary, secondary and special education, which equates to more than twice the total annual spend on roads, transport, environmental and amenity services.

A spokesperson for Highland Council outlined: 'In light of the financial forecast, the council can no longer continue to provide the same services, at the same level, in the same way as before. By law, the council is required to set a balanced budget for every financial year. The council must identify proposals to reduce expenditure or raise additional income to deliver a balanced budget over the period 2018-2023.'

Chairman of corporate resources at the council councillor Alister Mackinnon said: 'We



Councillor Andrew Baxter.

“We also need to have an idea of how we can make money”

Councillor Baxter

with more in future years.

'We must also look at removing or reducing some services which, although we want to deliver and do so successfully, local authorities do not have an obligation to provide. We need to question whether we can afford to continue to do this.'

'We have to deliver a balanced budget,' Mr Mackinnon added, 'and this is without a doubt going to be the most difficult financial period that local government has ever experienced.'

Lochaber councillor Andrew Baxter said: 'Nothing is being ruled out. We want to concentrate on core services, like emptying bins and fixing roads.'

'We are looking at every line within the council's budget to see if we can make savings and be more efficient. As a Lochaber councillor, if any residents have ideas or examples of where the council can save money in the budget, then get in contact with one of us.'

Mr Baxter said the council will be reviewing the budget over the autumn and hopes to be in a position before the end of the year where it can make savings.

He continued: 'We also need to have an idea of how we can make money. The council needs to be more commercially minded. For example, charging for car parking. I find it ridiculous Fort William residents have to pay for parking when other towns in the Highlands don't have to.'



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OT

Viewpoint

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
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An innovative community care scheme launched in Appin last year, to employ local carers to care for local people, seemed the ideal solution to a long-standing problem of inadequate care for ill or elderly people living in remote Argyll and the islands.

Appin Community Trust secured £17,000 from the Integrated Care Fund to employ care coordinator Elizabeth Bruce for a year's trial period through Highland Home Care. A team of Lismore and Appin carers were recruited and trained, and even won a Scottish Care Award this year.

But now Elizabeth has been told her post will not be renewed because not enough people have signed up to the

service and there is not the cash to renew her post. But surely the whole point of a trial is to see what works and what doesn't, learn from it and then use that experience and information to create a better and more sustainable service.

Recruiting carers is not a new problem and Appin and Lismore are small communities, so why not do as is suggested and extend the service to somewhere larger, such as Mull? Just because the scheme hasn't been as successful as hoped so far doesn't mean that it isn't the right solution. Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership shouldn't be so short-sighted.



Days gone by – 1995

Our photograph this week is from August 1995 and pictured are cousins Russell Tosh, 13, Gayle Dickie, 11, and Christopher Anton, 10, who swept the boards in the handicraft competition at the Lorn Show, with Russell taking the overall trophy.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



JUST to keep things varied, this week's piece is a split offering of subject matters divided between film and music.

When Monsters Call

In contrast to my last foray into film reviewing when my disappointed take on the new Whisky Galore film was featured by the Scotsman because of the level to which it slated the subject movie, this is altogether a much more positive comment.

Watching a film for me is always a risk. The feelings evoked by seeing a good moving picture can be very inspiring, energising and enriching. A good story, well told, is one of the age-old learning and leisure tools of mankind and film is a very fine modern-day vehicle for this ancient aspect of human interaction.

However, when one chooses the wrong film and expectations are dashed, you are left feeling as if you have been robbed of three hours of your life. Thankfully, my last film experience was a good one.

When Monsters Call was released early this year in the UK, but I missed the cinema viewings so watched it online at the weekend.

The film centres round a young boy

and his simultaneous battles with school bullies, a difficult relationship with his – at first appearances - domineering grandmother, his estranged father and the terminal illness of his mother.

An influence of guidance and wisdom comes to him in the form of an ancient yew tree which has come to life. With three old stories relating to conflicting human behaviour along with wise words, the yew tree guides the boy to face his inner and similarly conflicting fears. The film ends with a deeply sad but satisfying feeling of acceptance and closure.

Mortality and the complexities and conflicts of man's character and behaviour are common themes in anthropological study and this film captures these themes in a very simple and beautiful way.

I would highly recommend this film and would also recommend finding and seeking guidance from our own ancient yew trees of wisdom – some of them aren't even that ancient!

BOW Fest

Yet again, The Best of the West Festival in Inveraray delivered a fine weekend celebrating and promoting a variety of the best food, produce and music that

Argyll has to offer. Hosted by the Duke and Duchess of Argyll in the grounds of Inveraray Castle, this was their biggest event yet, with three days and nights of revelling and sampling of food and drink. Despite some of the questionable doings of his ancestors, Torquil Campbell is a very fine host and along with his wife Eleanor leads a great team of festival organisers who have created one of the best events of its kind in the country.

We had the pleasure of finishing off the Friday night's entertainment, but the musical highlight for me was listening to young Strachur band Heron Valley who were on before us. This is a band that will be at the top of our music scene very soon.

Food highlights were a close call between Loch Fyne oysters and The Real MacKay Stovie Company. Unfortunately no whisky highlights could be identified as we were all driving, but there was a fine array to choose from. For those on soft drinks the delicious creamy milk from the Wee Isle Dairy on Gigha was a perfect alternative to a dram!

If you didn't make it this year, get it in the diary for next September and leave your car at home.



Jennifer E. Anderson: Lovely pic! How time flies! Xxx
James Stewart added: Ben Carmichael? Behind the big fella, Gregor Mcluckie.

Do you recognise yourself or an old classmate in the photograph? Let us know, email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

Cinema's aim is to cover all of Lochaber

Sir,
In response to the letter of August 23 regarding the Lochaber Cinema Group plans for a community cinema in Fort William, we would like to answer some of the concerns raised.

Lochaber Cinema Group has been working since February 2016.

We have tried to cover as much of Lochaber as our volunteers can manage. We have screened children's movies once a month in the Venue Cinema and Theatre in Kinlochleven, The Community Centre in Caol, and Kilmallie Hall in Corpach. We also went out last Christmas to screen a movie at many local primary schools, including Mallaig primary school.

We initially looked at the old cinema building in Cameron Square, however, given the costs of upgrading, including a new fire escape route, new disabled access lift, further major upgrading inside, it was clear that this was not a project that was viable. In order to receive grant funding, you need to own the property or have a long lease of 20+ years, and neither of these would have been an option.

Our planning application was submitted and up on the council website from Friday 16/06/2017 and planners were seeking comments for nine weeks. The planning application itself was from months of work put in by our agent Stephen Fair.

There were no objections from local businesses or from residents in the neighbouring flats. We also held a public consultation meeting two weeks ago in the Duncansburgh Church Hall. Plenty of time was allowed for submitting comments directly to the planning application process. The planners did a great job in issuing planning permission on time and without any onerous conditions.

Their approach fits perfectly with the Scottish Government aims: to increase town centre footfall, and encourage innovative re-use of retail units whilst national shopping habits continue to change and risk the decline of traditional high streets. Far better to see two empty High Street units back in use, and an all-weather, all-year-round community use at that.

The shop units we have chosen have had much speculation as to the sizing but as our plans show, two screens can be fitted in there. What is wrong with being small? We do not aspire to be a multiplex cinema in fact many community cinema groups have sprung up in recent years all over Scotland.

LCG would like to thank the planners of Lochaber for giving our project the green light and giving Lochaber the chance to have a new entertainment facility for all ages.

As a group, LCG are members of

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk



MA SHEALLAS SINN air ais air eachdraidh na Gàidhlig thar còrr air ceud gu leth bliadhna saoilidh mi gum faodte a ràdh, mar a thuir an sgrìobhaiche Mark Twain ma dheidhinn fhèin uair, gum bheil gainnead firinn ann an naidheachd a bàis! Nach bu mhat gun leanadh an suidheachadh sin agus nach biodh adhbhar tuilleadh aig Gàidheil is eile a bhith a' bruidhinn air bàs cànanach gum biodh adhbhar moit aca à ath-nuadhachadh nan cuid cànan is a cultar. Mar a dh'innses eòlaichean cànan dhuinn bitheanta, cha ghlèidh cànan sam bith beò gun i bhith ag atharrachadh agus a' gluasad air adhart fo bhuidhean t-saoghail anns am bheil leir ga cleachdadh. Anns an t-seadh dhùbhlach sin feumaidh Gàidhlig a bhith ag atharrachadh cuideachd agus 's e an t-amas a dh'fheumas a bhith againne nach caill sinn cus a tha ro luachmhor anns an ùrachadh sin.

Tha mi a' sgrìobhadh 's mi dìreach air tilleadh bho Mhòd Ionadach na Dreòlluinn ann am Muile, an dàrna Mòd agam ann an cola-deug oir bha mi aig Mòd Ìle an t-seachdain roimhe. Abair gun do chòrd na tachartasan sin rium is aoiheachd nan eileanan fa leth cho gasta agus fialaidh 's a bha riamh, agus cuideachd deagh irean ciùil agus Gàidhlig a bha nam misneachadh. Aig amannan saoilidh mi gum bi a h-uile duine againn a tha an lùib na Gàidhlig a' faireachadh beagan dì-mhisneachail, ach an uairsin thig neach an lùib tachartais leithid fear de na Mòdan ionadail seo agus thig ùrachadh misneachd às na sgàthain sin air coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig.

Saoilidh cuid nach eil anns na Mòdan ach tachartas aon latha sa bhliadhna agus nach eil iad a' cur ri spionnadh agus cleachdadh na Gàidhlig anns na coimhearsnachdan, ach na mo bheachds a sin fada ceàrr! Tha oideachadh agus ionnsachadh ma choinneimh fharpaisean Mhòdan a' dol air adhart fad na bliadhna a' tarraing aire agus aithne dhaoine aig gach ìre chun a' chànan agus a' togail a h-inbhe.

Cinema for All, Filmhub Scotland and Filmbank. We have also been receiving advice from the Eden Court programmer, director of Regional Screen Scotland and various other cinema and film industry people. We have taken the time over the last two years to forge these relationships.

The group itself has worked extremely hard in delivering screenings and being involved in getting to know the cinema and film industry. Information about our project is on our website and on our Facebook page.

What has been most heartening in the last few days, is the support we as individuals, and as a group, have received both in person, and on our Facebook page. We would like to thank each person who has voiced their support, it means a lot to us all.

Marie MacPherson
LCG Chairperson

Mull residents' fears over Gazelle use

Sir,
Regarding the article 'Debate continues over treatment for pine weevil':

I write on behalf of a group of more than 50 residents of North West Mull concerned about the use, in forests across the island, of Gazelle, containing amongst other chemicals the neonicotinoid acetamiprid. Our deeply held concerns are three fold:

The dire effect of neonicotinoids on wildlife and biodiversity. This includes aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, and the animals and birds that feed on them;

The water solubility of acetamiprid which raises concerns over the possible contamination of private and public water supplies and the subsequent effect on human health;

The risk to health of contractors handling the treated seedlings or spraying the Gazelle – much of the time in very remote areas of Scotland away from management supervision.

Acetamiprid has not been proven to be safe and there are a growing number of scientific papers, published more recently than 2013, which provide evidence to support our concerns. In 2015 it was classed as 'highly hazardous' by UKWAS (UK Woodland Assurance Standard). Currently the EU is considering a complete ban of neonicotinoid use in its member states. We understand that nearly 150 pesticides and herbicides previously licensed as safe to use have subsequently been banned.

On Mull there are two community-owned forests and thankfully, in response to our concerns, North West Mull Community Woodland Company and South West Mull and Iona Development have agreed NOT to consider using Gazelle with-

out first consulting the community. Forestry Commission Scotland has not used Gazelle in Mull forests, however, this pesticide has already been used in two privately owned forests on the island.

There are alternatives to using Gazelle, including using more mature saplings, extending the fallow period between harvesting and replanting to more than five years possibly with the addition of using barrier methods (such as nets and wax). Across Scandinavia and a growing number of European countries non-chemical methods are being used.

In order for forest managers to be able to extend the fallow period there would have to be a change in the Forest Design Plan contracts and any associated grant requirements. This would need the support of the Scottish Government and its agent Forestry Commission Scotland.

It would also be good to see outside funding support for further research in to alternative methods of pine weevil control as seen in other countries. Caroline Wood on behalf of 'No Neonicotinoids on Mull Group'.

Islay councillor urged to meet with ICC

Sir,
I write in response to Councillor Redman's letter to *The Oban Times* (7 September 2017). I understand that the decision to withdraw some support to Trust Housing on Islay was made in 2011 by Argyll and Bute Council long before the Health and Care Partnership was set up to deliver integrated care.

Maybe instead of arguing against a decision made some years ago and, incidentally, brings Islay into line with all other Trust Housing policy across Scotland, Councillor Redman could make a constructive contribution to how we can all provide care for people living in their own homes or in supported accommodation.

This planning is already under way in the Islay and Jura Locality Planning group to minimise the disruption to the lives of residents and their families.

I gather Councillor Redman was invited to the Islay Community Council to explain his role on the integrated joint board and his views on health and social care but unfortunately he didn't attend. Could I suggest that he contacts the ICC to try and arrange another date? As an interested member of the public I would like to hear his views.

Could I also suggest he thinks again about relying on stock labels such as separatist and unionist and thinks about people as human beings and constituents. Maybe he could also reflect on the meaning of the word democracy.

A. Humphreys
Port Askaig, Islay

Ailean Caimbeul

Social media

Photographs from our archives have been going down a storm with many people recognising themselves or old school chums. This photograph from a book safari at Oban Library had a lot of people reminiscing.

Lena Durnan said: Allan Beaton with magnifying glass, Laura Beaton, Mary McCuish, Martin Still. Faces I know but can't remember names!

Louise Kilmurray Marshall: Theresa Cooper I'm 99.5 per cent sure that's you on the left of the man.

Gregor Mcluckie marvelled: Wow, can't even remember that but look how young we are must of been first or second year in high school.

James Stewart laughed: That's not me Gus my head was never that shape.

Thomas Shaw: What year was that?

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

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

be printed.

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

Le taic bho

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Arena

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

Young talent to the fore at Mull and Iona Provincial Mòd

TOBERMORY again hosted the Mull and Iona Provincial Mòd last Friday and Saturday.

With more than 160 individual children competing in the solo, poetry and conversation competitions, as well as 10 children's choirs and 13 school and preschool action songs, the Junior Mòd on Friday was one of the busiest in the Mòd's history. Saturday brought the adult competitors, with more than 30 soloists and nine choirs.

Despite a rather miserable weather forecast, Friday turned out to be a lot drier than anticipated and the Main Street was filled with children rehearsing and rushing between competitions. The action songs in Aros Hall on Friday morning were, as always, hugely entertaining.

Every school on Mull was represented, as well as Lochaline Primary School, with pupils coming over to Mull for the day to compete. There were four entries for the pre-five action song, as well, which organised described as 'delightfully cute'.

On Friday afternoon there were two competitions running concurrently in Aros Hall: the U13s choral unison and the U13s choral puirt-a-beul competitions. Ten choirs competed in the unison - three choirs

from Bun-Sgoil an t-Sàilein, Tobermory Primary School Choir, Kilchoan Primary School Choir, Oigrìdh Shuainear, Bunessan School Choir, Iona Primary School Choir and two choirs from Oban: Rockfield Choir and St Columba's Primary School Choir. Both competitions were won by choirs from Bun-Sgoil an t-Sàilein, conducted by Kirsty Blackhall.

After all the hard work, many of the prizewinners and mòd-goers attended the Prizewinners Ceilidh on Friday evening. The committee were delighted to welcome Ian Smith of Trail West and Robert Robertson of Tide Lines, who provided wonderful dance music, and Dr Alistair Whyte as Fear an Taigh for the evening.

Organisers said: 'The ceilidh was the busiest Children's Ceilidh we've had for many years at the Mull Mòd; the dancefloor was full all night with both children and adults, and there were many wonderful performances by the prizewinners of the day, including the winning action song and choir from Bun Sgoil an t-Sàilein.'

The committee would like to thank Mrs Jennifer McGhee, the new head teacher at Tobermory High School, for

presenting the trophies to all of the winners.

On Saturday morning, Eileen Duncan of Thurso won the Open Solo competition, which is the largest adult solo competition at the Mull Mòd and the local song competition was won by Janet Campbell of Tobermory.

As well as the solo, duet and quartet competitions, organisers were pleased to be able to offer Gaelic Testing for several people wanting to get their Bronze, Silver or Gold Cards, which enable them to compete in specific solo competitions at the National Mòd, as well as helping their choirs meet requirements of Gaelic speakers.

On Saturday afternoon, the men's choir competition had only two entries - it was won by Còisir Ceann an Tuirc - but there were seven choirs in the ladies' competition. Glasgow Islay Ladies' Choir won, with Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich ladies placing second, and Atomaig Piseag and Oban Gaelic Choir drawing for third place.

After the ladies' competition, the seven mixed voice choirs battled it out in two concurrent competitions. Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir placed first in the

Mixed Voice competition, with Glasgow Gaelic Music Association (the GGs) placing second and Oban Gaelic Choir placing third. The puirt-a-beul competition was won by the Glasgow Gaelic Music Association, with Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir placing second, and Oban and Mull Choirs drawing for third place.

Saturday evening's ceilidh was also very busy, and music was once again provided by Sandy MacAulay on the accordion. All of the available prizewinners performed their winning songs, and the choristers all joined together for some massed choir singing at the end of the evening.

The Mull Mòd was once again a huge success, the committee said, thanking all its sponsors, supporters, and volunteers: 'The two-day event would be impossible to run without them, and we are always looking for more people to help. If you might be interested to join us in 2018, either as a steward, a raffle ticket seller, a tea maker, a chairperson or a committee member, please email us at: enquiries@mullmod.org.uk and we will get in touch next year.'

'Most of all, thank you to the all of the competitors, tutors and schools: without you, we wouldn't have a mòd at all.'



Mull choir, pictured outside Tobermory's Aros Hall, drew third alongside Oban Choir in the puirt-a-beul.



Left, Tobermory Primary School Choir.



Youngsters from primary 5,6 and 7 of Tobermory Primary School perform their action song.



Taynuilt dancers swap Argyll for Portugal

SIX BALLET West dancers have traded Taynuilt for Portugal in order to compete in a prestigious event.

The students flew to Lisbon to attend the annual Royal Academy of Dance Genée International Ballet Competition.

The event started on September 7 and will run until September 16.

Only a small number of ballet students from around the world

are eligible to participate in the event.

Ballet West students have had considerable success in past years with several students receiving medals and many being selected as finalists.

Gillian Barton, Ballet West Principal said: 'I am delighted that Ballet West will be represented so well at the competition and that our students have this kind of opportunity.'

At the Genée, candidates receive a unique opportunity to work with renowned choreographers and teachers for five days before performing at the semi-finals, and then the final, where they compete for a range of medals.

Gillian added: 'It's been a great year for Ballet West. Dance enthusiasts will have seen two of our students, Oscar Ward and Uyu Hiromoto, ap-

pear on television in the finals of the BBC Young Dancer of the Year competition.

'In July, Oscar was awarded the Solo Seal which is the highest possible accolade offered by the Royal Academy of Dance.'

'This completes a hat trick of Solo Seals over the past three years, with Uyu taking it in 2016 and Natasha Watson gaining success in the previous year.'

Ballet West dancers Evangelyn Wong from Singapore, Rebecca Strain from Canada and Storm Norris, Emma Thomas, Charlotte Bagnall and Nancy Reid are attending the competition in Portugal.

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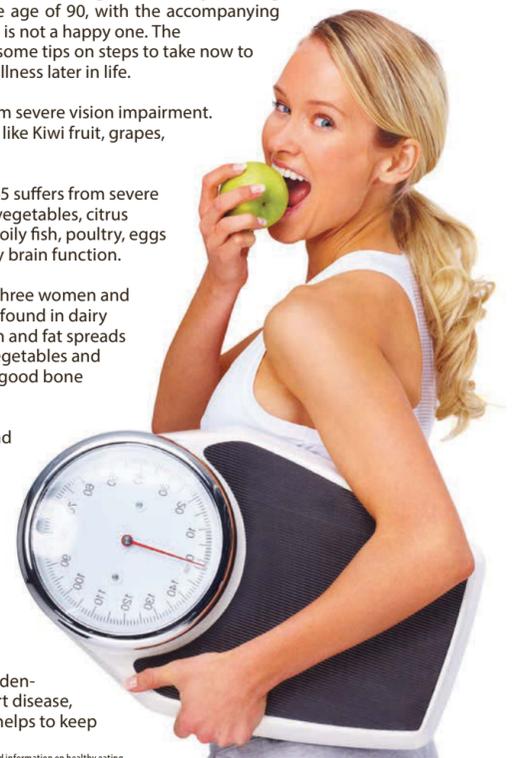
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Simple steps to a healthier old age

The average life expectancy in UK today is about 80 years, which is 10 years older than it was in 1959. If trends continue, by 2060 people can expect to be living a further 10 years longer* but, for many, the prospect of living to the age of 90, with the accompanying deterioration in physical and mental health, is not a happy one. The British Nutrition Foundation (BNF) gives us some tips on steps to take now to reduce the impact of frailty and premature illness later in life.

- **Eyes**
1 in 8 people aged over 75 years suffer from severe vision impairment. Eating foods rich in lutein and zeaxanthin, like Kiwi fruit, grapes, spinach and broccoli is a good idea.
- **Brain**
Around one in 20 people over the age of 65 suffers from severe cognitive impairment or dementia. Leafy vegetables, citrus fruits, folic acid fortified breakfast cereals, oily fish, poultry, eggs and dairy products are all good for healthy brain function.
- **Bones**
Osteoporosis affects an estimated one in three women and one in 12 men over the age of 55. Calcium found in dairy products, vitamin D found in eggs, oily fish and fat spreads and vitamin K found in dark green leafy vegetables and some fruits are all important nutrients for good bone health.
- **Heart**
Coronary heart disease accounts for around 94,000 deaths in the UK each year. Foods in a healthy-heart diet are rich in soluble fibre such as oats, peas, beans and sources of potassium such as root vegetables and fruits like peaches and bananas.
- **Physical activity**
Staying physically active is vital to maintaining good health in later years. Weight bearing exercise is important for keeping bones healthy but all forms of activity for 30 minutes a day - walking, gardening, dancing - helps reduce the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers. It also helps to keep the brain working well.

Source *British Nutrition Foundation visit www.nutrition.org.uk for more advice and information on healthy eating.



Arena

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For further information see www.easdaleislandhall.org

Natural larder sets The Deck scene

LOCATED just 11 miles south of Oban, it takes less than 25 minutes to reach the Isle of Eriska, but it feels like a world away.

Once you leave the A828 at Benderloch and turn onto the mostly single-track road, you will feel as if you are leaving your workaday worries behind and embarking on an adventure.

Crossing a wooden bridge, you arrive on the 300-acre private island, named after Erik the Red, the infamous Viking who raided Scotland's west coast in the 10th century. But it's the natural beauty of Eriska that immediately captures visitors' hearts as they make the short drive through beautiful coastal woodland. The elegant turn-of-the-century hotel comes into view, like something out of a film set, but your destination is just across the car park at the new complex that houses The Deck Restaurant and The Stables Spa.

When you first walk into The Deck Restaurant, the first thing you will notice is the view – a spectacular panorama over the golf course to Loch Linnhe and beyond to the Morvern Mountains.

Thanks to The Deck's expansive glass front, it is like dining in a postcard, and the abundance of natural daylight – no matter the weather – makes this a lovely setting you could happily enjoy all day. The atmosphere is breezy and stylish, yet comfortable, and is perfect for families, groups of friends and couples.

Head chef Conor Toomey's approach to the menu in The Deck is unfussy, and offers something for every taste, from nibbles such as olives and chargrilled flatbread with garden herb sour cream to light bites such as fishcakes and crayfish cocktail; from gourmet salads and sandwiches to 'something more substantial' – think rib eye

of aged Scottish beef with all the trimmings, or a burger (beef or veggie, with a side of hand-cut chips) and of course, the tried-and-true beer battered West Coast haddock.

'It is a privilege to have such an amazing natural larder, stocking produce from the island and locality,' chef Conor said. 'The abundance of produce from the island, gardens and

combined with Conor's expertise, takes every dish to the next level.

As a casual, relaxed alternative dining experience to the hotel's main restaurant, The Deck offers the same Michelin star ethos of chef Conor, as well as the finest quality local produce that is the star of all Eriska's menus.

In fact, as you walk to The Deck from the car park, you pass raised

garden beds bursting with lettuces, leeks, and many varieties of herbs.

'I am looking forward to using my skills to continue to enhance the guest experience in this idyllic location,' chef Conor said. 'I want people to feel comfortable at The Deck, for them to thoroughly enjoy their meal and leave with a smile on their faces.'



Benderloch, Argyll, Scotland, PA37 1SD Tel: 01631 720371

Website: www.eriska-hotel.co.uk



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A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 14 September - Thursday 21 September 2017

DIARDAOIN 14 SULTAIN
THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.05 **Bailtean Alba** - Looking at the history of Scotland's towns (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **Gaisgich na Stoirme** - 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 **UR|NEW: Losgadh air a' Phàp** - The attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II
23.35 **Togaidh Sinn Fonn** (rpt)

DIHAOINE 15 SULTAIN
FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
18.35 **Machair** - Gaelic soap based on the Isle of Lewis (rpt)
19.00 **An Là** - News
19.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
19.30 **Fionnlagh** - an affectionate and candid portrait of Finlay J MacDonald (rpt)
20.00 **Dha Gordon a-mhàin** (rpt)
21.00 **Tatù Rìoghail Dhun Èideann 2017** (rpt)
22.35 **Dhan Uisge** - Calum MacLean swimming in far-flung places (rpt)
22.40 **Binneas - Na Trads** (Dorca)
22.45 **Losgadh air a' Phàp** - The attempted assassination of Pope John

Paul II (rpt)
23.40 **Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan - Breabach** (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 16 SULTAIN
SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER
16.00 **UR|NEW: Òran na Mara**
17.35 **Machair** - Gaelic soap based on the Isle of Lewis (rpt)
17.55 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
18.00 **Scottish Premiership** - Hibs v Motherwell
20.00 **Togaidh Sinn Fonn** (rpt)
20.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
20.30 **Highland Midwives: Mnathan Glùine** (rpt)
21.00 **UR|NEW: Nathan Carter**
22.25 **Binneas - Cuirm @ Celtic**: Chicago - Session A9 (rpt)
22.30 **Niteworks: Baile air Bhoil** - Niteworks and guests live in Glasgow (rpt)
22.55 **Scottish Premiership - Hibs v Motherwell** (rpt)

DIDÒMHAICH 17 SULTAIN
SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
18.30 **Seachd Là** - 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 Stoirme** - Donnie Mackay braves our stormy weather (rpt)
21.00 **Sàr-sgeòil: The Lewis Trilogy** (rpt)
21.55 **Nathan Carter** (rpt)
23.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
23.25 **Cuirm @ Celtic** - Julie Fowlis (rpt)

DILUAIN 18 SULTAIN
MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Sruth gu Sàl** - series looking at the waterways of Scotland (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)

19.50 **Binneas - Cuirm @ Celtic**: Chicago - Session A9 (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **UR|NEW: DIY le Donnie** - An Dùbhlán
21.00 **UR|NEW: Steòrnabhagh gu Serbia**
21.00 **UR|NEW: Steòrnabhagh gu Serbia** - Smàladh an Teine
22.00 **UR|NEW: Bannan**
22.30 **Bothy Life** - Bothan nam Bean (rpt)
23.30 **Niteworks: Baile air Bhoil** - Niteworks and guests live in Glasgow (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 19 SULTAIN
TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Bailtean Alba** - Looking at the history of Scotland's towns (rpt)
19.25 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
19.50 **Binneas - Cuirm @ Celtic**: Chicago - Session A9 (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **UR|NEW: DIY le Donnie** - An

Dùbhlán
21.00 **UR|NEW: Sàr-sgeòil: His Bloody Project**
22.00 **Steòrnabhagh gu Serbia** (rpt)
23.00 **Togaidh Sinn Fonn** (rpt)
23.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
23.30 **Alleluia!** (rpt)

DICIADAIN 20 SULTAIN
WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Sruth gu Sàl** (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
19.50 **Binneas - Cuirm @ Celtic**: Chicago - Session A9 (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **UR|NEW: DIY le Donnie** - An Dùbhlán
21.00 **UR|NEW: Sgiobair nan Taighean-solais**
22.00 **UR|NEW: Ceòl-mhor @ Piping Live!**
22.30 **Bannan** (rpt)
23.00 **Balach nam Bàgh** (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 21 SULTAIN
THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.05 **Bailtean Alba** - Looking at the history of Scotland's towns (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
19.55 **Binneas - Cuirm @ Celtic**: Chicago - Session A9 (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **UR|NEW: DIY le Donnie** - An Dùbhlán
21.00 **Hamish** - Documentary film about Hamish Henderson (rpt)
22.30 **UR|NEW: Rita Hayworth**
23.20 **Dhan Uisge** - Calum MacLean swimming in far-flung places (rpt)
23.30 **Ceòl-mhor @ Piping Live!** (rpt)

Argyll's murderous past explored

BENDERLOCH'S Bookends Festival will explore Argyll's bloodthirsty past this month.

Lindsay Campbell, the daughter of a police constable, who lives in Kilmore near Oban, has always been fascinated by true historic crime and the human issues behind it, and Argyll has proved fertile ground for a series of three books – so far.

Her first book, *Ane Compact of Villany*, tells the true story of a gang of outlaws, led by Lachie Campbell, who roamed the hills around Oban and Nether Lorn stealing coins, fishing nets and salmon guns.

Lindsay said: 'It struck me as a story that needed to be told. I kept meeting the gang in old records and felt it would make a perfect story for local historians, but then a publisher became interested, too.'

The publisher explained: 'From the 1680s to the 1700s, a gang of early Jacobites,

thieves, housebreakers and highwayman ran a protection racket across the mist-sodden, famine-ravaged Argyll hills, bringing misery and fear to their own people and dismay to the authorities. In the end, a working-class hero, inspired by a widow's plight and bolstered by his own dogged determination, brought the gang to justice.'

Researching the book took Lindsay 15 years, and included tracing lost farmsteads and tracks in the hills around Scammadale, Dalavich and Appin, working with original old documents and exposing the human stories behind true historic crime.

'The places they targeted are not easy to find,' she said: 'The face of Argyll has changed so dramatically. It gave me the opportunity to explore these places in the hills. You see a lot of things that you do not notice on maps: you see the way these places were connected to each other, how the gang

were able to pounce on these places suddenly. You begin to get inside of the mind of these criminals.'

The book proved popular and the story of the highwaymen, thieves and protection racketeers operating across Argyll in the late 1600s continues to capture the imagination of locals and visitors.

Lindsay continued: 'I did not realise the appetite for true crime in this area. People in Argyll are a blood-thirsty lot and are starting to link in with their local murders.'

Her second book, which Lindsay will be reading from at the Bookends Festival before it comes out on November 28, is called *Now Prisoner Within*, and presents 12 cases of true crime in old Argyll.

She said: 'Most of the cases are previously untold, and involved theft, murder, riot, psychopathy and fraud from Campbeltown to Keil,

Tobermory to Dalmally and beyond. One crime is possibly solved more than 300 years after it occurred and an anomaly in the midst of another is at last explained.'

'In other chapters, islanders rebel against mainland rule, inebriated gentry brawl, a farmer's wife poisons her husband, and a son kills his father.'

'Some stories were gory, but these were human beings. Some of the stories are so sad. You get a feel for the people you are researching.'

'I do feel for the accused and the victims: they would not be treated that way now.'

'There is no getting away from the fact the sheriffs were quite harsh. I am convinced innocent people have been hung at Inveraray, and guilty people have got away.'

True crime in historic Argyll is proving such a rich seam that Lindsay is now writing her third book of cases called *Accused and*

Persewed. Benderloch's second Bookends Festival of the written and spoken word runs from September 23-30, featuring authors reading books ranging from King Arthur to free outdoor fitness. The Victory Hall in Benderloch is turned into a sumptuous reading room, where most of the action takes place.

Book bins are continuing to spread around Argyll. From Bonawe to Taynuilt and

Kilmore, and many locations in between boxes and bins will be rolling up filled to the brim with a collection of pre-loved books to give you a chance to swap, borrow or keep some new titles, and whet your appetite for more titles to come at the festival.

If you have books you wish to donate to this year's Bookends, leave a message the festival's website, www.bookends.scot or phone Joy Cameron on 01631 720247.



Authors Graeme Pagan, Russell Campbell and Lindsay Campbell at Bookends event in Taynuilt in February this year.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



A GLASGOW taxi driver commented to me on Sunday night that this was the start of the winter months when he annually expects to spend a lot of time dropping people off at the Islay Inn or the Park Bar as the highlanders and islanders, particularly students, return from spending their summers up the road.

It is indeed a great time of year in Glasgow – with lots of exciting events coming up.

Americana Evening

A big weekend is on the horizon for Ceòl 's Craic which hosts its annual Oidhche

Americana on Saturday September 23 at 7.30pm in the Centre for Contemporary Arts on Sauchiehall Street.

Oidhche Americana, as you can probably deduce from its title, is a celebration of the historic links between traditional Gaelic song and Americana music.

This year's event takes inspiration from the 'Grand Old Opry' shows of Nashville's iconic Ryman Auditorium and features a stellar cast of singers and musicians.

Dòl Eoin MacKinnon, from Scalpay (and my neighbour here in Partick) has long wanted to pay tribute to the late, great Tom Sloss. For this event he will be exploring the Uist troubadour's body of work

alongside some of his own original compositions.

The Eriskay Ponies feature the cream of Glasgow's session musicians and the vocal talents of Lorraine Wilson and Warren MacIntyre. They will reconvene to perform country classics, original compositions and inspired Gaelic cover versions, in addition to acting as 'house band' for the evening's exciting array of guest vocalists.

Gillebride MacMillan is a native of South Uist who grew up steeped in Gaelic song and tradition. Mairi Morrison is a renowned actress, writer and director and an exceptional Gaelic singer and songwriter. Mairi returns to perform her unique take on some

classic Country heartbreakers. Also performing as a very special guest is Mary Jean Lewis who hails from Louisiana and is the niece of 'The Killer' himself, the legendary Jerry Lee Lewis! Tickets are £12/£10 and are available from the ceòl 's craic website.

Comunn an Taobh cèilidh

Comunn an Taobh an Iar host their opening ceilidh of the season this Thursday (September 14) at 7.30pm in the Ellangowan Social Club. The chairman is Peter MacDonald, the piper is Kenneth Macfarlane, and the singers are Kirsteen Dick,

Linda MacCallum, Allan MacDougal, and Gordon McKeeve. Amy Caulfield is the instrumentalist, and Kirsteen Grant the accompanist. Teas, coffees, fruit juice and biscuits will be available. Admission is £7.

What's On

Friday September 15: Opening Clydebank Ceilidh of the season in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick at 7.30pm.

Friday September 15: Glasgow Lewis and Harris ceilidh in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street, at 7.30pm.

Saturday September 16: Glasgow Skye Association Opening Concert in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street, at 7.30pm.

Saturday September 16: Gaelic and Scots Music and Song featuring Calum MacLeod, Edinburgh Gaelic Choir, and other guests at 7.30pm in St John's Church Hall, Princes Street, Edinburgh.

Pub Scene

Islay Inn
Friday September 15: Gunna Sound
Saturday September 16: The Raggaeals

Park Bar
Friday September 15: Dùn Mòr
Saturday September 16: Dùn Mòr
Sunday September 17: Trail West

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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.

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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.

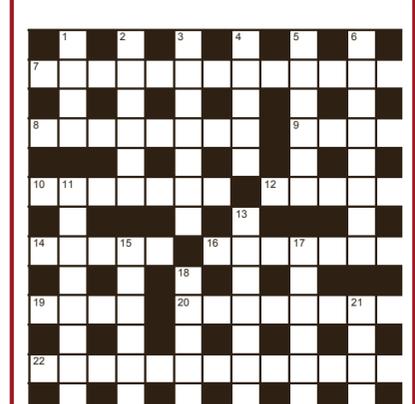
THURSDAY: 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13:00 Elaine's Time Capsule, 15:00 Gordon Covey, 17:00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19:00 Christine's Collection, 21:00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.

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 Breege, 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**
- Boat with a large wheel (6,7)
 - Sieve (8)
 - Pound (4)
 - Of several levels (7)
 - Nest for a bird of prey (5)
 - Moment (5)
 - For a piercing (7)
 - Plant, whose pods sre used in soups (4)
 - Open a belt (8)
 - Attractive (13)
- Down**
- Paid for ferry on land (4)
 - Paper boss (6)
 - Not in time, delayed (7)
 - Water mammal (5)
 - Entertainment in the 17th century (6)
 - Circle of poles (8)
 - Deception (8)
 - Once was great (3-4)
 - Cold creamy drink (6)
 - Arrange again (6)
 - Fastidious (5)
 - Touch down (4)

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Countryfile's Tom Heaps to speak at Oban conference

THE UK'S leading Arctic scientists are due to gather in Oban this month to raise awareness of the increasing changes the polar region is experiencing, writes Kayley Cornelius.

SAMS (The Scottish Association for Marine Science) based at Dunstaffnage, just outside Oban, will host the biennial UK Arctic Science Conference on September 19-21.

Over the past few decades, the Arctic region has been hit hard by climate change. Ice is increasingly melting due to the rapid rise in global warming.

From 1979-2000, the daily average global temperature raised by 0.55 degrees Celsius, however, the Arctic temperature raised by 6.42 degrees Celsius in the same time frame.

The average Arctic sea ice cover for November 2016 set a record low, leading to suggestions that sea ice cover could be at a tipping point, from which the region may not recover.

Tom Heap, best known as a presenter on the BBC's Countryfile, will be giving a public lecture on the topic.

The free-to-attend, event will take place in the Corran Halls from 7.30pm on Tuesday

September 19. Speaking about the conference, Mr Heap said: 'From explorers and whalers to eco-campaigners and meteorologists, the frozen north has fascinated our minds and affected our lives for centuries.'

'Today, the retreating ice is unlocking fresh narratives of the North as we contemplate a new Arctic geography.'

'The conference will be a great chance to catch up with top polar scientists and original thinkers on matters concerning the top of the world. It should be lively and a great resource for me as a journalist.'

Arctic scientist Dr Finlo Cottier from SAMS chairs the conference's local organising committee, he said: 'Oban is known to many as the Gateway to the Isles but for UK science it is really the Gateway to the Arctic and we are delighted to welcome the Arctic science community to Oban.'

'The environmental changes in that region are giving us a window into the pace and effects of climate change and SAMS is involved in many national and international arctic projects to help nations across the northern hemisphere prepare for the future.'



Countryfile presenter Tom Heaps will speak in Oban.

Holyrood honours mountain rescue volunteers

MOUNTAINEERING organisations have met with politicians at the Scottish Parliament thanks to enthusiastic mountaineer Liz Smith MSP.

In the shadow of Arthur's Seat, where the sport of climbing in Scotland is reputed to have originated in the Victorian age, Mountaineering Scotland and Scottish Mountain Rescue held a reception at Holyrood to celebrate the dedication and expertise of the volunteers and professionals who keep people safe in Scotland's mountains and wild landscapes. Ms Smith has also submitted a motion in parliament recognising and praising the work of both organisations and has received the cross-party backing of 36 MSPs so far.

Scottish Mountain Rescue is the representative and coordinating body for mountain rescue teams in Scotland, speaking for 23 voluntary teams involving more than 800 volunteers.

Mountaineering Scotland is the representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers, mountaineers and snowsport tourists in Scotland, with nearly 15,000 members, and plays a major role in promoting safety in Scotland's mountains, giving advice and providing subsidised training covering a range of essential mountain skills.

At the reception on Tuesday evening, hosted by Liz Smith MSP, more than 100 members, supporters and partners of the two organisations discussed with MSPs and their staff the contribution mountaineering and mountain rescue services make to the nation's economy and well-being, as well as some of the opportunities and challenges the future holds.

Speaking ahead of the event, Ms Smith, said: 'Without Mountaineering Scotland and the Scottish Mountain Rescue service our hills and mountains would be a lot more dangerous and it is only right that we celebrate their hard work at Holyrood. Scotland is one of the world's most picturesque countries and visitors travel here to immerse themselves in the great outdoors and it is important that a safety net exists when things go awry.'

'I look forward to learning more about both organisations and this reception is the perfect opportunity to celebrate their work and inform other MSPs about the challenges they face and how best to increase safety on Scotland's mountains.'

Argyll and Bute groups success at Beautiful Scotland event

ORGANISATIONS in Argyll and Bute have been recognised for their efforts to help the environment.

Blairmore Village Trust, Dunoon, and Bute in Bloom both picked up a silver gilt medal certificate in the Coastal Town category.

First-time entrant Blairmore Village Trust received the accolade for improving the village for both residents and visitors.

The group was also presented with a Keep Scotland Beautiful Award.

The competition, which is run in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society, brings communities together to help clean up and beautify the places that matter to them - and recognises the efforts of

volunteers across Scotland as they work to enhance their own community.

The ceremony is organised by the environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful.

Carole Noble, operations director of Keep Scotland Beautiful, said: 'Beautiful Scotland provides the opportunity for Scotland to celebrate the outstanding achievements of volunteer groups across the country and recognises the significant contribution they make in helping to improve our local environmental quality.'

'Argyll and Bute volunteers have worked tirelessly to ensure that the local spaces and places that they treasure are maintained to excellent standards. I would like to commend them on their efforts.'



A Red Admiral. Photograph: Tim Mellings, Butterfly Conservation.

Potential boost in butterfly sightings this autumn

THE BUTTERFLY Conservation is hoping for a boost in butterfly sightings in the coming weeks, following a disappointing August.

Gardeners are being asked to look out for butterflies after species struggled during the cold and wet summer holiday season.

However, the good spring and early summer conditions enabled more butterflies to fit in an extra generation.

This could allow for an impressive autumnal emergence of species such as Comma, Red Admiral and Speckled Wood in the coming weeks.

Butterfly Conservation head of, recording Richard Fox, said: 'Gardens become increasingly important for butterflies at this time of year.'

'Nectar, the flight fuel for most

of our butterflies, is in short supply in the countryside as we move into autumn, yet many of our garden flowerbeds and borders are still full of colour.'

'For some butterflies it is a matter of life and death; species such as the Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Comma, which hibernate as adult butterflies, have to feed up and lay down substantial fat reserves in their bodies in order to survive the winter. If they can't find enough nectar they simply won't make it through to breed next spring.'

'Others, such as the Painted Lady and Red Admiral will be taking on fuel reserves that they need to migrate south to warmer climes around the Mediterranean.'

Butterfly sightings can be entered online at www.garden-butterflysurvey.org

Argyll photographers urged to Picture It

PHOTOGRAPHERS in Argyll are being urged to enter a picture competition showcasing the best of environmental science.

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) launched the Picture It: Your Environment competition as part of its Unearthed event in Edinburgh in November.

The subject of the photo could be wind turbine arrays, beautiful coastlines teeming with aquatic life, or even mould growing around an old window frame.

Images will be shortlisted into three categories: 11-17 years old, 18 and over, and NERC head office and centre staff and NERC-funded academics.

Shortlisted pictures will be

enlarged and on display at UnEarthed, NERC's free, interactive showcase at Dynamic Earth, which will take place in Edinburgh on November 17-20.

Members of the public will then have the opportunity to vote on the overall winners.

A once-in-a-lifetime experience will be on offer to winners in each category: an invitation to the official naming ceremony of the RRS Sir David Attenborough, NERC's £200 million, state-of-the-art polar research ship.

To enter, visit www.unearthed.ac.uk/photocomp, and share pictures on social media using #Enviromoment.

Entries will close on October 13 and winners will be announced on November 22.



The competition is part of the Unearthed event in Edinburgh.



Blairmore Village Trust volunteers with their certificate.

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.

Thursday September 14

Beinn a' Chlachair, Glen Spean

Start from the car park by the bridge over the River Spean at Moy, NN433830.

Cross the bridge and follow the track to the head of Lochan na Earba. Turn on to the footpath and follow it SE up beside the Allt Coire Pitridh to the Bealach LeamhainEX. Continue SE up the path until it levels out at NN490797, then turn S and climb steeply up the spur. When the gradient eases, head SW for the small summit at 977m.

Continue SW up to the summit of Beinn a' Chlachair, 1,087m. Descend

SW curving W to the footpath beside the Allt Cam and follow it N to Lubvan. Continue N on the track to rejoin the outward route and follow it back to the start.

Grade: S; Distance: 22Km; Height to climb: 850m; Map(s): LR42 EX393. Meet at Fort William WM NN112742 at 0900. Start of walk at 0940. Leader: Ian Moir, 07973 836498.

Saturday September 16 Creag Liaragan, Crianlarich

Start in Glen Dochart at the turn off for Lochdochart House NN439272 where minimal park-

ing is available. Follow the estate road, cross the river and turn left. About ½ Km W towards the house at NN4353427503 a gap in the forest leads N to the open hillside.

Climb N across the slope to pass E of the crags of Creag Iubhair and then W up to a small summit at 465m. Continue W, following the edge of the escarpment and crags, curving SW to reach Creag Liaragan 558m.

Descend W then SW to pick up the forest track at NN386262. This leads to Inverhaggernie and

the A82 at Inverherive. Transport required.

Grade: M; Distance: 11Km; Height to climb: 500m; Map(s): LR50, EX364/365. Meet at: Longsdale car park, Oban NM862307 at 0915; Glencoe Village CP NN098587 at 0930. Start of walk 1030. Leader: Andrew Gilbert, 07808 924722.

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.

Sunday September 17 Corran Druim na Sgrìodain

Cross the Corran Ferry on foot and walk to Cille Mhaodain.

Steeply climb the open hillside to reach the summit of Sgurr na h-Eanchainne (730m), a tremendous viewpoint.

Head west past Lochan a' Choire Dhuibh around the corrie, then to the summit - the highest point on this walk. Descend the long curving ridge and follow it as it swings east. Drop north into the corrie

and cross the burn just before it cascades over the lip. Follow the path down the north side and head for an aerial, then a track through the forest to Ardour House.

Cross the bridge and track SE to the minor road at Clovullin, and thence to the Inn at Ardour - (12km, 850m ascent).

Suggested and coordinated by Norman Wares.

PLEASE NOTE TIMING FOR THIS WALK: Meet at Fort William at 8.30am, and at the Corran slip at 9am for the 9.15am ferry.

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Pedestrian killed in Glencoe crash

A MAN has died following a crash on the A82 near Altnafeadh in Glencoe.

The incident happened about noon on Tuesday (September 12) and involved a Fiat campervan and a male pedestrian, who died at the scene.

The occupants of the campervan were uninjured. The man's next of kin have been informed and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

The road was closed for several hours to allow for a collision investigation to take place.

Sergeant Gregor Hay said: 'Our thoughts at this time are with everyone affected by this tragic incident.'

'Our enquiries are ongoing and I would appeal to anyone who witnessed the collision to contact us as soon as possible. Please call the road policing unit in Fort William on 101, quoting reference R050438, with any information.'

Hospital answers available

NHS HIGHLAND has released answers to questions asked by the public about the proposed replacement for the Belford Hospital in Fort William.

The communications and engagement sub-group has summarised a series of questions and answers that have been asked by members of the public, elected members and staff about the new hospital.

Vice chairman of the communications and engagement group Sandy Stoddart said: 'This is a starting point and we will add more detail to the questions and answers as it becomes available.'

The document is available on the NHS Highland website and hard copies will be circulated locally.

Group invites MSP to talks on empty rural properties

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

THE NATIONAL body representing many Scottish land and estate owners has offered to meet with Highlands MSP Kate Forbes over moves to bring more derelict rural properties into use.

Scottish Land & Estates' comments came after Ms Forbes welcomed Scottish Government plans to help tackle rural housing shortages. And the organisation says it will be happy

to meet with the Skye Lochaber and Badenoch MSP to discuss the issue.

Ms Forbes said depopulation of Highland communities continues to be one of the barriers to economic growth, with her own constituency containing many empty buildings.

'A single sprawling estate might have half a dozen farmhouses, an assortment of byres and steadings, a scattering of cottages, a gatehouse or two or even an old mill all sitting empty,' she said.

'But while an abandoned croft house might be a haunting sight on a picture-postcard Highland hillside, for me it should provoke a less wistful, more pragmatic response. Let's turn these houses back into homes. It's time to bring them back into action to provide much-needed homes for young people in rural Scotland.'

Asked for its views, Katy Dickson, senior policy officer at Scottish Land and Estates, said many of the organisation's members were at the forefront of rural housing provision,

often providing more homes at affordable rates than local authorities. In recent years, we have seen schemes such as Rural Homes for Rent, which we developed alongside the Scottish Government, allow housing to be developed for local families, but successor schemes from the government have proved administratively cumbersome,' she said. 'We would welcome anything that streamlines the process of bringing buildings back into use for modern homes and we would be delighted to

meet Ms Forbes to discuss how this can be achieved.'

Ms Forbes repeated her call for action on rural housing when she opened the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) annual conference in Inverness on Friday.

She told delegates: 'Housing is the single, most frequently raised issue with me. And in the Highlands, it is unequivocally the cornerstone of growth and sustainability. It is the cornerstone of the local economy, families, schools and communities.'

'Since being elected I have made it my mission to impress upon government colleagues that the Highlands and Islands of Scotland is not a lifeless museum. It can and should be a vibrant and thriving region which leads the nation in home-grown enterprise, attracting investment and nurturing talent.'

Ms Forbes added the Scottish Government will consult on how best to adapt what she termed Scotland's 'imperfect and sometimes clunky' planning process to allow this to happen.

Scotland legend visits Claggan Park

A FORMER Scotland captain fulfilled a life-long ambition when he visited Claggan Park for the first time.

Fort William Football Club stewards were stunned when former Scotland footballer Asa Hartford paid his way through the gate. Mr Hartford mingled with supporters in the stands and chatted with players as the team hosted Fraserburgh on Saturday.

According to the 50-times capped, former captain of Scotland, it has been a long-held ambition for him and his friends to catch the Fort in action.

Unfortunately, it was not the performance Mr Hartford or the club were looking for, but the board was happy to welcome the Scotland legend to Claggan Park.



Football legend Asa Hartford at Claggan Park for Saturday's game against Fraserburgh with, left to right, Gerald MacIntyre, Marie MacMillan and Stewart MacLean. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Vandals wreck Town Team hanging baskets

MEMBERS of Fort William Town Team have voiced their frustration at vandals who damaged hanging flower baskets in High Street.

The baskets, paid for by the group with the help of sponsors, were placed on lamp-posts along the High Street to brighten up the area.

After a meeting this week, a Town Team representative said: 'After the High Street looking fantastic all summer we now have two empty spaces where hanging baskets once looked beautiful.'

'These baskets belong to local businesses who have spent their hard-earned money helping us improve Fort William for everyone.'

'The vandalism of the baskets only gave the person responsible a short amount of pleasure playing football with them in the road.'

'When they were left alone to grow and bloom they gave thousands of people enjoyment every day.'

'We are all extremely disappointed and hope the rest of the High Street display survives until the end of the season.'

Man avoids driving ban despite his 14 pints and eight whiskies

A CONSTRUCTION worker employed on the new retail park being built in Fort William got to keep his driving licence, despite being found sleeping off a marathon drinking spree at the wheel of his van.

Aidan Maguire, of Taigh Easlinne, Kentallen, had appeared for trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on Tuesday after pleading not guilty to a charge of driving on June 25 this year, in Monzie Square, Fort William, with a breath alcohol reading of 121mg in 100ml of breath. The legal limit is 22mg.

Building site supervisor Maguire had further denied driving a van which was unlicensed.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald heard how Maguire, 30, had consumed 14 pints and eight whiskies during a night out in the Volunteer Arms in Fort William on the night in question.

Giving evidence under questioning from his defence agent, Glasgow specialist road

traffic solicitor Dominic Sellar, Maguire told the court he had intended taking a taxi back to his rented accommodation at Kentallen after the drinking session with a friend ended about 11pm.

Maguire, who readily admitted he had been very drunk, said there had been no taxis available and he had not had his mobile phone on him that night.

'I then walked back to where I'd parked my van.'

'I was extremely tired as I'd worked four weeks straight and was pretty drunk, so just wanted to get my head down for a couple of hours,' Maguire explained.

'I then planned to go back to the taxi rank about 1am or 2am. But I went back to the van and passed out.'

Maguire confirmed he had been in the driver's seat and had put the keys in the ignition out of habit.

He told the court he had not turned the engine over or even turned the keys a single click and had fallen asleep with

the seat reclined. When police had found him a number of hours later, Maguire was breathalysed, arrested and taken to the police station.

But Maguire, who admitted there was nothing unusual in the amount of alcohol he had consumed for a night out, said under no circumstances would he have driven the van.

'I have never driven before when I have been like that as I have no need to,' he said. 'I have five men all with full driving licences, so I have no need to be doing it - not when I am under the influence.'

After Mr Sellar had finished his questions, Procurator Fiscal Martina Eastwood conceded that the defence had successfully made its case that Maguire had no intention of driving and as such she accepted his plea of not guilty.

On the second charge, that of driving an unlicensed van, Maguire was fined £60 for what the sheriff accepted was an oversight.

Meeting debates use of speed guns by residents

SPEAN Bridge and Roy Bridge residents should be issued with hand-held speed guns, similar to those used by traffic police, to help combat speeding drivers.

That was the idea floated at last week's meeting of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council.

'It might be a way of tackling the problems on the road from Spean Bridge to Roy Bridge which is like a racetrack,' said local resident Ian Langley, who had asked about the possibility of such a scheme.

'It won't be long until there is a fatal accident along there.'

'The only police presence I've seen dealing with speeders has been outside the Spean Bridge Hotel. I've never seen police officers along the stretch of the road past the campsite.'

In reply, Police Scotland's local inspector Isla Campbell said the issue of members of the public asking to use speed guns was not insurmountable.

'There is a couple of people I would need to speak to about it. I am aware some schemes exist,' she explained.

'However, folk should be aware there might be issues around things like insurance, record-keeping and the

identification of drivers. You'd also have to consider safety issues stemming from people standing by the side of the road, the fact people might have to be prepared to attend court cases as witnesses and the possibility of dealing with those drivers who took umbrage over it. It would have to be a request that comes from the community - if you are keen enough.'

On another traffic issue, community council chairman John Fotheringham flagged up an incident from a few weeks ago in which a man carrying his child had been hit by the wing mirror of a caravanette as he was walking along the pavement at Spean Bridge.

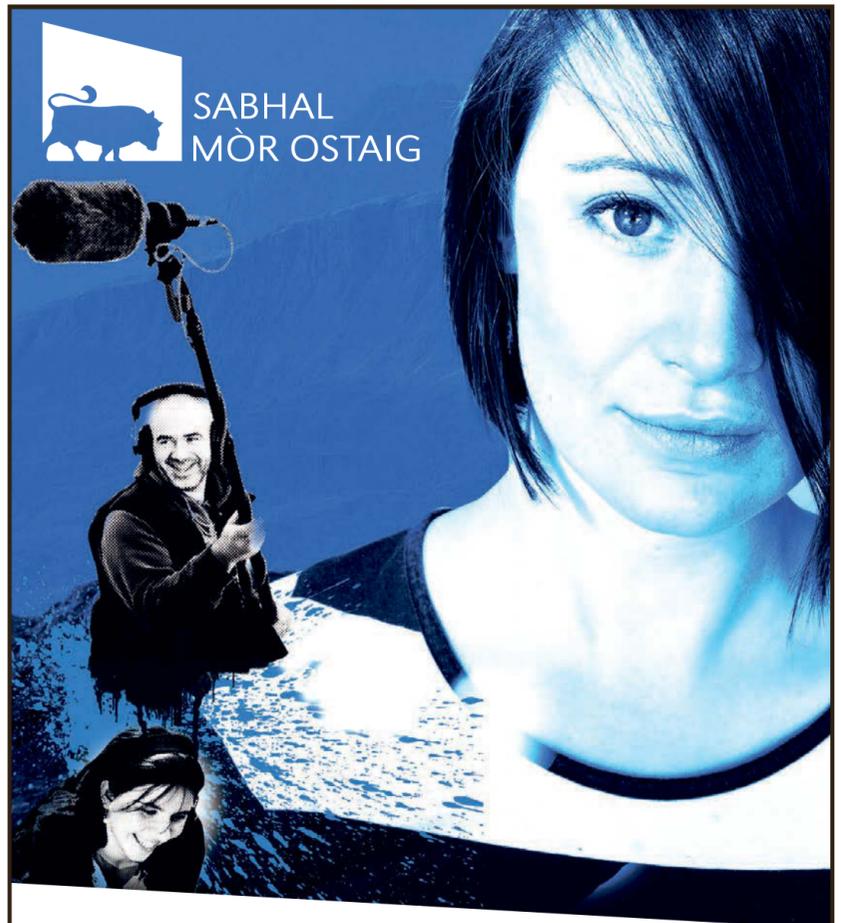
Inspector Campbell said that she gets 'umpteenth calls a day' about incidents involving camper vans and motorhomes clipping each other's wing mirrors.

Mr Fotheringham added: 'It has become extremely dangerous and in this instance the driver of the offending vehicle apparently didn't even stop to see if the man was alright.'

'I don't know if it was reported to the police but it could have resulted in a much worse accident.'



Inspector Isla Campbell. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.



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Wet weather prompts calls for SUSSS extention

THE FIFTH wettest summer on record has left Scotland's hill farmers struggling to complete routine tasks such as gathering and clipping sheep, weaning lambs and making hay or silage. Since the start of June, the Met Office reports that the west of Scotland has been the wettest region of the UK with more than half a metre of rain falling in the three months to August 30.

With hill farmers and crofters significantly behind in their workload, it makes submitting an accurate application to the Scottish Upland Sheep Support Scheme (SUSSS) ahead of the October 16 deadline extremely challenging for some.

The scheme, worth around £6 million, is designed to assist active hill farmers and crofters



through a payment coupled to the number of ewe hoggs they keep as breeding replacements for their flocks. Applications opened on September 1.

In a letter to Cabinet Secretary Fergus Ewing, NFU Scotland has requested that the Scottish Government seek European approval for a one-off extension to the application period for SUSSS to at least November 16 in recognition of the exceptionally poor weather.

Previous efforts by NFUS to have the Scottish Government

change some scheme rules to target support better have been unsuccessful.

Vice president Martin Kennedy, chairman of the union's less favoured areas committee said: 'When committee members met recently it was crystal clear just how far behind our farmers and crofters are in their normal workload.'

'NFU Scotland believes there is strong grounds for the Scottish Government to pursue with the European Commission an extension to the application

deadline due to the very challenging circumstances facing those who are reliant on SUSSS.

'Given this year's extremely poor weather, especially in the west, not only do some farmers and crofters not have any winter fodder made, but they have had little or no opportunity to gather some of these extensive hillsides to clip, wean lambs and draw their future breeding stock.'

'These are routine tasks normally completed long before now but persistent rain and mist have made safe gathering almost impossible in places.'

'This is a critical scheme for hill farmers and crofters - an extension to the application deadline this year would not only assist those late gatherers caught by the weather but also take into account any hills

which cannot be gathered before the stag stalking season ends (October 20) and where gathering is often restricted to Sundays only.

'I have written to the cabinet secretary urging him to contact the commission and seek approval for the 2017 deadline for application to SUSSS to be extended to at least November 16, and preferably to November 30, to allow those in this situation to submit their applications accurately and on time.'

'I firmly believe this small change will not make a difference to the inspection regime nor will it have any detrimental effect on calculation of eligibility or payment, but will make a massive difference to those who find the current deadline particularly challenging this year.'

Around the markets



Judge of the Best Pen of Blackface Lambs, Iain Stewart is pictured with NFUS President Andrew McCormick, Morag, Donnie and Donald MacCorquodale sen being presented with the Jimmy Weir Memorial Trophy at Dalmally Market. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

UNITED AUCTIONS held its annual show and sale of Blackface lambs also sale of cross bred lambs and feeding sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart. A catalogue entry of almost 11,000 lambs and sheep sold a good ringside of buyers. Prices realised reflected current trends when sale averages fell by £3.20 per head on the year. However, noted lots of lambs, annually sold at this popular event, recorded a drop of two-three kilos on the year while others maintained their weight and consequently sold at levels on a par with last year. Top and second draw Blackface lambs sold well whilst third and fourth draws were harder to cash. Judging of the Blackface lambs was in the capable hands of Mr Iain Stewart, Easter Cash Farm, Strathmiglo, who awarded the placings as follows:

Champion pen taking the James Weir Memorial Trophy - Mrs Buchanan, Achnaba which realised £60.50. Second - Clachan Farm, Kilninnerv, Easter Cash Farm, Strathmiglo, who awarded the placings as follows:

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Meeting to help farmers maximise livestock production from grass

LIVESTOCK farmers in Argyll and Bute are invited to attend the next Better Grazing meeting in Campbeltown later this month and learn how they can increase their output from grass.

Trevor Cook, a grazing consultant and qualified vet from New Zealand, will be the key speaker at the meeting, which is being organised by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) as part of the better grazing programme launched last month.

Trevor Cook is well-known by farmers around the world for his work in farm consultancy, extension and research.

The meeting, which is free to

attend and open to all, is being held at the Ardshiel Hotel, Campbeltown, on Monday September 18 and begins at 10am.

At the meeting, Mr Cook will share his extensive knowledge on livestock production and lead discussions on how Scottish livestock farmers can improve the utilisation of grass on their farms to maximise output and keep costs down.

He said: 'In order to get the highest level of production from our livestock, it is important to understand their nutritional needs and how this fits with grass growth and quality.'

'Knowing the nutritional demands of your stock and the

value of correct feeding during pregnancy, lactation and post weaning is therefore critical to help drive profitability.'

'There are many challenges that farmers face to ensure that their animals are kept in the right body condition score to ensure optimal performance.'

'Grass supply and demand can be a challenge at certain times of the year, as is ensuring the correct quality and quantity of forage offered.'

Emily Grant, Knowledge Transfer Specialist at QMS encouraged livestock farmers to attend the meeting.

She said: 'I'm delighted that Trevor is able to come to speak

at this meeting. He has a huge depth of knowledge and experience of profitable farming systems through maximising the use of pasture.'

The Campbeltown Better Grazing meeting at the Ardshiel Hotel on Monday September 18 begins at 10am and ends at 2pm, and lunch will be provided.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

For more information about this meeting and to reserve your place, please contact QMS on 0131 472 4040 or email info@qmscotland.co.uk by Thursday September 14.

Clarification

KILLIN Agricultural Show have asked that we print the following correction.

Swaledale Sheep result should have been as follows: Champion - an Aged Ram from Grant Jolly, Benmore Farm, Criarlarich; Reserve - a Ewe from Finlay MacAskill, Tullich, Glen Lochay.

The show organisers apologise for the error.

Bovine TB consultation

FOLLOWING the publication of proposals to introduce changes to existing disease control measures for bovine TB, rural economy secretary Fergus Ewing has said the Scottish Government is committed to maintaining its current low level of TB and safeguard the country's official TB-free status.

He added: 'It only seems fair that, where a keeper has broken rules, they should not then be able to recover the full market value for their animals that are slaughtered as a result of poor farming practises or non-compliance.'

'We are therefore looking for views as to whether further measures to encourage Scottish farmers to follow good farming practises and keep diseases out of their herds is required.'

'I would encourage anyone with an interest in this area to participate in this consultation by the deadline of November 30.'

Farmers get online to apply for CAP funding

MORE farmers are to be encouraged to apply online for CAP funding as part of a move to modernise the process and make it more efficient.

Farmers applying under the single application form (SAF) in 2018 will be offered more support to help them make the move online. This will include online guidance and one-to-one appointments in a area office.

The move online forms part of the programme for government, which aims to maintain direct support for farmers and crofters at current levels, put the CAP payment system on a secure footing and complete full digitalisation of the application process for payments by 2020.

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said: 'The drive to move online has been

underway for several years and last year more farmers and crofters than ever chose to make their application online. This new focus forms a major part of our priority actions in the coming year to modernise and improve the service we provide our farmers.'

'For SAF 2018 we will be encouraging online take-up by the remaining paper customers and will be offering support to

help them apply and manage their land information online.'

'Achieving this will reduce the time spent manually processing claims and checking and correcting errors, ultimately making the payment process more efficient and easier.'

'This in turn will provide farmers with more time to focus on the important business of farming.'

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Home buyers in Scotland up 25 per cent in the second quarter of 2017

In the second quarter in Scotland:

HOME buyers borrowed £2.5bn, up 35 per cent quarter-on-quarter and 18 per cent year-on-year. They took out 18,800 loans, up 30 per cent compared to the previous quarter and 15 per cent on the second quarter of 2016.

First-time buyers borrowed £1.1bn, up 29 per cent on the first quarter and 17 per cent on the second quarter last year. This totalled 9,500 loans, up 25 per cent quarter-on-quarter and 15 per cent year-on-year.

Home movers borrowed £1.5bn, up 39 per cent quarter-on-quarter and 20 per cent compared to a year ago. This totalled 9,300 loans, up 37 per cent quarter-on-quarter and 16 per cent compared to the same quarter in 2016.

Remortgage activity totalled £900m, down seven per cent on the first quarter but up seven per cent on the same quarter last year. This came to 7,300 loans, down 10 per cent quarter-on-quarter but up four per cent compared to a year ago.

Carol Anderson, chairwoman UK Finance Scotland Mortgage Committee, said: 'There were more home buyers in Scotland in the second quarter of 2017 than any other quarter since 2007. First-time buyers have been a key driver of this, with two years of year-on-year growth.'

'With an economic climate of low interest rates, government schemes and competitive mortgage deals, the Scottish market is in a good position and open to business going forward.'

Affordability in Scotland

First-time buyers typically borrowed £101,600 (£137,700 in the UK overall), up from £98,230 average the previous quarter. The average household income was £33,600 (£40,800 in the UK overall), down from £33,700 the previous quarter. The typical income multiple in Scotland was 3.09 (3.01 in the previous quarter), which compared favourably to the UK average of 3.58.

Home movers borrowed an average of £141,100 this quarter (£178,200 in the UK overall), up from £139,500 the previous quarter. The average household income of a home mover was £51,000 (£55,100 in the UK overall), up from £50,000. This meant the typical home mover income multiple in Scotland was 2.84, up from 2.83 the previous quarter and the UK average of 3.37.

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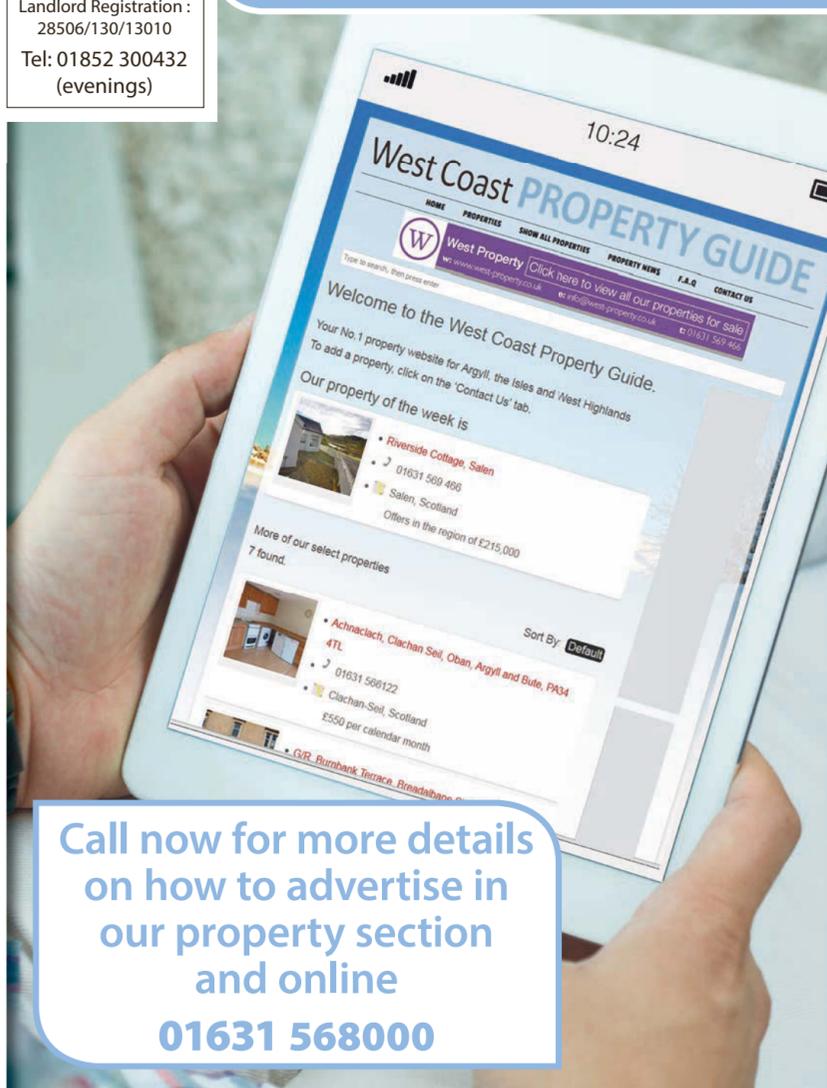
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HOUSE BUYERS AND MORTGAGE LOAN OWNERS SWITCH THINKING FOR A FIRMER FUTURE



ACCORDING to a study by LMS, house-buyers and mortgage owners are looking for longer term security, rather than the cheaper option of quick-fix variable rates. With the UK interest rates being so low at present, there is only one way they can go - and that's up - so securing a fixed deal of five years or more is the most common change amongst loan seekers according to this new study. A growing number of people are looking for a rate that they know is sustainable - at least for the foreseeable future. Surprisingly, a massive 98 per cent of respondents to the survey said they

expect to see rates either climb or stay the same across the next 12 months. As many as 37 per cent of homeowners are now fixing their terms for five years, according to the survey - the highest proportion recorded since the study began and marks a huge rise from the previously recorded 7 per cent. This shows that the mortgage market continues to adapt and evolve in order to meet conditions, and reflects the reality that those who are looking to re-mortgage, or who are just stepping on to the property ladder for the first time, are increasingly savvy about interest rates and what they mean for them and their house payments. 'Borrowers are taking shelter from future rate rises and preparing for potentially turbulent times to come. The way people borrow is changing, there is a significant decline in interest-only and variable rate deals, and fixing for longer appears to be the top priority. It's a flight to financial security,' said Andy Knee, LMS chief executive.

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Store your Boat



Laying your boat up for the winter

BOAT owners are starting to plan their winter lay up now as the 2017 season is coming to a close. Many will be hoping for an Indian summer given the main boating season has been very wet.

With yard space at a premium on the west coast, it pays to book in early for your craft. If not already booked, contact your preferred yard now and work to the haul out timings set by the yard. Usually the yard takes care of everything needed and has various rules re mast removal and storage. Some yards offer undercover facilities and these also need to be booked early since demand for this is high.

It is also time to think about any work needed on the boat especially if it is to be done by your chosen yard team.

To maintain your craft in a good, seaworthy condition, a good programme of winter lay-up maintenance is essential. Preparation at this stage will pay dividends for speedy fitting out next spring.

Some key areas need to be considered in laying up your boat, some depending on whether it is a sail or motor boat –

- **Keel, hull, topsides, deck, cockpit**
- **Freezing damage prevention**
- **Interior**
- **Sails**
- **Rigging**
- **Engine/Batteries/Electrics**
- **Safety Equipment**

Many owners will carry out most winter lay up tasks themselves so a quick basic check list should be made up and worked through. A general list of equipment should include - roll of duct tape, clean cotton rags, adjustable and plumbing wrenches, full tool set, oil and filters, petroleum jelly, boat wax, polishing machine and boat and equipment manuals.

Keel/hull/topsides/deck/cockpit

Pressure washing the hull on lift out removes fouling and prepares the surface for new anti-fouling in the spring. The yard normally does this on lift out. The cleaned hull can be inspected for any damage and repairs carried out as required depending on weather and temperature conditions.

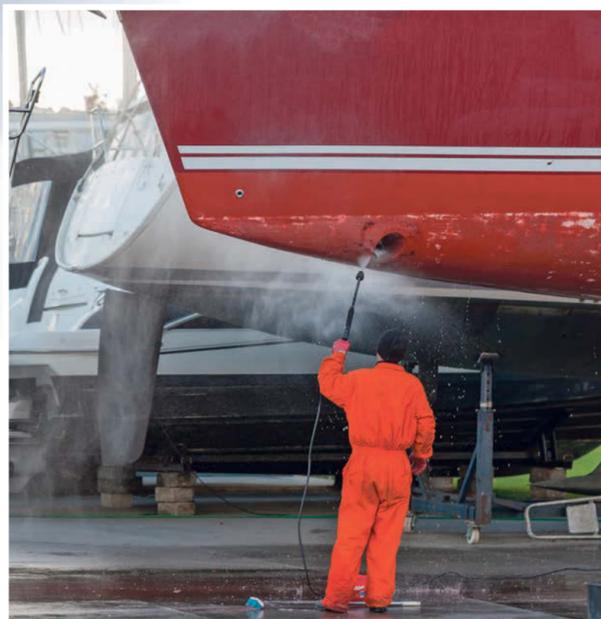
A first overview is of the general condition of keel/hull/topsides/decks and fittings after the season's wear and tear. Check keelbolts, any play in the rudder/cutlass bearings and the prop-shaft and for any cracks in the hull and keel. A good wash down of the whole boat and a protective wax on the topsides gives protection over the winter and makes fitting out easier in spring. Thoroughly clean cockpit and touch up any paint or woodwork here and on deck if the weather is good. Covering the boat is preferable when stored outside but make sure covers are well secured, allow for ventilation and watch for chafing at regular intervals. Some yards will shrink wrap. Equally, make sure your cradle, trailer or support legs are secure and the trim of the boat is slightly bow up to make sure water won't run forward and puddle in places it shouldn't. Remove speed transducer impellers before lift out so there will be no damage from hoist stops. Regular inspection over the winter is important in case cockpit drains get blocked by leaves/debris and water builds up.

Prevention of freezing damage – water systems

Work to prevent any freezing damage and the prevention of water damage is essential. Boat manuals should give an idea of pipe work runs. Starting with 'plumbing' systems – anything that holds or carries water ie pipes and tanks, pumps and strainers must be fully drained – pumped dry if necessary. Flush water systems through with a water sanitizer first. Flush heads through, drain and lubricate disconnecting hoses to allow them to 'breathe'. Drain down any water heaters or calorifiers. Flush seacocks through to remove salt build up and grease. Remove the barrels from traditional style seacocks to prevent them seizing.

Interior

A clean up of the boat's interior is really important for winter lay up. Some owners choose to remove as much equipment as possible and take home and store. Clear plastic stack boxes are good to allow inspection of contents which should all be cleaned before packing – these can easily be brought back to the boat in the spring. Berth cushions and soft furnishings in particular are susceptible to mould over the winter and will benefit from being cleaned and stored at home. Installing a de-humidifier and heater will also keep the interior warm and dry. Washing the interior thoroughly including lockers, bilges, cookers and toilets with a weak bleach mixture will prevent mould. Always ventilate the boat



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for the winter

Your comprehensive guide to preparing your boat for storage this winter

well and do any touch up work inside when weather permits. List any items required for the 2018 season. Check gas systems on board are up to standard with a gas engineer. Now is a good time to check fire extinguishers and replace as necessary in the spring.

Sails

These are the powerhouse of the sailing craft so keep them in good condition. Check over and seek advice on all aspects of sail maintenance and repair from your local sail loft. If you need new sails this is a good time to place an order. Many lofts offer a discount during September. Sail cleaning is sometimes offered and even storage. Storing at home must be in a dark, warm well-ventilated area away from rodents.

Standing and Running rigging

With rigging and deck equipment under huge loads, it's essential to keep an eye on wear and replace as required. Check sheaves, swages, split-pins and spreader mounts for corrosion. Wash everything with fresh water. Substitute halyards with messenger lines to aid longevity. Inspect for chafe and wash and dry halyards/sheets before storing in a dry place. With the

mast down, check masthead instrumentation and masthead blocks are running freely. Remove anchors and chain and store on a pallet below the boat washing first with fresh water to remove salt and dirt. Service anchor winches and check over chain links and shackles for wear. If the weather is good this is an ideal time to paint out the anchor locker for the spring.

Engines, Batteries, Electrics

Both inboard and outboard engines need to be prepared for winter with an oil change as standard. New oil prevents internal corrosion and protects the engine standing over the winter. Boat manuals will help in this regard or get the yard to do this important work.

Flush the outboard through with fresh water. Replace fresh cooling water with antifreeze/water mix. Remove the impeller and plug the air and exhaust outlet with an oil soaked rag. Fill fuel tank to prevent condensation and add a biocide. Change filters as required and bleed system for next season. Change engine and gearbox oil and make a note of the date of change. Minimise condensation by spraying the engine with WD40 and cover with a cloth. Put batteries on a trickle charge and if not needed onboard, take home and sit in a place

that won't freeze. Electrics/instrumentation on board should be looked over and any problems checked out by an electronics engineer and repaired or renewed.

Safety Equipment

A complete overhaul of lifejackets, harnesses and safety gear should be carried out replacing anything that looks suspect. Lifejackets can be stored partially inflated over the winter. Check bottles for corrosion and replace as required. Kits are available from chandlers. Flare packs should be kept in a dry area – check for out of date flares and replace for next season. The RNLI offers a safety check on boats and safety equipment. Clean and repair dinghy tenders, storing partially inflated. Life rafts should be removed and serviced by an authorised centre.

Expert advice on any issue with your boat is on hand from your local boat-yard operator, service engineer, chandler or sail-maker if there's anything you're unsure about. These are the experts so don't hesitate to ask if you need to.

Once the boat is laid up safely with all maintenance in hand, owners can relax and enjoy planning the boating season for 2018.






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- Mast stepping and unstepping operations
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- Assembly, commissioning and servicing of all rigging hardware
- Assisting with vessel movements and lifting operations

The role has opportunities for career progression for the right candidate. In addition to full on-site training in yacht rigging the successful candidate will be trained in the operation of yard plant including Telehandler, 40T Boat Hoist and 35T Mobile Crane.

Remuneration will be based on experience.
For further details or to obtain an application pack contact Mark Cameron on 01852 500 247 or Email mark@ardfernyacht.co.uk

PDK Shellfish Ltd Oban

Due to an increased work load we require additional

Class 1 drivers

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

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 Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

ALSOP TRANSPORT SERVICES

REQUIRE A

ARTIC HGV DRIVER

Tel: 01852 300393

dave@alsoptransportservices.co.uk
Braeview, Cuan Road, Seil, Oban, PA34 4RA



Modern Apprentice Business and Administration

Fixed Term Full Time £8,190
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.argyll.uhi.ac.uk/staff/vacancies/> and should be emailed to Lorna.McDonald@uhi.ac.uk

Job vacancies at Dunstaffnage Marina Accountant

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

**Enquires: If you're interested please email or post your CV FAO Ranulph McLaughlan to; info@dunstaffnagemarina.com
Dunstaffnage Marina Ltd, Dunbeg, Oban, PA37 1PX
01631 566 555**

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PSSEL are looking to recruit two full time staff at our workshops in Oban.

Electronics Solder/Assembly Technician. (pcbs and cable assemblies)

Qualification in electronics preferred, but experienced technicians should apply.

CNC Turner/Miller

CNC prototrak and manual machines. Previous experience for this post is essential.

Both vacancies: Salary dependent on experience.
For more details, email or post to :- info@precision-subsea.com

or
**Precision Subsea Electronics Limited
Unit 3, Tweedmill Estate, Soroba Rd
Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HQ. Scotland.**



Supply Chain Coordinator

Based at South Shian, Argyll

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

We are currently recruiting for a Supply Chain Coordinator to join our dedicated supply chain team in South Shian.

As part of the supply chain team, you will have a commercially focused role where you will learn skills such as managing orders and managing transport requirements. There is no need for any previous experience as full 'on-the-job' training will be given and the candidate will be assigned a mentor offering full support.

The successful candidate will have:

- A strong willingness to learn with the ability to multi-task.
- Work consistently with a high degree of accuracy.
- Excellent communication and customer service skills.
- The ability to work under pressure.
- A willingness to undertake further training and personal development.
- An understanding of the relationship between processing, marine and sales.
- A fondness for solving complicated problems.
- Good knowledge of the business.
- A good grasp of IT.

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.

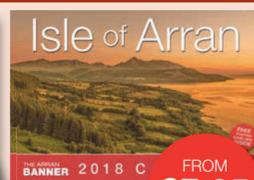
If you would like to be considered for this vacancy, please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator on 01786 445521 or email angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack. Closing Date for applications: Friday 22nd September 2017

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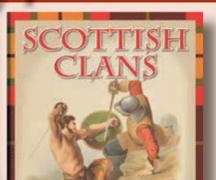
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Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
(KILCHOAN SPEED RESTRICTIONS)(30/40MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2017**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Highland Council proposes to make an Order in terms of Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 entitled as above, to improve the general safety of all road users.

When the Order comes into effect a 30 mph speed limit will apply on the roads listed in Schedule 1 hereto and 40mph on the roads listed in Schedule 2 hereto. The Order will revoke the "Highland Council (Kilchoan Speed Restrictions) (30/40mph Speed Limit) Order 2006"

Copies of the proposed Order as drafted, the Order being revoked, together with a copy of the relevant plan, and a copy of the Authority's Statement of Reasons for proposing to make the Order, can be inspected at Community Services (Roads Department), Carr's Corner Industrial Estate, Fort William and the Service Point, High Street, Fort William during normal opening hours.

Any person wishing to object to the proposed Order should write to the undersigned specifying the Order to which objection is being made, and the grounds of the objection. All letters of objection must be received by the undersigned not later than Monday 9th October 2017

11th September 2017. Richard Porteous, Roads Operations Manager, Carr's Corner Industrial Estate, FORT WILLIAM PH33 6TL

**SCHEDULE 1
30 MPH SPEED LIMIT**

B8007 (Kilchoan Main Road)

Commencing from a point 832 metres or thereby west of the cattle grid 210 metres east of 6 Glasbheinn Cottages, Kilchoan in a westerly direction for a distance of 805 metres or thereby.

B8007 Kilchoan - Achosnich (Glebe Hill), Kilchoan

Commencing from a point 605 metres west of the B8007 Pier Road junction, extending in a north westerly direction for a distance of 337 metres or thereby, (to the junction with the "Glebe Hill Road") then northwest for a distance of 713 metres or thereby.

B8007 Pier Road, Kilchoan

From the junction of the said B8007 at the Kilchoan Primary School southwards for the full length of the road, 1340 metres or thereby.

U1772 Post Office Road, Kilchoan

Commencing at its junction with the Salen to Kilchoan Road (B8007), extending in a northerly direction a distance of 50 metres or thereby.

U1791 Old Post Office Road, Kilchoan

Commencing at its junction with Salen-Glenborrodale-Kilchoan Road (B8007) extending in a northerly, north easterly and easterly direction for a distance of 164 metres or thereby.

U1349 Ormsaigbeg Road, Kilchoan

Commencing at the junction with the B8007 extending in a westerly and north westerly direction for the full length of the road, 2285 metres or thereby.

U1744 Shore Road, Kilchoan

Commencing at its junction with the Ormsaigbeg Road (U1349) extending in a south westerly direction to its termination in a turning place, a distance of 204 metres or thereby.

SCHEDULE 2

40 MPH SPEED LIMIT

B8007 (Kilchoan Main Road)

Commencing from the cattle grid 210 metres east of 6 Glasbheinn Cottages, Kilchoan in a westerly direction for a distance of 832 metres or thereby

Inveraray – Crossaig 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 Crossaig.

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.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/inveraray-crossaig

Inveraray Loch Fyne Hotel
26 September
14:00 - 19:00

Ardrihaig 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

[@assencommunity](https://www.facebook.com/assencommunity)
[@assencommunity](https://twitter.com/assencommunity)

www.highland.gov.uk

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

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
17/03989/FUL	Land 850M NE of The Tattie House, Isle of Rum	Installation of 4.5m telecoms tower to supplement existing tower (Planning ref 16/05316/FUL)
17/04028/MSC	House Plot 2, South of Coilleras, Wilson Way, Banavie, Fort William	Erection of one dwelling house
17/04140/FUL	Loch Leven Shellfish And Seafood Centre, Camus Na Heirdhe, North Ballachulish, Onich, Fort William	Erection of extension to cafe

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013
MacLeod Construction Ltd
Public Consultation Event

Proposed Planning Application For The Continued Development and Extension to Achnaba Quarry, Lochgilphead.

MacLeod Construction Ltd will be holding a public consultation event for members of the community to view and comment on the Company's proposals to submit a planning application to Argyll and Bute Council for the above quarry.

The event will be held on:
Tuesday 26 September 2017 between 14:00 & 19:00 in:
Room 6 of Lochgilphead Community Centre, Lochgilphead.

Further details on the proposed development can be obtained from Philip Lea on 0141 331 1456 or philip.lea@jbbscotland.co.uk
Comments on the proposals can be sent to Johnson Poole & Bloomer, 50 Speirs Wharf, Glasgow, G4 9TB or philip.lea@jbbscotland.co.uk by Wednesday 18 October 2017. Please note that all comments received are comments to the applicant and are not representations to Argyll and Bute Council.

When a planning application is submitted there will be an opportunity to make representations directly to Argyll and Bute Council.

Liberty British Aluminium
Proposed Alloy Wheel Plant and Associated Development
Pre-Application Consultation Event

Liberty Aluminium Lochaber Limited (part of the GFG Alliance) wishes to invite members of the public and stakeholders to a public consultation event in relation to the proposed development of an alloy wheel manufacturing facility, new secondary plant entrance and associated access arrangements, hard standing, landscaping and ancillary development, adjacent to Liberty British Aluminium's Lochaber Smelter, Fort William, PH33 6TH.

The public consultation event will take place on Thursday 28th September 2017, between 2.30pm and 7.30pm, at the Ben Nevis Hotel & Leisure Club, North Road, Fort William.

The event will provide information on the proposed development, and the project team will be in attendance to discuss the proposals and answer any questions.

Further information may be obtained from JLL, the Applicant's agent, by contacting Freya Pottinger on freya.pottinger@eu.jll.com or 0131 225 8344. Persons wishing to make comments on the proposals may do so at the event and/or in writing to Freya Pottinger at JLL, 7 Exchange Crescent, Conference Square, Edinburgh, EH3 8LL, by Friday 13th October 2017.

This notice does not relate to a planning application and comments should not be made to The Highland Council. Any comments made to the prospective Applicant are not representations to the Planning Authority. If a planning application is subsequently submitted by Liberty Aluminium Lochaber Limited, to The Highland Council, normal neighbour notification and publicity will be undertaken and you will have the opportunity to make formal representations regarding the proposal at that time.

Argyll and Bute Council

Councillor Sir Jamie McGrigor (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor Sir Jamie McGrigor will be holding a surgery on Friday 29th September 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.
He can be contacted by email - Jamie.McGrigor@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567853

Councillor Kieron Green (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)
Councillor Kieron Green will be holding a surgery on Friday 15th September 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.
He can be contacted by email - Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 562444

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.

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (B849 LOCHALINE - DRIMNIN) (30MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2017

Notice is hereby given that, on the 11 September 2017 The Highland Council made, in terms of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, The Highland Council (B849 Lochaline - Drimnin) (30mph Speed Limit) Order 2017 which will come into operation on 23 October 2017.

The Order was previously advertised by Notice in the Lochaber Times dated 10 August 2017 and the effect of the Order is as described in that Notice.

A copy of the Order as made, together with a copy of the relevant map can be inspected free of charge at Community Services (Roads Department), Carr's Corner Industrial Estate, Fort William and the Service Point, High Street, Fort William during normal opening hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of its provisions on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, or that any requirement of that Act or of any relevant regulations made thereunder has not been complied with may, within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made, make application for the purpose to the Court of Session.

21 September 2017 Richard Porteous, Roads Operations Manager, Carr's Corner Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 6TL

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
17/02281/PP	Installation of replacement windows and doors and replacement of timber facings on existing porch with PVCU	Dunjeain 37 Ellenabeich Isle	Sub Post Office Connel
17/02280/PP	Installation of photovoltaic roof panels to existing workshop	Workshop Black Crofts North	Sub Post Office Connel
17/01947/PP	Change of use of backpackers hostel to dwellinghouse	6 Strathaven Terrace Bredalbane Street Oban	Oban Area Office
17/02326/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Land East Of Pier Cottages Kilmelford Oban	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
17/02314/LIB	Improvements to accommodation & services; comprising externally accessible entrance & surfacing, entrance canopy, roof mounted ventilation terminals and timber louvres; & internally including replacement mezzanine, replacement of heating and sanitary provision, removal of partitions and linings and installation of new partitioning, staircases to improve accessibility (revised proposal to Listed Building Consent 16/01149/LIB)	Iona Abbey Isle Of Iona	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
17/02321/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 14/01442/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse)	Land North East Of High Tor Scalasaig Isle Of Colonsay	Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay
17/01915/PP	Erection of telecommunications equipment compound with 15 metre high lattice tower, formation of access track and associated works	Land Approx 1060 Metres West Of Currahee Aros Isle Of Mull	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
17/02304/PP	Change of use from shop (class 1) to a shop/cafe and a commercial laundry (class 2).	Showroom Pier Road Scarinish Isle Of Tiree	Tiree Area Office

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Ian Blackford MP
ROSS, SKYE & LOCHABER

is holding a surgery on
Friday, June 30th
2.30pm - 3.00pm

Constituency Office,
Mamore House,
Fort William, PH33 6BA,
Tel 01397 700030
no appointments necessary

CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
DECISION ON APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

Application by Kilfinan Community Forest Trust, of Tighnabruaich, Argyll, PA21 2BD has been Approved. 79832

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

S MacNaughton
51, 53 & 55 Banavie, Kilmallie
77297
0.242 ha
Reason - Existing croft house site & garden ground
Condition - With fencing conditions.

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

Proposed Let of a Croft

Miss Anne MacLarty is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at Ariogan Croft No1, Kilmore & Kilbride to Robert McKellar of Fir Park, Auch Estate, Bridge of Orchy, Argyll, PA36 4AF.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail: info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of this advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

ACHA
argyll community housing association

Annual General Meeting
To be held on
Thursday 21st September 2017
commencing at 2.00pm
in the Inveraray Inn, Inveraray
All members are invited to attend

Public Update Event
Sustainable Marine Energy
Wed 20th Sept
8:30pm at Connel Village Hall
SME will present an update for the local community on proposed tidal energy testing at Connel Sound
All welcome

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of the business community
read the regional press

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 or email calendars@scottishfield.co.uk

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ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

PRINTS old prints of Oban area and Inveraray. Framed and glazed. Starting at £5 Telephone 01631 564578.

BABY EQUIPMENT

CHILD'S CAR SEAT Britax "Renaissance" Child Car Seat. Universal fitting. Fits a child weighing 9kg to 18kg. Excellent condition. Furnace area, £20 Telephone 01499 500216.

CHILDS COT and mattress in pine with drop-side. Seldom used at Granny's house and in immaculate condition, £40 Telephone 01631 562750.

COT AND MATTRESS Granny's cot, seldom used. Two casters. Drop side, £50 Telephone 01546 886680.

FISHER-PRICE precious planet 2 in 1 wind up mobile, suitable for cot or buggy, £25 Telephone 01631 562750.

BICYCLES

MOUNTAIN BIKE new, used once, £65 Telephone 07775 836445.

BUILDING / DIY

BALLACHULISH SLATES 3 crates, open to offers, Telephone 07709 656242 (Drinnin, Morven).

RAIN HOPPERS Cast iron rain hoppers for replacement use. Victorian era. Priced at £25, Telephone 01631 564578.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

KIPLING HANDBAGS various colours, new condition, £12 each Telephone 01546 606134.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

COMPUTER in good condition, £60 Telephone 07775 836445.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

VAX VACUUM CLEANER Vax vacuum cleaner, excellent condition, red. calls evening, £40 Telephone 01852 300154.

FURNITURE

2 SINGLE BED FRAMES PINE Excellent condition. Disassembled for ease of transport, £40 for the pair Telephone 01546 600160.

BLACK RECLINING CHAIR good condition, £120 on Telephone 01631 566001.

DOUBLE BED Black metal complete with mattress, only used as guest bed, as new condition, cannot deliver. Free bedding, £80 Telephone 01546 606134.

KIDS MID SLEEPER BEDS Mid height bunk / den beds. White and red or white and blue. From John Lewis. Excellent condition. Must pick up, £75 each Telephone 01631 564886.

THREE PIECE SUITE brown stripe fabric, very good condition, £300 Telephone 01586 552424.

GARDEN

GARDEN GATE size 2 mt high, width 840, wrought iron, green, with hinges and latch, £70 Telephone 01546 510341.

RAIN HOPPERS Victorian cast iron rain hoppers for replacements on older houses or these make nice garden planters, £25 each Tele-

phone 01631 564578.
 SUN LOUNGERS Malibu black, set of two, 1 in excellent condition, 1 still in original wrapping, cost £50, sell for, £40 Telephone 01631 562750.

VINTAGE CART WHEELS and smaller implement wheels. Colourful garden display items. Prices from £30, Telephone 01631 564578.

VINTAGE CHIMNEY POTS Vintage chimney pots in various sizes and styles, make lovely garden planters, prices from £40, Telephone 01631 564578.

VINTAGE LAWN ROLLERS cast iron and decorative, for working use or colourful garden feature, various sizes from £90 Telephone 01631 564578.

GARDEN MACHINERY

JONSERED STRIMMER good working order, £75 Telephone 07770 623486.

MANTIS GARDEN ROTIVATOR with Honda engine, never used, £200 Telephone 01583 421282.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

TREADMILL non motorised, folds flat, £25 Telephone 01546 606134.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

MAT MASTER SYSTEM Bevel mount cutter guide rule 120cm, brand new, excellent condition. Calls evening, £99.99 Telephone 01852 300154.

PEARLISED PAPER & CARD, white, blue and pink colours in stock, available in A3/A4/A5

sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print Telephone 01586 554975.

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PERSONALS

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

To everyone who contributed to our farewell afternoon tea, very generous gifts, cards and messages wishing us well. We are sorry to be leaving Taynuilt, but happy to have 24 years of memories. Thank you again.

Neill and Islay MacNab.

Lorna and John MacLennan would like to thank everyone over the last 6 months for their encouraging words. Support and good wishes in our new venture it is very much appreciated.

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DEATHS

MAY - Peacefully at Lynn of Lorne Care Home, in her 91st year Agnes May (Nancy). Beloved wife of the late Alfie May, much loved mother of Pamela and Allison, mother-in-law to Maurice, Granny to Nicola, Mark and Kyle.

WHITE - At home on September 10, 2017, aged 70, John (Jay) White, much loved partner to Edna and loving father to Robbie and Christopher. He will be very sadly missed.

WILLOUGHBY - (Creba). Passed away peacefully at home with her family around her on September 4, 2017, Gloria aged 71 years, beloved mother of Karen, Donna, Derek and Lee, sister of Stanley and twin sister of Verona. Interment of ashes on September 26, 2017, Pennyfuir Cemetery at 1.30pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GOURLAY - Cammy, Sean, Scott, Stewart, Kay, Angus and family would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and visits following the sudden passing of Allison (née Cuthbertson). Thank you to all who attended the church and graveside in Appin. Thanks to Rev Iain Barclay for conducting the service and Duncan Gunn for funeral arrangements. Many thanks for the overwhelming support from the communities of Appin and Taynuilt and Creagan Inn and the ladies of the community for the catering. Retiral collection raised £1600 for Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland.

MEMORIALS

CRAVEN - In loving memory of our dear mum and nana, who passed away on September 13, 1971. Memories are like threads of gold.

They never tarnish or grow old. In our hearts you will always stay. Loved and remembered every day.

- Marleen, Allan and family.
DAW - Hugh. Beloved partner of the late Katherine MacGillivray. Remembering Hughie on the 5th anniversary. Fondly remembered and thought of. Look after mum and gran for me. - Paul.

MACCORQUODALE - Cathie, who died September 15, 2011.

God called your name so gently. That only you could hear. No-one heard the footsteps. Of the angel drawing near. Softly from the shadows. There came a gentle call. You closed your eyes and went to sleep. You quietly left us all.

- From your loving husband Hugh.

MACCORQUODALE - Cathie.

Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard but always near. Still missed, still loved and very dear.

- From Mary MacDougall your daughter, Neil your grandson and Megan your granddaughter.

MACCUISH - In loving memory of our darling son Bobby, who died September 17, 2006.

You are loved and missed so much now as then when you left us. Always in our hearts forever. - Mum and Dad

MACCUISH - Bobby, my brother, my friend. You're dearly missed, we think of you every day. You'll never walk alone.

- Peter, Julie and family

MACCUISH - Bobby, our world is a lonelier place without you, not a day goes by that you are not in our thoughts.

- David, Tia, Claire and Daniel

MACDONALD - Catherine, died September 12, 2006.

Mum, no words, no verse could ever say. How much I miss you every day.

A loving thought, a silent tear. Forever wishing you were here.

- Inserted by John. xx

MACDONALD - Remembering with love our beloved father and pappu, Douglas MacDonald, who passed away on September 18, 1991, also remembering loved ones gone before and after.

We keep in our hearts the love of the past.

For there it was planted forever to last. Too deep in our hearts for death to divide.

Each day of our lives you walk by our side.

- Inserted by his ever loving daughters Maryflora, Sandra, May Margaret and families.

MACINNES - To mum (Ping) Becky, missing you so much, it doesn't seem like a year. The brightest star is shining in Heaven.

- Thomas, Libby and the Turner family.

MACINTYRE - On the centenary of the birth of Betty, we her sons Angus, Lorn and Eric, recall with tender pride the example of her life of giving. Betty was born in Oban on September 16, 1917, some six weeks after her father Sam died of wounds at the Third Battle of Ypres. Our beloved grandmother Daisy brought up Betty alone and in her long life stood out for tolerance and generosity. We are also ever conscious of the memory of our late father Angus and our late brother Kenny. Betty's family is, a century on, greatly extended and her memory is passed down the generations as a lesson in how to live.

MACQUARRIE - Treasured memories of our beloved parents, Annie Helen, died September 12, 2006 and Calum, died November 10, 1996.

Loved and remembered every day. - May, Iain, Agnes and families.

McLUCKIE - Remembering with love Paul who passed away September 13, 2016, a dear son and brother, also George, who passed away September 13, 2008, a dear husband and dad.

Always loved, forever missed, never forgotten.

- Jean, Roy, Gillian and Louis.

McLUCKIE - In memory of our pal Paul who passed away September 13, 2016.

- From the Tano family.

ROSS - Late of Biggar.

In loving memory of John who passed September 15, 2016, son and brother.

Time goes by but memories stay.

Loved and remembered every day.

- Inserted by mum - Sally and family.

WYLIE - Alan, September 18, 1997, Young - Sandra, July 28, 2016.

Much loved.

Appin brothers share young citizenship award

TWO APPIN brothers who spent the previous year fundraising for their respective charities have shared the village's young citizenship award.

Alan and Lorne Carmichael have been jointly named Appin's Outstanding Young Person, an award presented annually by the Appin Community Trust.

Alan, 21, has recently returned from Tanzania, where he joined up with Raleigh International to help the charity build a hand-washing station at a school in rural Dodoma.

Describing his five-week adventure as an 'unbelievable experience', Alan fondly recalls playing football with local schoolchildren and being chased by an elephant when on safari.

But a particularly poignant moment was visiting his great-grandfather William Hogarth's grave in Morogoro, just a five-minute drive from where he met up with his

Raleigh International colleagues: 'It was such an eye opener, another way of life,' said Alan, who is the youth representative for Argyll on the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. 'I bought the children a football because they were kicking around a ball made of bin liners wrapped in elastic bands. They were happy with what they had, which wasn't very much.'

'The volunteers were from different parts of the world but we all bonded really quickly and I've made friends for life.'

Alan's brother Lorne was named joint winner of the young citizenship award.

Nineteen-year-old Lorne has donated £1,771 to Children in Crisis as part of his fundraising for this year's London Marathon, despite being unable to take part after suffering a knee injury just a month before the event.



Alan and Lorne Carmichael were named joint winners of Appin's Young Citizenship Award.

New leader appointed to the Iona Community

Dr Michael Marten explains how he felt about his new appointment as the leader of Iona Community, and following in the footsteps of previous great leaders, all of who are ministers

'BECOMING the ninth leader of the community is both a huge privilege, and rather daunting,' he began. 'In electing the first lay leader of the community, members have chosen to recognise the place that all can play in the wider life of God's people - we are articulating the priesthood of all believers in a new way.'

'Today, we welcomed new members into the community in a special service in the abbey, known as the Hallowing Service; towards the end of the service, the previous leader, Reverend Peter Macdonald, also hallowed me as the new leader.'

'Having been at many Hallowing Services over the years since I joined the community almost quarter of a century ago, I can't say I ever expected to be hallowed again, this time as leader.'

'These are exciting times for the community. This morning, I preached in the abbey, closing with the following thoughts:

'As the new leader of the Iona Community I have been asked on a number of occasions what I think the community has to offer in the contemporary context, when churches appear to be dying, and Christian life is seen by some as increasingly irrelevant in the contemporary world.'

'My response is that it is our valuing of community itself that marks us out as different. It is in the creation, sustaining and nurturing of right relationships that we live out something quite different, that is lost in the winner-takes-all cut-throat capitalist world

around us, a world that worships at the altar of nuclear annihilation, accepts with equanimity the deaths of thousands of Africans in the Mediterranean each year, ignores the increasing attacks on the poor and disabled in our own society, doesn't notice the marginalisation of non-binary people in all areas of life.'

'We reject these things. We reject them because they run counter, in every imaginable way, to the idea that right relationships should be at the heart of how we relate to one another. 'This is why we are in the

middle of a major fundraising effort to refurbish the abbey: the building is in need of repair so that we can continue to bring people from all walks of life to come and share in the exploration of how to build community, of "finding new ways to touch the lives of all" as one of our founder's prayers puts it. 'This is at the heart of all our work, whether on Iona, Mull, or the mainland, whether with young people, in our publishing and programme activities, or the outreach of the Wild Goose Resource Group renewing worship in churches.'

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Thought for the week

'While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.' (Romans 5:8)

Just a few days ago, I was listening to an Italian conversation.

I could not understand what was being said, but the word 'scot-free' popped up right in the middle of a sentence and it struck me as quite odd!

It sparked my interest, so I looked up the origin of the word. It has nothing to do with Italy - or Scotland for that matter. It is actually an old English word and

its origin lies in medieval England where the 'scot' was a land or property tax levied on local people.

For those living in more challenging places, way up the hillsides or perhaps prone to flooding, the tax did not have to be paid. Hence, those people got off 'scot-free'.

Word meaning and usage evolves over time and nowadays we use the word in situations where someone manages to avoid punishment even though they deserve it.

Perhaps this is one way of explaining what Jesus did for all humanity when he gave his life for us on the cross. His sacrifice released us from our debt of wrongdoing. Jesus took our place and we get off scot-free or debt-free.

We are undeserving and yet the debt is paid on our behalf. What an amazing God we have.

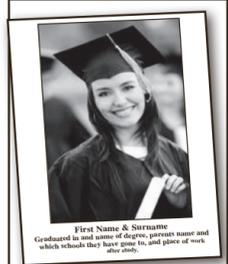
Rev Christine Fulcher, Parish Assistant, Kilmore and Oban Parish Church.

The Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

GRADUATIONS



JENNIFER JILL HUNTER
Graduated from The University of Edinburgh with a Bachelor of Laws Degree (Honours) and a Diploma in Legal Practice (Distinction). Jenni is the daughter of David and Amanda Hunter and granddaughter of John and Catherine Hunter, and Gordon and the late Dileas (Jill) Shearer, Oban. Jenni has now commenced her traineeship with McEwan Fraser Legal, Edinburgh.



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OT

Mid Argyll Cricket Club pulls up the stumps

THE SOUND of leather on willow could be heard recently in the rain at the foot of Dunadd Hill for possibly the very last time. It marked the end of a 25-year innings for Mid Argyll Cricket Club.

It may be a surprise to know that cricket was not only a feature in Mid Argyll for 25 years, but that cricket in Argyll has a long and ancient tradition.

Records from the 19th century show that cricket teams existed in Kilmartin, Lochgilhead, Inveraray and other Argyll towns. However World War One had a devastating impact on the fortunes of the game.

Land reclamation, World War Two and the surge in popularity of football further impacted on the game, leaving local teams struggling.

In the 1980s a Lochgilhead cricket team was started by Neil MacLeod, a former Scottish national cricket player. Robin Finlay, one of the early players in the team, recalls some of the fixtures.

He said: 'Most of the games we played were against groups like the rugby club, various village teams and RAF Machrihanish. They actually had an artificial cricket strip which was far superior to the various fields that we played in.'

This team survived only a few seasons and disbanded when Neil moved to Dingwall.

In 1991/92 under the charge of Peter Crompton, a music instructor at Lochgilhead High School, the Mid Argyll Cricket Club was founded. Within a short time there was huge interest and the club had up to 30 willing participants ranging from 11 to 60 years of age ready to play. The emergence of the club coincided with a rise in popularity of cricket throughout Argyll. Other teams formed included Cairndow, Campbeltown, Dunoon (Innellan), Oban and later Carradale and Sannox in Arran.

An Argyll league was formed, comprising Mid Argyll and four or five of the strongest other Argyll teams.

Mid Argyll had no permanent home ground in the beginning, instead playing their early matches on any available field. In 1992 one of the founder members Tim Lister made land from his farm available and so the Dunadd 'Oval' was created.

It was at the Oval that, for the next 20 years, Mid Argyll Cricket Club played all their home matches. Many tourists stared in amazement as they climbed Dunadd Hill and saw modern day Scots playing something that looked vaguely

Cricket

like cricket. In addition to playing against other Argyll teams, Mid Argyll travelled regularly to play against teams from Comrie in Perthshire and Gargunnoch in Stirlingshire.

The team also hosted matches against visiting teams from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Yorkshire and even Australia.

Playing cricket in Argyll was not without its problems. Notably the weather had a huge influence, with many games over the years cancelled, postponed or abandoned mid-play. The foot and mouth outbreak in 2001 resulted in no home games being played that year.

Youngsters introduced into the world of cricket soon grew into teenagers and tended to head away from Mid Argyll, consequently the age profile of the members was constantly rising.

Cricket demands a huge amount of time and commitment, an average game lasts around four to five hours and an away match could mean a player was away from home and family for anything between six to eight hours, and fewer players were willing to make this sacrifice.

It became apparent four or



Mid Argyll CC's final game last month. This included three founding members: Robin Finlay, centre; Gordon Lyburn, far left and Tim Lister, second right. From left, Stewart Turner, Angus Shackleton, Phil Hemmings, Peter Shackleton and Matt Lewis.

five years ago that the writing was on the wall for the club.

Members were retiring from play and were no longer available to make up the team, and so with great reluctance the club had to withdraw from the Argyll League and cut back on the amount of fixtures.

A 'formal' end of the club was considered appropriate with a final match being played at the 'Dunadd Oval'. Two teams were brought together to bid farewell to two and a half decades of cricket from Mid Argyll Cricket Club. The first team, under the captaincy of Tim Lister, comprised the 'old guard' - some, like Matt Lewis, who had travelled from Bridge of Allan and Gordon Lyburn who had come from Dumfries to celebrate the day. Others such as Stewart Turner, Phil Hemmings, the father and son duo of Peter and Angus Shackleton joined in.

Robin Finlay from Mid Argyll braved the weather and faced the team of Stanley Lister, Tim's son who had

invited friends from Argyll and university to make up the opposition.

The result of the match was second only to the enjoyment of the day, and the 'old guard' were able to show the young ones a thing or two with a comfortable win.

Just before the game a minute's silence was held in memory of David Dunlop who died earlier this year. David had been an enthusiastic and loyal supporter of the club. Born with severe disabilities, his passion for sport never waned and his courage, stoicism and infectious sense of humour affected all who knew him.

The final act of the club was to redistribute the funds held by the club and in memory of David. Following suggestions by his parents, the club made donations to the Tartan Army Children's Charity and to Macmillan Cancer Care.

The stumps were then finally pulled on 25 years of cricket played by Mid Argyll Cricket Club at the Dunadd 'Oval'.



Mid Argyll CC's first game at Dunadd 'Oval' in July 1992.



Mid Argyll Cricket Club logo with the standings stones of Kilmartin valley depicting the wickets and the sun representing the cricket ball.

Kyokushinkai Karate

YOUNG Darryl McLaughlin travels south on September 22 for his first foray onto the big stage. Darryl is taking part in the Cadet section (16 and 17-year-olds) of the British Open and Cup of Europe event which is in Crawley, England. Club coach Iain Rodger will be mat side with Darryl at the tournament. The last couple of weeks leading up to this he will be focusing on stamina and movement to avoid the risk of injury this close to the competition.

The Kyokushinkai club in Oban has a small core of dedicated students who work hard week upon week. A word often heard in the Kyokushin dojo is 'osu' which is a contraction of the Japanese words 'oshi shinobu' which means to 'push and endure'; this is one of the most important philosophies in Kyokushin Karate and carries over into everyday life. Kyokushin training makes a person physically and mentally stronger inside and outside of the dojo.

Shihan Iain had this to say: 'I was extremely touched a couple of years ago when one of my students thanked me for giving them the mental strength to deal with a close family bereavement.' Iain went on to say: 'I am fully aware that Kyokushin is not for everyone, but for those that never try, how will you know?'

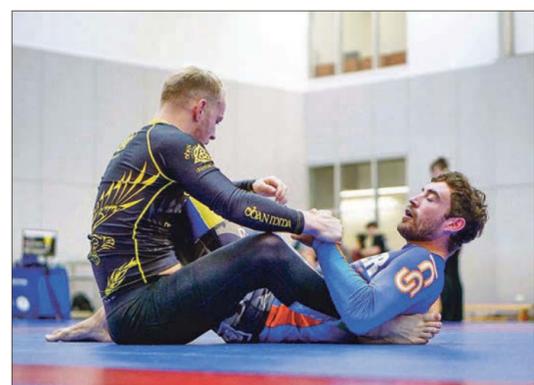
The club is actively looking for new members until the end of September after which the next intake will be January 2018.

Anyone interested in learning this traditional style of karate should contact Iain Rodger on: 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk



The medal winners from Oban BJJ who took part in the Scottish Cup in the Kelvin Hall on September 4. From left, Callum Weir, Jamie Bates and Ewan Weir.

MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAIN RODGER



Callum Weir dominating an opponent during the Scottish Cup.

Kickboxing

EXCITING times are ahead with some new sessions starting in the very near future: Mondays at 6pm will see the start of Kick Fit - a cardio session based around circuits and kick boxing pad work - so participants will get all the fun, fitness and stress relief of kick boxing without fighting.

Fridays will see a straight-from-school junior session, starting at 4.30pm for 90 minutes and seniors from 6pm for 90 to 120 minutes.

This is all in addition to the regular Wednesday session juniors at 6.30pm and seniors at 7.30pm. Also there is a junior session on a Sunday at 11am for 120 minutes with the last Sunday of each month being a three-hour fun day, where the juniors play games that develop core strength, team work, balance, co-ordination and self-belief.

Beginners are always welcome, juniors ages five to 13 and seniors 14 to 114.

For more information contact Wullie Rodger on: 07588 513618 or shihanwill@gmail.com

BJJ

OBAN Brazilian Jiu Jitsu had three junior students compete at the Scottish Cup in the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow on September 4. Ewan Weir showed great technical skills winning his first two matches. He showed great composure in his third match and was ahead on points when his opponent caught him in a baseball choke to win the match. Callum Weir won silver in the 86.5kg category after missing out on gold after being disqualified for an illegal knee reap (sweep).

It was a fantastic performance for rookie Jamie Bates, who, in his first competition, won a gold and silver in the ultra-heavy weight category.

This was another amazing performance from the students of Oban Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and demonstrates again that the club is performing at the highest Scottish standards.

The club's continued growth and development has brought new challenges, obstacles and opportunities. The greatest opportunity being the chance for the club to run its very own, dedicated training hall, seven days a week.

After consultations with other Scottish gyms, they will very soon be offering a fully-matted training facility focused on BJJ and MMA. It is an exciting new chapter for the club and its students. More information will follow soon.

For club information contact Coogie on coogiepots@gmail.com.

Shukokai Karate

Training continues as normal with the clubs working towards the Lochgilhead tournament in early November. Beginners are always welcome and anyone thinking of taking up this martial art should contact Kenny Gray on: kenni.gray@btinternet.com.



Jamie Bates, left, with his silver medal.

2017 Marine Harvest National Shinty Awards Shinty awards

THE CAMANACHD Association, in partnership with Marine Harvest, is pleased to announce that nominations for the 2017 Marine Harvest National Shinty Awards are now open.

The online nomination process allows the public to have their say by nominating candidates for the various categories.

To vote please visit <https://www.shinty.com/awards/2017>

All nominations will then be put to the Camanachd Association Awards Committee which will choose the winners.

An overall Player and Coach of the Year will be selected from the winners of the respective league categories.

Nominations close on Monday October 2 at 5pm.

The winners will be announced at the Marine Harvest Awards Ceremony, which will take place in Inverness on Friday October 20, the evening before the Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling International.



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Heartbreak for Saints as they lose out to late goal against league champions

Oban Saints 2
St Joseph's FP 3
SAFL Premier Division

REIGNING Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division Champions St Joseph's extended their Glencruitten winning streak to four games in a five-goal thriller last Saturday.

Just as they had in their 4-2 win at William Street at the tail end of last season, Saints recovered from a two-goal deficit to haul themselves back into contention, however, this time it was the Duntocher men who had the added desire to force the winner.

With manager Alex Craik at a wedding, coaches Jamie Graham, Peter MacCallum and secretary David Buchanan were in charge of team affairs.

The instructions from the gaffer were to stick closely to the previous week's winning line-up adding only the returning Scott Maitland and David McPhee. However, a late call-off from Shaun MacIver meant an earlier than planned outing for recovering injury victim Paul Carmichael.

Saints kicked off attacking the railway end but it was the

visitors who looked hungrier giving the home side no time on the ball. Martin McComish's late challenge on Ally McKerracher gave Willie Gemmell an early chance to put the ball in the danger area but Willie's delivery was too long for Craig Campbell at the far post. McComish tested the patience of referee Peter Laing again in the second minute with another heavy challenge on McKerracher with Mr Laing happy just to have a quiet word with McComish.

Saints had the first effort on target in the ninth minute from the head of David McPhee. McPhee's central defensive partner Craig Campbell won an important interception midway inside the Saints half and launched the ball forward for Paul Carmichael who won a corner kick on the right. David McPhee beat Ryan Halpin to Willie Gemmell's delivery but his effort was straight at Sean Gibbons who made a comfortable save.

A fantastic block by Fraser Murray prevented Ally McKerracher from testing the keeper in the 15th minute after a good move on the right involving Matthew Kelly and Paul

Carmichael. The same three linked up again three minutes later with McKerracher this time claiming that his shot was blocked by the hand of Kearn Docherty but Mr Laing dismissed the Saints appeals for a penalty kick.

Daniel McKenna clipped a decent effort over the crossbar before St Joseph's new signing from local rivals Goldenhill opened the scoring for the visitors. From a harmless looking ball from Craig Cameron deep inside his own half the Saints rearguard was opened up far too easily with McKenna running through to slot the ball past the hopelessly exposed Graham Douglas.

Referee Laing drew the ire of the Saints bench for an extremely tight offside call against Paul Carmichael in the 26th minute before a tame shot from Ally McKerracher 60 seconds later slipped harmlessly wide of target.

Graham Douglas came to the rescue in the 29th minute throwing himself to his right to tip a Ryan Halpin shot round the post for a corner kick.

Before the restart Daniel Croarkin, who was suffering from stomach cramps, was replaced by Myles McAuley making his first appearance of the season. Myles took up a position in midfield with Scott Maitland dropping back to fill the left-back role vacated by Croarkin.

Saints threatened in the 38th minute. From deep inside his own half on the left Myles McAuley linked up well with Craig MacEwan to send Ally McKerracher tearing towards the bye-line. Ally outpaced Craig Cameron to fire in a left foot cross which was inches beyond the outstretched boot of Paul Carmichael racing in at the far post.

With five first half minutes remaining Saints captain Craig MacEwan superbly chested down a high ball just inside the



Saints central defender David McPhee gets his header on target but it was well saved by Sean Gibbons. Match report and photos: Derek Black

left touchline and was hauled back by his well-beaten opposite number Craig Cameron. To the amazement of both sets of players Mr Laing penalised MacEwan for hand-ball with the protests from the irate Saints players continuing for several minutes.

The second half began in disastrous fashion for Saints conceding a second goal just two minutes after the restart. Paul Carmichael won a free-kick on the edge of the St Joe's box which Cameron Harkins saw out for a goal kick. From Sean Gibbons' goal kick Harkins raced to the other end and delivered a cross from the left wing which Daniel McKenna headed back across goal for Ryan Halpin to dive in and head past Graham Douglas.

Perseverance

Paul Carmichael's perseverance on the edge of the D created an opening for Craig MacEwan with the Saints skipper drawing a smart save from Sean Gibbons at his near post.

Saints hauled themselves back into contention in the 56th minute when Craig MacEwan controlled a Willie Gemmell long ball wide on the right and picked out Paul Carmichael sliding in at the back post to poke the ball past Sean Gibbons.

The visitors almost immediately restored their two-goal advantage with only the outstretched left foot of Graham Douglas denying Daniel McKenna from the restart.

With 15 minutes remaining Ally McKerracher, who still looks a little short of full match fitness, was replaced by Steven MacLeod. The change of personnel also brought another positional switch with Matthew Kelly moving into midfield and Steven MacLeod taking Matthew's right-back berth.

In his new advanced role Kelly had a big hand in Saints' 80th minute equaliser. Linking up well with Scott Maitland on the left, Kelly forced his way to the edge of the St Joe's box. The ball broke to Craig MacEwan, who produced an exquisite turn to escape the attentions of Craig Cameron and Fraser Murray and stroked the ball into the bottom corner past the left hand of Sean Gibbons to make the score 2-2 - game on.

St Joe's made an 83rd minute change with Stephen Dallas replacing Ally Graham in attack before Mr Laing made another controversial decision which this time benefited the home side. Keith Millar and Stephen Dallas had a coming-together in the Saints box and, much to the relief of all in navy blue,



Paul Carmichael slides in to knock the ball past St Joseph's keeper Sean Gibbons to make the score 2-1.

the decision which could have gone either way was given in Millar's favour. The sense of relief for Saints unfortunately evaporated after 88 minutes when Scott Smith was given too much time and space to carry the ball from midfield into the Saints box. The combined efforts of David McPhee and Steven MacLeod couldn't stop Smith from getting a left foot shot away which squirmed under the advancing Graham Douglas and nestled in the bottom corner much to the delight of the St Joe's contingent.

Mr Laing allowed a full five minutes of stoppage time, but try as they might Saints were unable to threaten the St Joe's goal giving the visitors the full

Football

three points and a happy bus journey back to Duntocher.

Secretary David Buchanan said: 'We never got into our stride in the first half and when St Joe's scored their second goal we looked to be in big trouble but credit to the lads they dug in and we managed to play some good football to get back on level terms but to lose the goal so close to the end was devastating.'

Saints are back at Glencruitten on Saturday when they play Cambusnethan Talbot Community in the second round of the West of Scotland Cup. Kick-off is 2pm with referee Jimmy Litster in charge.



Myles McAuley made a welcome return to the Saints squad.

North Argyll teams kick off Mini Rugby season

MINI Rugby teams at Oban Lorne, Etive Vikings, Mid Argyll and Isle of Mull have had a busy start to the 2017/18 season with two Dalriadas over the past couple of weeks along with an Oban/Etive P5 trip to Glasgow Warriors.

On Saturday September 2 the Mini Rugby season kicked off with the first Dalriada Festival of the season hosted by Oban Lorne at Glencruitten. Visiting Oban on the day were teams from Etive Vikings, Mid Argyll and Isle of Mull RFC.

Mid Argyll ran out close winners at each age group by winning all their P4/5 games and coming out on top in terms of tries scored on the day after being tied on points with Etive Vikings in the P6/7 section.

All the teams produced a good show of rugby despite

some rustiness to start the new season.

The following Sunday the teams met again at Taynuilt Community Sports Field as Etive Vikings hosted the second festival of the new season.

With only the hosts, Oban and Mid Argyll present the fixtures were played out with added game time on the perfect underfoot conditions despite the weekend's heavy rain.

On this occasion it was the hosts who were victorious at both age groups by winning all of their matches apart from a P6/7 0-0 draw with Mid Argyll - this game was abandoned due to the severity of the rainfall.

A huge improvement was shown by all of the teams from the previous weekend's festival.

The sides will have a chance to improve once more as Isle

of Mull host the third festival of the season at Garmony next Saturday from 11am. It is hoped that Kintyre RFC, Islay RFC and Lochaber RFC will turnout for Dalriadas later in the season.

Oban Lorne and Etive Vikings P5 visit Glasgow Warriors

A P5 team from Oban Lorne and Etive Vikings was invited to take part in a pre-match festival at Glasgow Warriors' first home match of the season last Saturday in the PRO14 competition.

The squad of 10 P5s faced some formidable opposition in the form of Marr, Dalziel and Perthshire. The joint Oban/Vikings side lost out in all of their matches but impressed against a very high quality of

opposition. The highlight of the day for the young players was forming part of the guard of honour at kick off for both the Warriors and Ospreys to enter the pitch.

All of the squad had a great time and have been encouraged to attend Warriors games in the future. Everyone at Oban Lorne and Etive Vikings would like to thank Glasgow Warriors' community team for a great day out.

Oban Lorne S1/2 32 Mid Argyll S1/2 13

Oban and Mid Argyll's S1/2 sides took part in their first fixture of the season at Glencruitten on Sunday September 3. Both teams turned out with encouraging playing numbers to start the season.

In total, Oban ran in eight

converted tries with a fantastic kicking display from S2 Fergus MacIntyre. Mid Argyll scored four tries themselves and impressed with some great attacking rugby. The teams will meet again this Saturday as Isle of Mull RFC host an S1/2 festival at Garmony.

Oban Lorne U13/14 P Birkmyre RFC P

Sunday's West Conference fixtures between Oban and Birkmyre at U13 and U14 were postponed due to waterlogged pitches at Glencruitten. A new date for the fixtures will be arranged.

Schools T4 Conference Oban High School U13, U14 and U16 P Shawlands Academy P

The first fixture meeting in the

T4 West Schools competition was postponed last Wednesday due to waterlogged pitches at Glencruitten.

A new date will be arranged between the schools for later in the season.

Youth rugby

Oban High welcome Belmont House School to Glencruitten next Tuesday.



Action from the mini rugby Dalriada held at Taynuilt last Sunday. Photo: Steevie Day

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2500

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This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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M Martin Dervaig Isle of Mull

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
 Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules
 No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Sutherland Cup takes centre stage this weekend

THE RE-SCHEDULED Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final between Lochside Rovers and the Kingussie second team takes place at An Aird, Fort William, this Saturday with a 3pm throw-up.

The final was originally to take place in late July but was postponed because of an unplayable field.

With rain forecast this week, Camanachd Association officials will monitor playing conditions and a change of venue is an option open to them should conditions deteriorate.

Lochside Rovers beat the Beaully second team, the Kyles Athletic reserves, the Bute colts and the Glenurquhart second team on their route

to the final. Kingussie knocked out the Skye Camanachd colts, the Aberdeen seconds, the Fort William reserves and holders Newtonmore reserves to book their final spot.

Lochside Rovers manager Gareth Evans will look to Lewis Buchanan and Craig MacDougall up front and defenders Craig Easton and Daniel Sloss as well as Daniel MacCuish, if they are to take the trophy to Oban.

James Falconer, Roddy Young, Ruairidh Anderson and Alexander Michie will be key players for Kingussie boss Ally MacLeod as the 2016 beaten finalists look to go one better this year. Referee on Saturday is Iain Kennedy.

KINLOCHSHIEL opened up a one-point lead at the top of the Marine Harvest Premiership and Skye Camanachd clinched the Marine Harvest National Division title following a dramatic day of shinty last Saturday.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Newtonmore 2 Kinlochshiel 2

Kinlochshiel twice came from a goal down to draw 2-2 with Newtonmore in their noon throw-up at The Eilan.

Kinlochshiel agreed to Newtonmore's request for an earlier start so that some Newtonmore players could attend a wedding later in the afternoon.

Newtonmore's Evan Menzies was free of suspension but injury continued to rule out captain Rory Kennedy and Michael Russell was suspended.

Kinlochshiel travelled without Scott MacLean who picked up a one-match suspension for passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

Glen MacKintosh put Newtonmore ahead on nine minutes when he picked the ball up 25 yards from goal and sent a low strike into the far corner of the net. The pace of the shot beat Kinlochshiel keeper Scott Kennedy, although he did get a touch to the ball.

Kinlochshiel's leveller a couple of minutes later fell into the bizarre category. A ball from a Kinlochshiel corner ended up at the back post where Andy MacKintosh looked in control of the situation but, in an attempt to put the ball out for a corner, he inadvertently knocked it past keeper Norman Campbell and into the net.

Newtonmore dominated from the start of the second half and got their reward on 58 minutes when Fraser MacKintosh got onto a through-ball and found himself one-on-one with the keeper. He kept his cool and flicked the ball home to make it 2-1.

It was a game of few efforts on goal but Kinlochshiel drew

level for a second time with 15 minutes remaining to pick up what could be a priceless point. The goal came from a driving Finlay MacRae run. MacRae's initial shot was saved by Norman Campbell but Keith MacRae knocked in the rebound.

This was a very physical encounter at times.

The drama included a booking for Newtonmore defender Steven MacDonald after he was involved in a tussle with Keith MacRae. Newtonmore disputed the decision, which came on the advice of the goal judge, with Newtonmore well aware the yellow card will trigger a two-match ban which, as the fixtures currently stand, means MacDonald will be eligible to play against Kyles Athletic this Saturday but will miss the league meeting with Kilmallie and, more importantly, the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final against Lovat.

The match finished just before title challengers Kyles Athletic met Lovat at Balgate. It looked as if Kinlochshiel had dropped a point in the race for the title but events at Balgate would prove otherwise and if Kinlochshiel manager Johnston Gill had been offered a one-point advantage ahead of the weekend fixtures, he'd have grabbed it with both hands.

Lovat 2 Kyles Athletic 1

Kyles Athletic's title chances suffered a blow when they lost 2-1 to Lovat at Balgate.

The match was scheduled for a 1.30pm start to allow the Kyles players to make a swift return south to attend a wedding.

However wind turbines on the road delayed the Tighnabruaich men's journey north so throw-up was delayed to 2pm.

Lovat's Lorne MacKay returned from suspension and went straight into the starting line-up. Defender Daniel Grieve was missing.

Kyles Athletic, who went into the match top of the table on goal difference, were still without the injured Callum Miller. Innes MacDonald and Dunkie

Kerr started on the bench. Lovat's Marc MacLachlan tested Kyles' keeper John Whyte on four, 11 and 29 minutes. The keeper saved the first two efforts with his stick and the third with his feet.

Lovat defended deep making it difficult for Kyles to create chances and Stuart MacDonald in the home goal was untested during the opening 45 minutes.

Kyles edged in front on 51 minutes. A shy from the right fell to Roddy MacDonald who found enough space to strike the ball low into the net from just behind the penalty spot.

Lovat's leveller five minutes later came from a corner on the right, by the clubhouse. Greg Matheson controlled the ball and held off a couple of challenges before scoring from the edge of the 'D'.

Two minutes then defined the outcome of the match and may be the winner of the title race. On 62 minutes, Callum Cruden took a Lovat shy, leaving his opponent Dunkie Kerr unmarked.

Grant Irvine did well to win possession and found Kerr who



Oban Camanachd's Malcolm Clark, who scored two goals for the red and blacks, takes on Kingussie's Evan Michie during last Saturday's Marine Harvest premiership encounter at Mossfield Stadium. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

which Greg Matheson ran out to collect. Matheson flicked the ball into a crowded goal area before running into the 'D' and producing a composed finish as he turned the ball past the keeper to make it 2-1.

Both sides put so much into this game and there was a lot of good out-field play. However, with both defences on top, there were few efforts on goal over the 90

minutes. Lovat manager Fraser Gallacher must be pleased with his team's form ahead of the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final and this was their fourth successive victory.

Callum Cruden and wing centre Calum MacAulay were best for Lovat with Craig Mainland winning a lot of the ball, although he may have suffered a hamstring problem which could be a concern.

Donald Irvine and Grant Irvine shone for Kyles, whilst Cammy Keith stuck to the task of marking Greg Matheson, especially in the first half.

Kyles may have fallen a point behind in the title race but they still know that three wins from their final three matches, including against Kinlochshiel at Kirkton, will make them champions.

It's a task that will be all the more difficult as Roddy MacDonald will miss two of these games.

Glenurquhart 2 Glasgow Mid Argyll 2

There were two crucial points up for grabs as Glenurquhart and Glasgow Mid Argyll, both threatened by relegation, met at Blairbeg.

Glenurquhart were without the suspended John Barr and Lachlan Smith, the former now free of his ban for the final match of the season against Kinlochshiel at Kirkton. Fraser Heath returned to the side and started at full centre.

Glasgow Mid Argyll travelled north without Stuart Reid and Duncan 'Ach' MacRae.

With both teams desperate for points, this game was always going to have a cup final feel about it.

Both sides started well and, after a period of early pressure, the home side came close to taking the lead when a low James MacPherson shot went just past keeper Robert Dunning's left-hand post.

James MacPherson found his range when he put Glenurquhart ahead on 13 minutes. An Eddie Tembo pass from the right wing fell to Daniel MacKintosh who threaded the ball through to James MacPherson who slotted home to make it 1-0.

The Glenurquhart forwards put a lot of pressure on the GMA defence but a fine defensive display from Ryan Harrison, who was excellent in the first half, along with Finlay MacMillan and Innes MacMillan, kept the hosts at bay.

Glenurquhart keeper Stuart MacKintosh kept his side in front when he made a fine save from Jamie McFadyen's shot with 30 minutes played.

Tempers frayed when John Don MacKenzie accidentally knocked David Smart on the head. Smart retaliated with a reckless swing which earned the Glenurquhart man a caution from referee John Angus Gillies who also had a stern talk with both players to take the heat out of the situation.

Both teams displayed some good, open shinty in the first half, and Glenurquhart were probably aggrieved only to take a one goal advantage into the break.

GMA made a perfect start to the second half, drawing level within a minute of the re-start. Connor Golabek lost possession on the Glenurquhart right wing and an Innes MacMillan ball over the Glen defence reached Craig Anderson who hit an unstoppable shot past the keeper to make it 1-1.

GMA tried to take control of the game over the next 20 minutes and their fitness showed in all areas of the park. They deservedly took the lead on 76 minutes when a Jamie McFadyen corner found its way into the box.

Referee Gillies played advantage when Glenurquhart keeper Stuart MacKintosh fouled Craig Anderson, but the ball fell to young Calum Mclay who scored to make it 2-1.

It looked as if GMA were going to take a valuable two points but,

on the 90 minute mark, a ball out of the GMA defence landed so Scotland U17 keeper Cameron Sutherland took over between the sticks. Captain Garry Lord was also banned, whilst Matt Rippon and Scott MacKillop remained out injured. Young guns Craig Easton and Lewis Buchanan were given valuable game time.

Robert Mabon was free of suspension for Kingussie.

Daniel Cameron put the home side in front with a goal after four minutes. Malcolm Clark found Cameron to the right of the penalty spot and he finished well, sending the ball into the bottom corner of the net.

Kingussie levelled on 10 minutes when Chris Holleysong ran onto a ball over the top which caught out the Oban Camanachd back-line. Holleysong beat keeper Cameron Sutherland from 10 yards out.

Malcolm Clark tapped home a rebound on 20 minutes following an Oban Camanachd free-hit to put his side back in front.

Daniel Cameron got his second on 34 minutes to make it 3-1. Cameron had time to send a 20-yard shot low past Craig Dawson in the Kingussie goal, beating the keeper on his right side.

Oban Camanachd didn't look in any real danger at this point but another defensive lapse on the stroke of half-time cost them dear and Roddy Young took



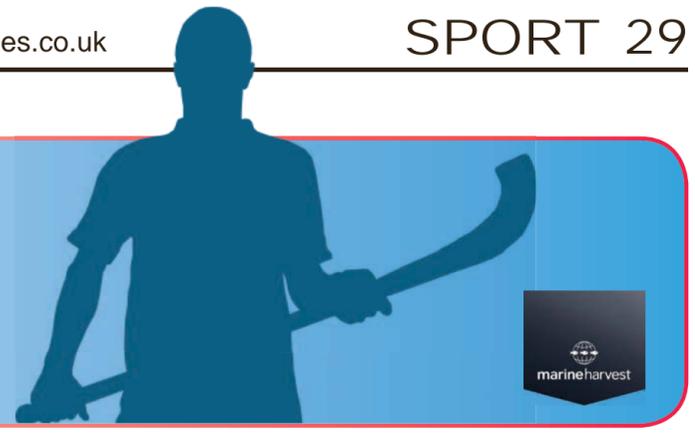
Kyles Athletic's Roddy Macdonald gets away from Lovat's Callum Cruden. Photograph: Neil Paterson.



Glasgow Mid Argyll's Garry Luke with Eddie Tembo of Glenurquhart in action during their 2-2 draw at Drumnadrochit. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup



advantage to score. Kingussie made a strong start to the second half and, when they won possession following a clearance from the Oban Camanachd defence, the ball was played on to Ruairidh Anderson who made it 3-3.

The winning goal came on 53 minutes. Cameron Sutherland in the Oban Camanachd goal made a save but as the ball rose into the air, Kingussie won possession and Scotland U17 forward Ruairidh Anderson got his second to make it 4-3.

After the match, Oban Camanachd Iain Hay said: 'A draw would probably have been a fair result as I don't think we deserved to lose the game. However, some defensive lapses cost us. The match had an end-of-season feel to it so I want the players to pick things up for our remaining games this season.'

'We started the season with a very small squad and the good thing in recent weeks is that we have been able to give some of our younger players first team experience which we hope will mean they can be part of the senior set-up on a more regular basis next season. Craig Easton, for example, played against Kingussie and did really well.'

Oban Camanachd were due to play Kilmallie at Canal Parks this Saturday but the match has been postponed so the squad can watch Lochside Rovers against the Kingussie reserves in the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final at An Aird.

Marine Harvest National Division

**Skye Camanachd 2
Caberfeidh 0**
Skye Camanachd secured the Marine Harvest National Division title and promotion back to shinty's top flight after they beat Caberfeidh 2-0 at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Skye needed at least a point from the game as both Caberfeidh and Fort William could either beat or match their points total ahead of the match.

Skye boss Willie Cowie made just one change from the 17-man squad which lost out to Newtonmore in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-finals a fortnight earlier as Jordan Murchison was ruled out through injury. Keeper Iain MacLeod played his last match of the season as work commitments will keep him out of the meetings with Inveraray and Fort William.

Caberfeidh manager Jodi Gorski's selection was hampered by three suspensions. Martin MacDonald is working his way through a four-match ban whilst Liam Symonds and Kevin Bartlett both collected bookings in Caberfeidh's 3-2 defeat to Fort William in the league a fortnight before so both missed this encounter, collecting one-match bans for passing through the disciplinary points threshold. Ryan Symonds was also missing, as were the injured Ally MacLennan and Jamie Matheson who was unable to travel.

Caberfeidh started well but it was the home side who went in front when Iain MacLellan crashed a shot into the roof of the net on 13 minutes to give Skye the lead.

Ewan Pilcher made a brilliant save to deny Danny Morrison, stretching high to his right to turn Morrison's piledriver away for a corner with his caman.

Caberfeidh full-back Scott MacLachlan then managed to deflect a Will Cowie effort off the post and away to safety after the Scotland U21 forward had rounded the keeper.

Skye clinched the win five minutes from time when Will Cowie showed great persistence to burst through the visiting defence before forcing the ball low over the line.

Caberfeidh's Kenneth MacKenzie took unwell during the match but is recovering well after treatment.

This was Caberfeidh's penultimate game of the season. They are currently in second place in the league with a home meeting



Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish tries to break through the Kingussie defence. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

with Beaulieu to come.

**Inverness 1
Fort William 6**
Fort William remain in the promotion race after they beat Inverness 6-1 at The Bught Park. David Campbell was still banned for Inverness.

Fort William were without suspended trio James Tangney, Lewis Clark and Cameron Grant.

Lachie Shaw settled Fort William into the match with a goal after four minutes.

Graham Campbell made it 2-0 a minute before the break but Inverness got themselves back into the contest when James Cameron scored on 53 minutes.

Lachie Shaw got his second on 57 minutes with Graham Campbell doing likewise on the hour to make it 4-1.

Brothers Jack Fraser on 72 minutes and Mark Fraser on 87 minutes rounded off the 6-1 win.

Fort William are now three points behind second-placed Caberfeidh but they have two games in hand.

**Oban Celtic P
Inveraray P**

There was a Saturday morning pitch inspection ahead of Oban Celtic's meeting with Inveraray and the match was called off as Ganavan was waterlogged.

This would have been Celtic's first match since Saturday August 5 and they will now have to wait until September 23 when they are scheduled to play Inveraray again, this time at The Winterton.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

**Newtonmore 3
Beaulieu 0**

The Newtonmore second team extended their lead at the top of the table, beating Beaulieu's second team 3-0 in their 3pm throw-up at The Eilan.

Chris Sellar, on his return from injury, scored the only goal of the first half on 21 minutes.

Declan Brennan made it 2-0 on 61 minutes and John MacKenzie added a third just three minutes later.

The Newtonmore seconds are now three points ahead of Aberdeen University but have played a game more.

**Kingussie 7
Fort William 1**

The Kingussie colts warmed up for this Saturday's Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final with a 7-1 win over an under-strength Fort William colts at An Aird.

A James Falconer double and goals from Kevin Thain and Dylan Borthwick had Kingussie 4-0 up at the break.

James Falconer went on to complete his hat-trick in the second half. Dylan Borthwick

got his second with Kieran MacPherson also scoring. Zoe Smith was on target with a consolation goal for Fort William.

**Kinlochshiel 0
Glenurquhart 1**

When it became clear Kinlochshiel's Kirkton pitch would not be playable, their second team game against their Glenurquhart counter-parts was switched to Blairbeg with an 11.45am throw-up.

Jed Stoddart came close to giving Glenurquhart an early lead but was unable to knock the ball home.

The early start didn't affect Glenurquhart's Christopher Mack who netted with a shot from the left after three minutes.

There were good battles at either end of the field between Glenurquhart full back Paul MacKintosh and Kinlochshiel full forward Graham Kennedy at one end and Kinlochshiel full back Neil Fraser and Glenurquhart full forward Callum Miller at the other.

With no further scoring, Glenurquhart recorded only their second league win of the season.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

**Tayforth 2
Taynuilt 1**

Third-placed Tayforth came from a goal down to beat Taynuilt 2-1 at Levenhall Links.

Taynuilt's Ewan MacCorquodale opened the scoring on seven minutes but they only stayed in front for a couple of minutes with Sean Taylor leveling.

Finlay Stark got the winner on 30 minutes.

**Kilmory 5
Ballachulish 3**

Kilmory ran out 5-3 winners against Ballachulish at MacRae Park.

Ballachulish travelled with just 11 players and went in front through Pat MacLean on 16 minutes.

Hal Jones equalised on 19 minutes and Rhys Williams put the hosts 2-1 ahead just a couple of minutes later.

Duncan MacBrayne made it 3-1 three minutes into the second half and Hal Jones got his second to make it 4-1 on the hour mark.

Ballachulish fought back though and a second from Pat MacLean on 67 minutes and Conor MacGregor four minutes later made it 4-3.

Kilmory sealed the win through Alex Cunningham with 15 minutes remaining.

**Bute P
Lochside Rovers P**

The match between Bute and Lochside Rovers was transferred to Yoker on Thursday when The

Meadows was ruled unplayable.

However the 1pm throw-up eventually fell foul of the weather when Yoker was also deemed unplayable on Saturday morning.

With Saturday's game postponed, managers Gareth Evans and Brian MacCallum arranged an additional training session at Ganavan before Daniel MacCuish, Craig Easton, Lewis Buchanan and Daniel Sloss were given game time for the senior team against Kingussie at Mossfield.

**Kyles Athletic P
Aberdour P**

The game between Kyles Athletic's second team and Aberdour was called off on Friday when the pitch at Tighnabrauch was deemed unplayable.

**Col Glen P
Glenorchy P**

Col Glen moved their meeting with Glenorchy to Otter Ferry but that also failed a pitch inspection so the game will be re-scheduled.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

**Lochaber 4
Glengarry 0**

The Lochaber seconds made it very interesting at the top of the table by beating league leaders Glengarry 4-0 at Spean Bridge.

Youngster Max Campbell gave Lochaber the lead on 10 minutes.

Lachie Campbell extended the home team's advantage with a brace either side of half-time, the goals coming on 40 and 49 minutes.

Ryan Andrews rounded off the win 15 minutes from time and second-placed Lochaber now trail Glengarry by four points but they have a game in hand.

Glengarry know that five points from their remaining three matches against Strathspey Camanachd, the Kilmallie seconds and the Lovat seconds will guarantee them the league title.

**Caberfeidh 4
Lewis Camanachd 1**

A Jamie Matheson hat-trick helped the Caberfeidh second team to a 4-1 win over Lewis Camanachd at Castle Leod.

Caberfeidh's Declan Wilson missed out through suspension and whilst first team absences deprived them of Connor MacGregor and Callum MacKinnon, Jamie Matheson was included as he was unable to travel to Portree with the first team.

Lewis Camanachd were without keeper Graham Cayso Euan Gilmour was in goals and they gave youth a chance, with Daniel Harrison making a second half debut, in the first of three away fixtures which will complete their season. Caberfeidh had the

early pressure although Stewart MacRitchie went close for the visitors.

Jamie Matheson forced Euan Gilmour to make a good save when one-on-one with the Lewis custodian.

Caberfeidh broke the deadlock on 32 minutes when Stuart Krzyzanowski won a tussle with his marker before firing home.

An Ally Lamont effort from distance went just over the top before Lewis Camanachd equalised on the hour. Stewart MacRitchie set up Kieran MacDonald - both 14 year olds - and MacDonald found the back of the net to make it one each.

Caberfeidh's Jamie Matheson then took centre-stage with three blistering finishes on 71, 76 and 80 minutes to seal a 4-1 win.

The victory lifts Caberfeidh to third in the table behind second-placed Lochaber reserves by four points but they have two games in hand.

**Boleskine 3
Strathspey Camanachd 3**

A late Conor Aubrey double earned Strathspey Camanachd a 3-3 draw against Boleskine at Smith Park.

Graham Black put Boleskine ahead on six minutes but Martin Ross equalised on 27 minutes.

James Anderson restored Boleskine's lead a couple of minutes later and when Duncan MacPherson made it 3-1 on the stroke of half-time, the league's bottom side looked good for a morale-boosting win.

Conor Aubrey scored on 72 minutes to make it 3-2 and it was Aubrey again, with three minutes remaining, who snatched a share of the points for Strathspey.

**Strathglass 0
Kilmallie 4**

The Kilmallie seconds were 4-0 winners against the Strathglass seconds at Cannich.

Stuart Ross on 23 minutes and Brian MacKay on 28 minutes had Kilmallie two up at the break.

Donnie MacRae on 61 minutes and Donald MacIntyre in the final minute completed the win, extending Kilmallie's winning run to four matches.

**Inverness 1
Lochcarron 2**

Lochcarron beat the Inverness second team 2-1 in their noon throw-up at The Bught Park outside pitch.

Peter MacKenzie gave Lochcarron the lead on 22 minutes with the only goal of the first half.

Stuart MacRae netted five minutes after the re-start to draw Inverness level.

Lochcarron's Fraser Stewart got the winner, sending the ball past Inverness goalie Allan MacLeod on 77 minutes.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

**Dunoon Camanachd P
Inveraray P**

Inveraray's second team will have to wait to secure the point they need to clinch the Marine Harvest South Division 2 title and a quick return to Marine Harvest South Division 1 following their relegation at the end of the 2016 shinty season.

Their game against Dunoon Camanachd was postponed on Friday evening as The Dunoon Stadium was unplayable.

**Aberdour P
Oban Lorn P**

The meeting between The Aberdour second team and Oban Lorn was postponed on Friday when it was clear Silversands would be unplayable.

**Bute P
Strachur P**

The noon throw-up between the Bute second team and Strachur was switched to Strachurmore on Wednesday as The Meadows could not host two matches.

However it became clear the following day that Strachurmore was also unplayable so the match was postponed.

WCA round-up

Some Women's Camanachd Association fixtures beat the weather this weekend.

Marine Harvest National Div 1

**Lochaber 4
Aberdour 0**

Lochaber kept up their title push with a 4-0 win over Aberdour in their 1pm throw-up at Spean Bridge.

Kirsty Delaney scored twice, whilst Christy Macintyre and Missy Cameron got the others.

**Lovat 0
Glasgow Mid Argyll 9**

Glasgow Mid Argyll were too strong for Lovat, winning 9-0 in their 2pm throw-up at Balgate.

Christy Doherty scored five times, Rachel McCafferty netted twice whilst Amy Harris and Katie Drain got the others.

**Fort William P
Badenoch & Strathspey P**

The clash between Fort William and Badenoch & Strathspey will be re-scheduled as The Canal Parks was unplayable.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

**Glengarry P
Strathglass P**

The 1.30pm throw up between Marine Harvest Challenge Cup winners Glengarry and Strathglass was postponed as Craighair was unplayable.

The match will be re-scheduled for a later date.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

**Lorn P
Cowal & Bute P**

Lorn's meeting with Cowal & Bute was an early postponement because of an unplayable field.



Lachie Wood has been selected to referee this year's Camanachd Cup final.

Lachie Wood to referee Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final

THE CAMANACHD Association has confirmed Lachie Wood from Lochgilphead will referee the 2017 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final between Lovat and Newtonmore at The Bught Park, Inverness, on Saturday September 30.

During his playing days, Lachie turned out for Kilmory, Glasgow Mid Argyll and Oban Celtic.

Following a spell as coach/manager of Kilmory, Lachie took up refereeing in 2012 and has steadily progressed through the grades and has been officiating at Grade One level for three years.

Since taking up refereeing, Lachie has taken charge of the Bullough Cup Final in 2013, the Balliemore and Valerie Fraser Cup Finals in 2014 as well as the 2015 Macaulay Cup Final. He also refereed the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final in 2014 and 2017.

Speaking on his appointment, Lachie Wood said: 'I am delighted to be chosen to referee the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final.'

'It is a great honour and I am very much looking forward to what should be a great match.'

Fixtures



Saturday September 16

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final
Lochside Rovers v Kingussie
Iain Kennedy - 3pm
at An Aird

Marine Harvest Premiership

Glasgow MA v Lovat
David Mitchell
Kilmallie P v P Oban Camanachd
To be rescheduled
Kinlochshiel v Glenurquhart
Martin MacLean
Kyles Athletic v Newtonmore
Willie MacDonald

Marine Harvest National Division

Skye v Inveraray
Graham Cameron

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Beaulieu v Glenurquhart
John Angus Gillies
Newtonmore v Aberdeen Uni
Archie Ritchie

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Ballachulish v Aberdour
Calum Girvan
Col Glen v Kilmory
Des McNulty
Tayforth v Glenorchy
Ewan MacDonald
Bute v Taynuilt
Lachie Wood - 3pm

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Glengarry v Strathspey
John Wood
Boleskine v Inverness
John Matheson
Kilmallie v Lovat
Scott McNeil - 3pm
Lochaber v Lewis
Steven MacLachlan
Lochcarron v Caberfeidh
Brian MacKay

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Bute v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Neil MacDonald - noon
Dunoon v Oban Lorn
Graham Fisher

All throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated.

Results

Saturday September 9

Marine Harvest Premiership
Glenquhart 2 v 2 Glasgow MA
Lovat 2 v 1 Kyles Athletic
Newtonmore 2 v 2 Kinlochshiel
Oban Camanachd 3 v 4 Kingussie

Marine Harvest National Division

Inverness 1 v 6 Fort William
Oban Celtic P v P Inveraray
Unplayable field
Skye 2 v 0 Caberfeidh

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Kingussie 7 v 1 Fort William
Kinlochshiel 0 v 1 Glenurquhart
Newtonmore 3 v 0 Beaulieu

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Kilmory 5 v 3 Ballachulish
Bute P v P Lochside Rovers
Unplayable field
Kyles Athletic P v P Aberdour
Unplayable field
Col Glen P v P Glenorchy
Glenorchy unable to field a team, to be re-scheduled
Tayforth 2 v 1 Taynuilt

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Boleskine 3 v 3 Strathspey
Strathglass 0 v 4 Kilmallie
Caberfeidh 4 v 1 Lewis
Lochaber 4 v 0 Glengarry
Inverness 1 v 2 Lochcarron

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour P v P Oban Lorn
To be rescheduled
Bute P v P Strachur
Unplayable field
Dunoon P v P Inveraray
Unplayable field

Oban golfer plays well despite Walker Cup disappointment

OBAN golfer Robert MacIntyre fulfilled a dream when he represented Great Britain and Ireland in the Walker Cup last weekend.

The 21-year-old Glencruitten golfer joined a team of 10 who took on the USA at the Los Angeles Country Club. The only other Scot in the team was Connor Syme from Drumoig.

The GB&I team hoped to retain the bi-annual competition, which they won back in 2015, but unfortunately were trounced 19-7 by the Americans.

Robert didn't play in the opening foursomes on the Saturday morning which ended two matches apiece.

In the afternoon singles Robert was one of only two GB&I players to win when he had a comprehensive 6 and 4 win over

Golf

Cameron Champ.

The Americans took the singles 6-2 which gave them an 8-4 overnight lead.

On Sunday morning Robert was paired with Mathew Jordan in the foursomes, but unfortunately they went down 3 and 2 to Doug Ghim and Maverick McNealy.

The American team won the foursomes 3-1 to give them an 11-5 lead going into the afternoon singles.

Although Robert halved his singles match with Cameron Champ the Americans blew the GB&I team away winning the singles 7-1 to give them an overall 19-7 win to reclaim the Walker Cup.



Glencruitten Golf Club's Robert MacIntyre fulfilled a dream by playing in the Walker Cup.

Scottish Amateur FL results and fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division - Oban Saints 2, St Joseph's FP 3; Premier Division One - Claremont 1, Dunoon 1; Rosehill Star v Campbeltown Pupils, postponed; Premier Division Two - Houston 1, Lochgilhead Red Star 5; Tarbert 3, Carlton YM 1.

This Saturday's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup, second round - Oban Saints v Cambusnethan Talbot Community; Lochgilhead Red Star v Maryhill Thistle; Ochiltree Community v Tarbert; Rhu v Dunoon. Premier Division One - Kings Park Rangers v Campbeltown Pupils.

Oban Saints youths' results and fixtures

Youth Football

LAST weekend's results - Helensburgh 1, Under 13s 14. Scoring for Saints were Kyle Cooper (6), Matthew Pollock (4), Andrew Barkley (2), Andrew Nicol and Lewis Campbell. Ardencaple 5, Under 14s 0; Under 15s 1, Celtic BC 2. Saints goalscorer was Connor Moore. Under 16s 11, Westerton United 0. On target for Saints were Lennon Campbell (4), Jordan Normal (3), Aaron McKay, Andrew Law, Blair MacFarlane and Cammy Clark. Helensburgh 2, Under 17s 3. Netting for Saints were OG, Keir MacLean and Kenneth Black.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Torrance; Under 14s v Glentyan Thistle; Clyde BC v Under 15s; Camelon Juniors v Under 16s; Under 17s no game.

Results from Glencruitten Golf

ALLAN MacPhee won the first class medal finals at Glencruitten on Saturday with a score of 69 - 8 = 61. Alistair MacLean was runner-up with 66 = 2 = 64. Stuart Cameron won the second class medal with a score of 79 - 16 = 63. Alan Garret was runner-up with a score of 78 - 11 = 67. Ian Cameron won the third class medal with a score of 90 - 20 = 70. On Saturday is the Dennis Cathro Pairs (two ball better ball).

McPhee falls foul of conditions at Misano

CONNEL'S John McPhee fell out of contention at the Gran Premio Tribul Mastercard di San Marino e della Riviera di Rimini after race day dawned

wet, with difficult conditions creating a race of attrition for the Moto3 field.

John started 14th after penalties for other riders affected the

starting grid. He was cautious off the line before starting to gain ground and move back up through the points. In the top 10 by lap seven, the British

Moto3

Talent Team rider crashed out soon after, unhurt but unable to continue.

McPhee remains seventh and in the top echelons of the title fight, however, and only two points off the rider in sixth place. Next up is MotorLand Aragon in a fortnight.

After the race John said: 'Conditions were quite difficult, with more standing water making it much more slippery. The crash I had wasn't actually on the gas, I'd rolled out the gas because I was running a bit wide and just with engine braking it was enough to break the rear away and it spun round on me. Really tricky conditions, and all I can say is sorry to the team. Hopefully we'll bounce back in Aragon.'



John McPhee in action at Misano

Martin Heath team lead mini squash team league

THE THIRD round of the Glensanda Mini Squash Team League competition was held on Sunday August 13 at Atlantis Leisure.

It was another entertaining day of great squash matches to watch. Thanks went to all the teams who took part on the day.

The results were as follows -

Squash

Norfolk-in-Chance 12, Hotshots 7; Paul's Nickers 13, The Martin Heath Team 6; Kelly's Heroes 13, Jackie's Ball Breakers 6.

The next round of matches will be played on Sunday September 24 at Atlantis Leisure starting at 10am.

LEAGUE TABLE

	F	A	Diff	Joker	Pts
Martin Heath Team	61	17	+34	Yes	61
Paul's Nickers	45	27	+18	Yes	45
The Hot Shots	41	31	+10	No	41
Norfolk-in-Chance	41	31	+10	Yes	41
Jackie's Ball Breakers	35	51	-16	Yes	35
Kelly's Heroes	27	35	-8	Yes	27
The Magnificent Six	21	50	-29	Yes	21

Oban Lorne suffer heavy defeat

Kilmarnock 106
Oban Lorne 13
BT West Division 1

AN UNDERSTRENGTH Oban Lorne 1st XV fell to what could be a record club defeat on Saturday going down 106-13 to Kilmarnock in their first away fixture of the league season.

There was no chance of the team building on last week's good showing in a narrow home loss to Garnock with Coach Corrie Louw being faced into eight changes to the starting XV. Player commitment along with a couple of injuries seems to be causing some serious concern for the squad even in these early stages of the season.

Connor Ferris started his first game for the club in six months

while Mark Charlton, Craig McGuire, Jonathan Sayer and Kyle Graham all started a 1st XV match for the first time.

There was also a return to the team for second row Jamie MacMillan after an absence to the team for a couple of seasons.

Despite the heavy final score Oban did lead early in the game 5-0 with a well-worked try and managed to contain the hosts to a 12-8 advantage after 20 minutes. The floodgates, however, opened up after this as Kilmarnock notched up a huge points tally of 106 points.

Much credit must go to the 18 players who made the long trip. Their commitment and effort must be applauded despite the heavy loss.

The task does not get any

easier for Oban Lorne as they entertain league leaders Allan Glens RFC this Saturday at Glencruitten. Kick off 3pm.

Oban Lorne 41
Caly Polly Tech Uni 37
Challenge match

The Green Machine did have some good news to enjoy last midweek as they played out an entertaining 41-37 win against Californian touring side Cal Poly Tech University.

The home side fielded a mixture of 1st XV and 2nd XV players, even including 54-year-old full back Robert Wright who played the first half of the game.

Both sides attacked with good

Rugby

intent with a high scoring match entertaining the big crowd.

Oban's physical dominance in the pack proved to be the difference on the night as the hosts clung onto a narrow 41-37 win.

A minute's silence was well observed prior to the game to mark the passing of Angus MacColl at Isle of Mull RFC.

Angus was a popular figure among rugby clubs throughout the west of Scotland becoming well known after years of playing for the Isle of Mull 1st XV.

Thoughts of all at Oban Lorne RFC are with Pamela, Leanne, Scott and the rest of the family and to all the members at Isle of Mull RFC.



Oban Saints 2003s returned to playing home league games in Oban this season after joining the Glasgow and District Youth Football League Division 2. The boys are pictured sporting their new training jackets kindly sponsored by Halfway Filling Station.

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WEATHER

Thursday Light rain showers
Winds moderate north westerly
Temperatures 10°C to 12°C.

Friday Cloudy
Winds moderate north westerly
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday
Light rain showers on Sunday
Winds moderate west north westerly
Temperatures 10°C to 14°C.

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday September 14, 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	05.46	1.5	11.44	3.0	18.32	1.6	** ** *	**
Fri	01.33	2.9	07.06	1.5	14.07	3.1	20.08	1.6
Sat	02.57	3.1	08.25	1.4	15.17	3.4	21.34	1.3
Sun	03.55	3.4	09.31	1.1	16.04	3.6	22.28	1.1
Mon	04.38	3.6	10.23	0.9	16.41	3.9	23.10	0.9
Tues	05.12	3.8	11.08	0.7	17.15	4.1	23.49	0.8
Wed	05.44	3.9	11.49	0.5	17.48	4.2	** ** *	**

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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Fort William gets ready to welcome record Mòd

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Clearing town centre congestion a priority

THE HIGHLAND Council is to look at ways of easing congestion through Fort William as a matter of urgency after continued tailbacks on the A82.

A motion put to the council this week, signed by Councillor N McLean, Councillor A Baxter and Councillor M Smith stated: 'Highland Council acknowledges that congestion on the A82, as it passes through Fort William, has reached a point where it is causing unacceptable delays for all road users. Highland Council acknowledges the economic impact and wider inconvenience caused by the current situation is unacceptable and needs urgent action.'

'Highland Council urges Transport Scotland to bring forward the proposed strategic transport appraisal of the wider Fort William area.'

'Highland Council will write to the transport minister to provide an update on the current position and urge that the appraisal is carried out as a priority. Concurrent to the appraisal process, short-term measures must be investigated and executed by Transport Scotland to bring immediate relief.'

High volumes of traffic in the town this summer resulted in regular tailbacks of up to seven miles on the A82, meaning three-mile, south-bound journeys through the town could take up to an hour.

Councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of the places committee, added: 'Work is under way on a pre-appraisal to be led by the council with help from Transport Scotland and HITRANS which I hope will take us further forward in getting improvements.'

Highland Council plans cuts to tackle 'challenging' budget gap



Left to right: Rev Morag Muirhead, Rev Alan Ramsay, May McIntyre and Rev Richard Baxter.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Special service marks three celebrations at Duncansburgh Macintosh Church

A TRIO of anniversaries was celebrated at a special service in Duncansburgh Macintosh Church in Fort William earlier this month.

The service marked 10 years since the union of the Duncansburgh and Macintosh congregations.

Two notable figures at the church also marked important milestones.

The well-attended day marked the 60th anniversary of May McIntyre becoming a church organist. May is a stalwart of the congregation and the church was pleased to celebrate the special day with her.

And it was the 50th anniversary of Rev Alan Ramsay becoming a minister. Rev Ramsay was the last minister of the Macintosh Church before joining with the Duncansburgh congregation.

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

HIGHLAND Council is in the 'most difficult financial period local government has ever experienced' according to one member as councillors prepare for a £160million budget gap in the next five years.

At a full council meeting last week, members agreed on a strategic approach to tackle the 'uncertain and challenging financial outlook' that has been projected over the coming years.

A financial outlook for the period 2018-2023, presented to the council earlier this year, identified a potential budget gap of around £160m in the funding of existing core services. The forecast was based on a number of assumptions, in particular the anticipated reduction of Scottish Government grant funding.

The £160m is roughly equal to the total annual spend on primary, secondary and special education, which equates to more than twice the total annual spend on roads, transport, environmental and amenity services.

A spokesperson for Highland Council outlined: 'In light of the financial forecast, the council can no longer continue to provide the same services, at the same level, in the same way as before. By law, the council is required to set a balanced budget for every financial year. The council must identify proposals to reduce expenditure or raise additional income to deliver a balanced budget over the period 2018-2023.'

Chairman of corporate resources at the council councillor Alister Mackinnon said: 'We



Councillor Andrew Baxter.

“We also need to have an idea of how we can make money”

Councillor Baxter

are committed to becoming as efficient an organisation as possible and have already made substantial savings over the past few years, but such a huge gap cannot be addressed without a significant impact on residents and service users.

'We have already started reviewing how the council provides its services to the public through re-design over the past year. Half a million pounds of savings will come from re-design this year with more in future years.'

'We must also look at removing or reducing some services which, although we want to deliver and do so successfully, local authorities do not have an obligation to provide. We need to question whether we can afford to continue to do this.'

'We have to deliver a balanced budget,' Mr Mackinnon added, 'and this is without a doubt going to be the most difficult financial period that local government has ever experienced.'

Lochaber councillor Andrew Baxter said: 'Nothing is being ruled out. We want to concentrate on core services, like emptying bins and fixing roads.'

'We are looking at every line within the council's budget to see if we can make savings and be more efficient. As a Lochaber councillor, if any residents have ideas or examples of where the council can save money in the budget, then get in contact with one of us.'

Mr Baxter said the council will be reviewing the budget over the autumn and hopes to be in a position before the end of the year where it can make savings.

He continued: 'We also need to have an idea of how we can make money. The council needs to be more commercially minded. For example, charging for car parking. I find it ridiculous Fort William residents have to pay for parking when other towns in the Highlands don't have to.'



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Firebomb threat man sentenced

HEARING difficulties combined with extreme drunkenness may well have led to a Fort William man assaulting police officers and threatening to firebomb other officers' homes.

That was the mitigating scenario presented by defence solicitor Gerard Sweeney at Fort William Sheriff Court this week, addressing Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald ahead of her sentencing his client Edward Richardson.

Richardson, 43, of Castle Drive, Lochside, had pleaded guilty at court last month that in the early hours of June 10, at the Volunteer Arms pub in Fort William High Street, he had refused to leave the premises when asked by two police officers and had assaulted them.

He also further admitted that in a police vehicle travelling to the town's police station he had threatened police officers and their families.

Richardson had threatened to firebomb the homes of two off-duty officers that he knew the names of, as well as threatening their lives and that of their families.

Mr Sweeney said his client's hearing should normally be supplemented by hearing assistance but this had not been available on the night in question.

'The extreme inebriation combined with the isolation in communication led to an uncharacteristic performance by Mr Richardson,' added Mr Sweeney, highlighting the large volume of diverse correspondence on behalf of Richardson.

'This man is otherwise a settled family

man and I know his family has been very supportive of him.

'It has to be said they are also extremely embarrassed by this - not just by offending behaviour but by this type of offending behaviour.'

Sentencing Richardson to 115 hours of unpaid community work, Sheriff MacDonald said she considered this a very serious matter.

'Looking at the report and the favourable references from various members of the community I am prepared to deal with this by imposing a community payback order.'

'There will be a six-month supervision order and you will do 115 hours of unpaid work and this is imposed as a direct alternative to custody.'

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WHAT'S ON

KILMALLIE Community Centre is 50 years old this year and to celebrate members of the community are invited to an anniversary event this Saturday, September 16, from noon until 3pm.

As well as live music, tea, coffee, cakes and soup, there will be videos and archives of the BA, pulp mill and other famous landmarks and historical events.

WEST Highland Community Rail Partnership is holding its annual general meeting on Saturday September 16 at Duncansburgh Church Hall, Fort William.

The AGM will start at 12.30pm and will be followed by a station stakeholder meeting and debate at 1.15pm. The public debate will consider community involvement at rural railway stations.

WEST Highland College, University of the Highlands and Islands, is holding drop-in application sessions for anyone still wishing to apply for college this academic year.

They will take place every Thursday in September, from 4pm to 7pm, at the college campus in Fort William where staff will answer questions and help with application queries.

STAFF and volunteers from Lochaber Sensory Care (LSC) for sight and hearing support will visit Abbeyfield Care Home in Ballachulish on Monday September 18.

From 10am to 12.30pm the LSC representatives will offer advice and assistance to anyone living with a hearing loss or sight loss, residents and members of the public.

The team will also provide NHS hearing aid batteries and re-tubing. No appointment necessary.

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, 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.

GLENUIG Hall in Moidart plays host to Mull Theatre and Comar which bring their touring production FACE to the hall on Friday September 15. Twin sisters Isobel and Morag give their distinctive views on life, love, death and, of course, money in Janette Foggo's acclaimed and magnificent performance of Peter Arnott's 'hilarious symphony of rancour'. The show starts at 8pm, with pre-theatre cocktail hour from 7pm.



From left: A Rankin, R T Omond and R C Mossman.



Ben Nevis range with clouds.



Gardyloo Gully and observatory in the snow.



Snow acted as a draught excluder.

Project launched to save historical Ben Nevis weather data

MARK ENTWISTLE
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TWO MILLION pieces of 'lost' weather data collected over 20 years atop Ben Nevis by an intrepid team of Victorian meteorologists are at the heart of a new project to shed light on the changing climate.

Scientists are on a mission to rescue the data, which is still kept in the five original hefty volumes first published by the Royal Society of Edinburgh between 1890 and 1910.

Now known as the 'Weathermen of Ben Nevis', the meteorologists recorded eight pieces of information about the weather every hour, day and night, 365 days a year.

They measured temperature, pressure, rainfall, sunshine, cloud, wind strength and wind direction from 1883 to 1904.

Hourly data was also taken at sea level at Fort William and now researchers are asking people from across the Highlands and the rest of the UK to help digitise this unique data.

From the original tables, the information can be typed into a growing database and unearthing this data will shed light on how the Earth's climate is changing, bringing the past back to life to help understand the weather today and in the future.

And the clock is ticking. Operation Weather Rescue: Ben Nevis was launched this week as part of the Natural Environment Research Council's (NERC) free public event UnEarthed at Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh, from November 17-19, bringing the world of environmental science to the Scottish public.

NERC UnEarthed director Julia Maddock explained: 'We want to give everyone the chance to be part of the science we fund. Rescuing old data is a way everyone can help improve our modern understanding of weather.'

'We have set ourselves an ambitious target of rescuing two million data points by November so we can share what we have discovered at our free event. I hope the people of Scotland are up for this challenge.'

Operation Weather Rescue: Ben Nevis is led by NERC-funded climate scientist Professor Ed Hawkins of the National Centre for Atmospheric Science and the University of Reading.

'The fastest way to collect new weather observations is by looking back in time,' he said. 'Operation Weather Rescue: Ben Nevis will fill gaps in our knowledge and provide a baseline from which we can measure



The scale of Ben Nevis and the observatory.



The Low Level Observatory in Achintore Road, Fort William.

any changes to the weather today. Unearthing this type of data feeds into the bigger picture; helping international researchers understand climate changes and make better forecasts for the future.

'The Ben Nevis weather data will tell us more about extreme rainfall which is thought to be becoming more common in the UK.'

'The logbooks also contain records of sightings of the Northern Lights. On top of this, using historic data to better understand mountain weather will be useful to mountain rescue agencies.'

Marjory Roy, former superintendent of Met Office Edinburgh and author of The Weathermen of Ben Nevis - a fascinating insight into the work and lives of those who gave their time on the top of the mountain to make the original weather observations - is also supporting the campaign.

Ms Roy said the Victorian meteorologists dutifully took observations every hour and, at the end of each month, sent copies of them to the Met Office where they were stamped, filed and promptly forgotten.

'There is very little data from the top of any British mountains and to have such complete detailed hourly observations is incredible,' she said.

'It is vital we start to uncover these hidden records and put them to use. They will be invaluable in helping us to better understand changes in our weather and the relation between sea-level weather and conditions on our mountain tops.'

'The logs also reveal what life was like for the team on top of Ben Nevis. They were very hospitable to climbers who scaled the north face in winter, presumably because it meant someone new to talk to.'

'In summer they had too many tourist visitors who could interfere with the work. They enjoyed when the snow built up around the building in the early winter and insulated it from the howling winds outside.'

'At one point they even had a pet cat.'

Dr Hermione Cockburn, scientific director at Dynamic Earth, added: 'We're incredibly excited to welcome NERC to Dynamic Earth for this fantastic event and can't wait to see the results of Operation Weather Rescue: Ben Nevis.'

'Over the coming months, we'll be getting involved with the mission to encourage budding scientists to play a part in this fascinating exercise.'

To join Operation Weather Rescue: Ben Nevis, visit www.zooniverse.org/projects/edh/weather-rescue/

All photographs courtesy of the Royal Meteorological Society collection, held as part of the Met Office archive at National Records of Scotland.

Drugs and weapons found in Kinlochleven

POLICE in Lochaber have recovered drugs with a potential value of £9,000.

Officers acting on intelligence recovered a quantity of herbal and resin cannabis on Saturday September 2 following a search of a property in Kinlochleven.

Unlicensed air weapons were also recovered during the operation.

A 51-year-old man has now been charged in connection with the incident and a report will be sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Inspector Isla Campbell said: 'Our communities have made it very clear they will not tolerate the trade in controlled drugs and these recoveries show our commitment to making Lochaber a hostile environment for anyone involved in this.'

Comedy drama in Strontian

THE SUNART Centre in Strontian will welcome MSFits Theatre on Wednesday September 20 with Stick Granny on the Roof Rack, a one-woman comedy drama.

The drama is written by multi-award winning, BAFTA-nominated playwright Rona Munro and performed by award-winning comedy actress Fiona Knowles. Tickets for the show, which starts at 7.30pm, cost £8, under 18s £5.

Women's History Unwrapped

A FREE workshop and travelling gallery is coming to Fort William on Wednesday September 20 as part of Women's History Unwrapped.

Lauren Prinky Currie's exhibition will be shown at the Travelling Gallery at Lochaber Hope Park. The event is for women only and is free to attend. Anyone who has booked a place and is no longer able to attend is asked to let the organisers know.

Bobby's Old Time Dancing re-starts

BOBBY'S Old Time Dancing has re-started for another season in Kilmallie Community Centre.

Dancing is held on Thursday nights from 8pm. Everyone welcome, including beginners - £2 per session.



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Glencoe man who assaulted bus driver escapes jail term

A GLENCOE man who assaulted a bus driver in a dispute over a mobile phone narrowly escaped a jail term this week when he appeared for sentencing at Fort William Sheriff Court.

After a trial last month, Paul Farrell was found guilty of assaulting a bus driver in an attack in January in which the victim feared his eye was going to be gouged out.

Farrell, 47, of Carnoch, Glencoe, had claimed he acted in self defence in the altercation at Fort William bus station, triggered after he had refused to stop using his phone to video other passengers and bus company employees.

Farrell had been charged with putting a headlock on the bus driver, striking him on the head and causing him to fall to the

ground and kicking him on the head when he was down.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald had told Farrell she had found his evidence wholly incredible, inconsistent and could not be considered self-defence as he had made out.

Sheriff MacDonald had deferred sentence until Tuesday for the preparation of a criminal justice social work report and bail was continued.

Farrell's solicitor Stephen Kennedy told Fort William Sheriff Court this week that Farrell was still adhering to his claim that he had only acted in self defence.

'I suggest there was a degree of provocation and perhaps the approach of the bus driver could have been a bit more subtle,'

said Mr Kennedy. 'Mr Farrell feels a great sense of injustice because he feels his complaint was not taken seriously, but also accepts he lost his temper and overstepped the mark.'

Sentencing Farrell to carry out 140 hours of unpaid community work, Sheriff MacDonald flagged up how close he had come to a custodial sentence.

'I have listened carefully to what Mr Kennedy has said on your behalf, but that said, you behaved badly, were inflammatory and subsequently violent,' she said.

'However, I have been persuaded to impose a community payback order as a direct alternative to custody,' she said, adding that Farrell would have six months to complete the community work.

View from the Chamber

THIS week's article focuses on retail, starting with the great news three major retailers are heading to Fort William Retail Park.

One site still remains to be let, but developers Morbaine report discussions are well under way with several retailers to complete the new retail park, which will bring around 120 new jobs to the area.

Retail is an important part of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce's membership. As well as benefiting from networking, events and business information, retail members are also listed on both www.lochaberchamber.co.uk and www.outdoorcapital.co.uk

Access to both websites is through annual membership of Lochaber Chamber



of Commerce. Small or medium-sized businesses typically pay less than £200 per year for membership, which makes it an extremely cost-effective way to promote your business.

In August there were 12,000 visits to the Outdoor Capital website and 2.3 million people were reached through its Face-

book page. The 'shopping' page on www.outdoorcapital.co.uk is one of the most frequently visited pages on the site, with 2,500 website sessions last month, lasting on average more than three minutes each. That is a lot of people spending a lot of time looking at our retail members' listings.

If you're a local retailer, joining Lochaber Chamber of Commerce opens up a whole new way to reach potential customers.

At Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, we're committed to helping our members achieve their business goals. If you'd like to join us please give us a call on 01397 705 765 or visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk.

Pedestrian killed in Glencoe crash

A MAN has died following a crash on the A82 near Altnafeadh in Glencoe.

The incident happened about noon on Tuesday (September 12) and involved a Fiat campervan and a male pedestrian, who died at the scene.

The occupants of the campervan were uninjured.

The man's next of kin have been informed and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

The road was closed for several hours to allow for a collision investigation to take place.

Sergeant Gregor Hay said: 'Our thoughts at this time are with everyone affected by this tragic incident.'

'Our enquiries are ongoing and I would appeal to anyone who witnessed the collision to contact us as soon as possible. Please call the road policing unit in Fort William on 101, quoting reference R050438, with any information.'

Hospital answers available

NHS HIGHLAND has released answers to questions asked by the public about the proposed replacement for the Belford Hospital in Fort William.

The communications and engagement sub-group has summarised a series of questions and answers that have been asked by members of the public, elected members and staff about the new hospital.

Vice chairman of the communications and engagement group Sandy Stoddart said: 'This is a starting point and we will add more detail to the questions and answers as it becomes available.'

The document is available on the NHS Highland website and hard copies will be circulated locally.

Group invites MSP to talks on empty rural properties

MARK ENTWISTLE
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THE NATIONAL body representing many Scottish land and estate owners has offered to meet with Highlands MSP Kate Forbes over moves to bring more derelict rural properties into use.

Scottish Land & Estates' comments came after Ms Forbes welcomed Scottish Government plans to help tackle rural housing shortages. And the organisation says it will be happy

to meet with the Skye Lochaber and Badenoch MSP to discuss the issue.

Ms Forbes said depopulation of Highland communities continues to be one of the barriers to economic growth, with her own constituency containing many empty buildings.

'A single sprawling estate might have half a dozen farmhouses, an assortment of byres and steadings, a scattering of cottages, a gatehouse or two or even an old mill all sitting empty,' she said.

'But while an abandoned croft house might be a haunting sight on a picture-postcard Highland hillside, for me it should provoke a less wistful, more pragmatic response. Let's turn these houses back into homes. It's time to bring them back into action to provide much-needed homes for young people in rural Scotland.'

Asked for its views, Katy Dickson, senior policy officer at Scottish Land and Estates, said many of the organisation's members were at the forefront of rural housing provision,

often providing more homes at affordable rates than local authorities. In recent years, we have seen schemes such as Rural Homes for Rent, which we developed alongside the Scottish Government, allow housing to be developed for local families, but successor schemes from the government have proved administratively cumbersome,' she said. 'We would welcome anything that streamlines the process of bringing buildings back into use for modern homes and we would be delighted to

meet Ms Forbes to discuss how this can be achieved.'

Ms Forbes repeated her call for action on rural housing when she opened the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) annual conference in Inverness on Friday.

She told delegates: 'Housing is the single, most frequently raised issue with me. And in the Highlands, it is unequivocally the cornerstone of growth and sustainability. It is the cornerstone of the local economy, families, schools and communities.'

'Since being elected I have made it my mission to impress upon government colleagues that the Highlands and Islands of Scotland is not a lifeless museum. It can and should be a vibrant and thriving region which leads the nation in home-grown enterprise, attracting investment and nurturing talent.'

Ms Forbes added the Scottish Government will consult on how best to adapt what she termed Scotland's 'imperfect and sometimes clunky' planning process to allow this to happen.

Scotland legend visits Claggan Park

A FORMER Scotland captain fulfilled a life-long ambition when he visited Claggan Park for the first time.

Fort William Football Club stewards were stunned when former Scotland footballer Asa Hartford paid his way through the gate. Mr Hartford mingled with supporters in the stands and chatted with players as the team hosted Fraserburgh on Saturday.

According to the 50-times capped, former captain of Scotland, it has been a long-held ambition for him and his friends to catch the Fort in action.

Unfortunately, it was not the performance Mr Hartford or the club were looking for, but the board was happy to welcome the Scotland legend to Claggan Park.



Football legend Asa Hartford at Claggan Park for Saturday's game against Fraserburgh with, left to right, Gerald MacIntyre, Marie MacMillan and Stewart MacLean. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Vandals wreck Town Team hanging baskets

MEMBERS of Fort William Town Team have voiced their frustration at vandals who damaged hanging flower baskets in High Street.

The baskets, paid for by the group with the help of sponsors, were placed on lamp-posts along the High Street to brighten up the area. After a meeting this week, a Town Team representative said: 'After the High Street looking fantastic all summer we now have two empty spaces where hanging baskets once looked beautiful.'

'These baskets belong to local businesses who have spent their hard-earned money helping us improve Fort William for everyone.'

'The vandalism of the baskets only gave the person responsible a short amount of pleasure playing football with them in the road.'

'When they were left alone to grow and bloom they gave thousands of people enjoyment every day.'

'We are all extremely disappointed and hope the rest of the High Street display survives until the end of the season.'

Man avoids driving ban despite his 14 pints and eight whiskies

A CONSTRUCTION worker employed on the new retail park being built in Fort William got to keep his driving licence, despite being found sleeping off a marathon drinking spree at the wheel of his van.

Aidan Maguire, of Taigh Easlinne, Kentallen, had appeared for trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on Tuesday after pleading not guilty to a charge of driving on June 25 this year, in Monzie Square, Fort William, with a breath alcohol reading of 121mg in 100ml of breath. The legal limit is 22mg.

Building site supervisor Maguire had further denied driving a van which was unlicensed.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald heard how Maguire, 30, had consumed 14 pints and eight whiskies during a night out in the Volunteer Arms in Fort William on the night in question.

Giving evidence under questioning from his defence agent, Glasgow specialist road

traffic solicitor Dominic Sellar, Maguire told the court he had intended taking a taxi back to his rented accommodation at Kentallen after the drinking session with a friend ended about 11pm.

Maguire, who readily admitted he had been very drunk, said there had been no taxis available and he had not had his mobile phone on him that night.

'I then walked back to where I'd parked my van.'

'I was extremely tired as I'd worked four weeks straight and was pretty drunk, so just wanted to get my head down for a couple of hours,' Maguire explained.

'I then planned to go back to the taxi rank about 1am or 2am. But I went back to the van and passed out.'

Maguire confirmed he had been in the driver's seat and had put the keys in the ignition out of habit.

He told the court he had not turned the engine over or even turned the keys a single click and had fallen asleep with

the seat reclined. When police had found him a number of hours later, Maguire was breathalysed, arrested and taken to the police station.

But Maguire, who admitted there was nothing unusual in the amount of alcohol he had consumed for a night out, said under no circumstances would he have driven the van.

'I have never driven before when I have been like that as I have no need to,' he said. 'I have five men all with full driving licences, so I have no need to be doing it - not when I am under the influence.'

After Mr Sellar had finished his questions, Procurator Fiscal Martina Eastwood conceded that the defence had successfully made its case that Maguire had no intention of driving and as such she accepted his plea of not guilty.

On the second charge, that of driving an unlicensed van, Maguire was fined £60 for what the sheriff accepted was an oversight.

Meeting debates use of speed guns by residents

SPEAN Bridge and Roy Bridge residents should be issued with hand-held speed guns, similar to those used by traffic police, to help combat speeding drivers.

That was the idea floated at last week's meeting of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council.

'It might be a way of tackling the problems on the road from Spean Bridge to Roy Bridge which is like a racetrack,' said local resident Ian Langley, who had asked about the possibility of such a scheme.

'It won't be long until there is a fatal accident along there.'

'The only police presence I've seen dealing with speeders has been outside the Spean Bridge Hotel. I've never seen police officers along the stretch of the road past the campsite.'

In reply, Police Scotland's local inspector Isla Campbell said the issue of members of the public asking to use speed guns was not insurmountable.

'There is a couple of people I would need to speak to about it. I am aware some schemes exist,' she explained.

'However, folk should be aware there might be issues around things like insurance, record-keeping and the

identification of drivers. You'd also have to consider safety issues stemming from people standing by the side of the road, the fact people might have to be prepared to attend court cases as witnesses and the possibility of dealing with those drivers who took umbrage over it. It would have to be a request that comes from the community - if you are keen enough.'

On another traffic issue, community council chairman John Fotheringham flagged up an incident from a few weeks ago in which a man carrying his child had been hit by the wing mirror of a caravanette as he was walking along the pavement at Spean Bridge.

Inspector Campbell said that she gets 'umpteens calls a day' about incidents involving camper vans and motorhomes clipping each other's wing mirrors.

Mr Fotheringham added: 'It has become extremely dangerous and in this instance the driver of the offending vehicle apparently didn't even stop to see if the man was alright.'

'I don't know if it was reported to the police but it could have resulted in a much worse accident.'



Inspector Isla Campbell. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

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Children's Panel needs volunteers

AN APPEAL has been made for volunteers to join the Children's Panel in the Western Isles.

Panel members make vital decisions about vulnerable children and young people in need of help.

Angus MacLeod, chairman of the Eilean Siar area support team, said: 'We are looking for men and women to sit on the Children's Panel to make a real difference to the lives of young people. No qualifications are necessary, just a requirement to care and to commit to sitting on one session per month and to attend three learning and development sessions a year.'

To find out more about volunteering in the children's hearings system, contact clerk to the area support team Marina Macaulay at mmacaulay@cne-siar.gov.uk or phone 01851 822613. Further information is also available at www.childrenpanelscotland.org.

Applications close on Tuesday September 26.

Late opening for fossils exhibition

THE FOSSIL Hunters' exhibition from National Museums Scotland will open at Museum nan Eilean, Sgoil Lionacleit, Benbecula, on Friday October 20.

The acclaimed touring exhibition was due to open this week but, as a result of operational reasons, the opening date has been re-scheduled until October.

Fossil Hunters provides a glimpse of life around 360 million years ago when Scotland lay south of the equator. It showcases fossils discovered in Scotland as recently as summer 2015.

As preparations for the exhibition get under way, the museum at Sgoil Lionacleit will be closed until October 20. Museum nan Eilean apologises for any inconvenience to visitors.

Turbine blades hit the road

SCOTTISH and Southern Energy has started transporting turbine blades from Kyle Harbour to Skye Aerodrome.

From Skye, the blades will be taken to Stronelraig wind farm near Fort Augustus. The route will be along the A87 and the A887 east from Skye. The harbour lower level car parking bays in Kyle will be closed off for the duration of the deliveries. Alternative parking will be available. Deliveries will be slow moving and under police escort. A weekly delivery schedule will be issued to the local community.

Transportation of the blades started on September 11 and will continue through October.

Winter gritting plan in place

THE HIGHLAND Council has decided which roads it will grit first on Skye and Raasay this winter.

Councillors have approved a winter maintenance plan for routes across the Eilean a' Cheò ward. Primary routes are treated first, followed by secondary routes and crews will only move on to treat other roads when the primary and secondary routes are completed.

All change as endoscopy service is axed from new Skye hospital

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NHS HIGHLAND has confirmed there will be no endoscopy service in the new hospital planned for Skye.

The endoscopy service in Dr Mackinnon Memorial Hospital at Broadford was stopped several years ago because of health and safety concerns.

NHS Highland had thought the service could be resumed once the new hospital was built. However, a review by Mr James Docherty, colorectal surgeon and NHS Highland's clinical lead for endoscopy, has

highlighted a number of reasons why such a service is no longer appropriate.

'The low level of activity would mean the service would only run for one session per week. This would mean it would not be sustainable, including staff not able to maintain skills,' he said.

His report concluded these low levels did not warrant the significant investment required to build an endoscopy suite, buy the equipment and fund the annual cost of running the service. The capital costs alone would be in the region of £1.5m.

Mr Docherty added: 'Instead, it was my strong view we must



An example of the PillCam to be used to revolutionise diagnostic endoscopy services on Skye.

look to the future and I am confident the current trial of capsule endoscopy in Skye, and in Ullapool, will be successful.

'Unfortunately, a minority of patients who require a biopsy or treatment will still have to travel to Fort William or Inverness. However, more patients will benefit and overall fewer will have to travel once the PillCam is rolled out.'

Diagnostic endoscopy services across Highland are set to be revolutionised by the PillCam pilot project currently under way on Skye.

Instead of having to travel to hospital for an invasive procedure, a pill - which includes a tiny camera - can now be taken.

As well as being less invasive, the capsule can be taken at

home with the results discussed at home or the medical centre.

Dr Steve McCabe, who met the research team and proposed the local trial, said: 'This is really exciting for patients. It puts Skye and NHS Highland at the forefront of the development of gastro intestinal investigations.'

'With the new technology, diagnostic endoscopy can be organised and supported locally from local practices without having to travel for an invasive procedure.'

He added: 'It is a fantastic development and good example of how technology developed for other fields can and should

be used to deliver high quality clinical care to remote communities.'

Endoscopist Dr Will Nel, clinical lead for the locality, added: 'The pilot, which is also taking place in Ullapool practice and is being co-ordinated by senior clinicians from Raigmore Hospital, is going well.'

'It will hopefully demonstrate this approach will work in any practice irrespective of the locality.'

The test is for diagnostic scopes only. Anyone requiring biopsies or treatment scopes would still have to travel to Belford or Raigmore Hospital.

Wester Ross granted biosphere status

WESTER Ross was officially welcomed into UNESCO's network of world-wide biosphere protected areas at a ceremony in Kinlochewe Village Hall.

Nearly 60 members and supporters of the protected area witnessed the presentation on Monday of the certificate from Meriem Bouamrane, a biosphere programme specialist.

Mrs Bouamrane, who travelled from Paris to present the certificate, met a number of community groups to get an appreciation of the scale and diversity of the area covered by the Wester Ross biosphere which extends west of Garve, from Coigach in the north to Glenelg and Arnisdale in the south.

The accolade is based not only on Wester Ross being an area of outstanding natural beauty but how its communities

work together to strengthen local economies and to connect people with nature and cultural heritage.

Wester Ross is now one of 669 biospheres in 120 countries across the world.

The celebration was opened by Eoin Cumming, a pupil of Gairloch High School, playing 'High Road to Gairloch' on the pipes.

In her speech, Madame Bouamrane explained: 'The designation of Wester Ross as a biosphere is a tool for people, for your community to manage its future by inspiring today a positive future to next generations and to the world.'

'It is a historical moment today because you can prove something deep to yourselves and to the world: that people are not the problem, people are the solution.'



Members of the Wester Ross biosphere board with their UNESCO certificate.

Kinloch Castle's future raised during MP visit

THE MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber raised concerns over the future of Kinloch Castle after a visit to the Small Isles.

While conducting surgeries and meeting communities on Eigg, Muck, Rum and Canna, Ian Blackford MP highlighted the importance of the future of Kinloch Castle to the Isle of Rum.

Mr Blackford said: 'I am particularly concerned at the task of securing Kinloch Castle in a wind and watertight condition. 'Whatever one's views on



Ian Blackford with the three pupils of Rum School.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

the history of the castle, it is an iconic destination and is instrumental, I believe, in the potential of the island. Securing a solution that will enhance the appeal of the castle as a destination, combined with a successful conclusion to a fish farm application, will be instrumental in Rum continuing to prosper.'

On the broader issues facing Rum, Mr Blackford added: 'A big problem to increasing the population on the island is lack of suitable housing and the only building currently empty

is the old school house which is desperately in need of maintenance.'

Having met with islanders, community groups and visited the few primary schools, Mr Blackford reported one issue continually cropped up.

'The subject of Brexit was never far away,' said Mr Blackford 'and the effects it will have on agriculture and the support for remote communities. There is a widespread desire we maintain the support that is currently on offer.'

MSP calls for return of emergency towing vessel

A REPORT on the grounding of the decommissioned oil rig *Transocean Winner* has shown up a 'catalogue of things to be concerned about'.

Alasdair Allan, MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, reiterated calls for the return of an emergency towing vessel (ETV) to be permanently based in the Western Isles following the publication of the report by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch.

The decommissioned oil rig was being towed past the Hebrides in August 2016 when the tow line was lost in rough weather.

The rig was subsequently grounded on Dalmore beach on the north west coast of the Isle of Lewis until its removal two months later.

Dr Allan said: 'Anyone reading this thorough investigation will be left troubled. Although, in the case of the *Transocean Winner*, no lives were lost and there was no significant environmental damage, the incident served to point to the huge danger the island economy and environment would face if ever a vessel carrying a large amount of hazardous cargo found herself in a similar position.'

'The report says the decision by the master of the tug to leave Stavanger, given the weather forecast, was 'borderline' and that voyage planning 'did not consider the effect of high winds'.

'The report is also critical of a planned route that left very little sea room from the coast in places and that inadequate planning was given to places where the vessel could be heaved to in bad weather. The tow line used was found to be in 'poor condition' and the report expresses concern about the basis on which the lengths of tow lines were

calculated at important points of the voyage.

'The report raises a number of worrying points, such as the lack of essential information, instruction or guidance in the towing vessel's towing manual. This would have left the crew with insufficient information to carry out their duties and the fact the report says that 'such arrangements may not be unusual in ocean towage' is deeply worrying.'

'It also raises questions about why the nearest ETV was 12 hours away in Orkney, which will again re-open the debate

about why the Maritime and Coastguard agency removed the vessel from the west coast in the first place.

'It is clear the west coast of Scotland remains at risk of future incidents occurring.'

'Instead of seeing this incident as a wake-up call, the UK government has so far been deaf to the collective calls of the industry, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Highlands and Islands MSPs and MPs for a second ETV based in the Western Isles. I hope this report makes the UK government reconsider its position.'

Long queue times for islanders flying home

NA H-EILEANAN an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan has written to Loganair and Glasgow Airport after constituents raised concerns about excessive queue times for island flights over the weekend.

One of Dr Allan's constituents reported Loganair passengers had to wait for around an hour to check in on Sunday.

Loganair has been allocated a single check-in desk at Glasgow Airport since September 1, when the company ended its franchise agreement with Flybe and began operating independently.

Mr Allan said: 'Glasgow Airport is the main airport for people coming to and from the isles. If these delays are being caused by the check-in desk arrangements, that is something that needs to be addressed urgently.'

'Earlier this week, I wrote to the managing directors of Loganair and Glasgow Airport to press them to find a solution to this problem. I understand from Loganair it has been engaging with the airport on this issue in the run up to September 1 and that it is continuing to have discussions with the airport to resolve this. We cannot have a situation where island passengers are the only ones to regularly face these kind of queues.'

Appeal to report nuisance calls

AN ADVICE service is urging Western Isles residents to report nuisance phone calls.

Research shows Scots receive more nuisance calls than any other part of Europe.

Roddy Nicolson, manager of the Western Isles Citizens Advice Bureau, said: 'Nuisance calls are far too common today and affect huge numbers of people across the country. One of our roles in the bureau is to protect people's rights as consumers and one of those rights is that you don't need to put up with calls you don't want.'

Welfare Reform and Gender Inequality

7-9pm Thursday 28 September

Kilmallie Free Church, Glenpane Street, Caol

Have you been affected by the introduction of Universal Credit?

Are you worried about your future pension?

- Come along and explore how changes to the welfare benefit system may adversely affect women and children
- Barriers to benefits for Eastern European women
- Pension reform and the WASPI Campaign

Guest Speakers:

Ian Blackford, MP & Marsha Scott, Scottish Women's Aid
Free Admission - Refreshments available from 6.30pm



Lochaber Women's Aid

Tel: 01397 705734

www.lochaberwomensaid.org

The only service providing specialist Domestic Abuse support in Lochaber

A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in Scotland No: SC330605 Scottish Charity Number SC034484

Why does she stay? Why doesn't she leave him?

FRIENDS and family of women experiencing domestic abuse can sometimes find it hard to understand why a woman chooses to stay with an abuser. The fact of the matter is that, in many instances, she doesn't have a choice.

Eighty-nine per cent of women who experience domestic abuse are also subjected to financial abuse. Like physical and emotional abuse, financial abuse can take many forms.

However, in practical terms it can mean that women are not allowed access to household finances. Or, if they are, their financial activities are severely monitored and controlled by their partner. Fifty-seven per cent of women stayed in an abusive relationship because they were denied financial independence. In simple terms, they do not have enough money to flee the family home.

'Domestic abuse and financial abuse often go hand in hand. It's a common tactic for abusers to control every aspect of a woman's life including her money, often right down to the very last penny. For a life free from domestic abuse it is crucial that women are able to control their own finances, and it's equally critical that governments facilitate this. Our work to eliminate domestic abuse is impossible if we live in a society where women are economically unequal,' said Marsha Scott of Scottish Women's Aid. For those who may receive social

security for a proportion of their income, the opportunity for financial abuse may be worsened with the introduction of Universal Credit. Recently, Citizen's Advice Scotland, along with 24 Scottish charities, wrote to Westminster calling for a halt to the roll out of Universal Credit.

Lochaber Women's Aid is hosting an evening at Kilmallie Free Church, Caol where it will explore recent changes to the benefit system and what the changes may mean for women and children. This will also include an exploration of how recent reform to the State Pension has worsened the situation for

women, thereby eroding their financial independence.

'Many women remain unaware that they will be adversely affected by the changes to the state pension,' said Deirdre Coull, chairwoman of Lochaber Women's Aid. 'So, we are especially pleased to welcome Ian Blackford MP to talk about WASPI, a women's campaign which is seeking to address some of the inequalities brought about by pension reforms. We are hoping that this evening will help in making women aware of their rights.'

Part of the evening will also look at the barriers to benefits for eastern European women and offer advice on their rights.

Admission is free and no booking is required. Refreshments will be available on arrival. To find out more telephone 01397 705734.

Advertorial

Lochaber dogs impress expert Crufts judge

LOCHABER and District Canine Society welcomed nearly 300 dogs and 150 exhibitors from all over Scotland to the Nevis Centre, Fort William, for its annual dog show.

Society chairwoman Lorna Ungeod-Thomas said: 'We had a successful and enjoyable show thanks to the hard work of the committee and helpers.'

Perhaps better known for his expert commentary on Crufts, this year's main judge, Frank Kane, was impressed with the society's organisation of the show as well as the quality of the dogs he judged.

Results: Best in show: Mr Gibb-Stuart's Cavalier King Charles Spaniel from Ayrshire.

Reserve best in show: Mrs Logan's Lhasa Apso from Wishaw.

Best puppy in show: Heather Turner of Roybridge and Audrey MacDonald of Arisaig with Pip-pa the Jack Russell Terrier.

Heather and Audrey also won the best terrier award with another Jack Russell, Paco.

Reserve best puppy: Mrs Younie's Golden Retriever from Elgin.



Heather Turner and Audrey MacDonald with best puppy in show, Pippa.

Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

Ski resort appeals for backing to fund snowmaking machine

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

THE OLDEST commercial ski resort in Scotland is hoping to restore confidence in the country's ski industry by making its own snow.

Glencoe Mountain Resort has launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise money to buy a Snowfactory machine that can create 100 cubic metres of snow per day.

After enduring the worst winter on record for snow in Glencoe - with slopes only open for 32 days of the season - operators at the 61-year-old resort are

aiming to guarantee snow on the hills throughout the winter.

Owner and managing director of the resort Andy Meldrum explained: 'What it will allow us to do is guarantee snow from a set date for one beginner ski run, our sledging area, a ski and snowboard learners area and a small freestyle park.'

The company has begun crowdfunding to raise £320,000 of the £460,000 needed to buy and install the device, which can operate in mild, wet and windy conditions at temperatures as high as 25°C.

When asked about the decision to crowdfund, Andy told the

Lochaber Times: 'Very simply, on the back of last year's dreadful season, we don't have the money.'

He added: 'The most exciting thing is how much this could benefit the local economy as people regain confidence in the Scottish ski industry.'

If the funding campaign is successful, the snow machine could be switched on in early November to build massive piles of snow ahead of an official opening day for the slopes on December 1. Although it will be the first unit in operation in Scotland, Snowfactory machines have already been used

on slopes in Eastern Europe, New Zealand and Australia.

Andy said: 'People book their holidays to the Alps months in advance, but here we rely on opportunistic skiers.'

'A poor season can kill off fragile local businesses and harm the community but this technology could give visitors the confidence to plan a trip here.'

Andy told the Lochaber Times the Snowfactory has already proved important in attracting visitors to Glencoe, claiming it was a deciding factor for one individual looking for a ski holiday.

He explained: 'With the

Snowfactory he was coming to Scotland, without it and no guarantee of snow he was going to Austria. This is what we expect to happen but to have it evidenced so early is amazing.'

Alan MacKay, director at Scottish snowsports information website Winterhighland, said: 'The Snowfactory represents an exciting step change in snow-making technology, so it's great to see Glencoe lead the way forward.'

'The economic benefits from increased snowsports participation accrue well beyond the mountain with substantial off-mountain spend from skiers

and boarders benefiting lots of local businesses.'

Speaking about the wider ramifications of the development on tourism in the Highlands, VisitScotland's chief executive Malcolm Roughead added: 'It is an excellent example of the resilience, determination and innovation of Scotland's tourism industry.'

'As a business greatly reliant on the weather, Glencoe Mountain Resort has shown real creativity in considering ways it can continue to attract local residents and snowsports enthusiasts to the area, regardless of the temperature.'

Fort William gets ready to welcome record Mòd

THE ROYAL National Mòd (Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail) will return to Lochaber next month for what is set to be a record-breaking year for the festival.

Participant numbers at the Mòd this year are expected to exceed 3,600 - the highest in a decade.

The nine-day spectacular of Gaelic music, arts and sport will take place in Fort William for the first time in 10 years and will this year welcome representatives from towns and cities the Mòd hasn't seen in generations.

Thousands of competitors from Scotland and across the world, including a delegation of American competitors, will take part in 200 competitions.

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'We're excited to be returning to Fort William for the first

time in 10 years and to do so with a record number of participants is just terrific.'

'We've had a very busy year in the run-up to the festival, from running our popular Mòd roadshow, which encourages children to take part, to our Mòd Academy bringing dedicated Gaelic tutors to 14 schools throughout Scotland.'

'We're thrilled to have local celebrities Robert Robertson, Ross Wilson and Na h'Oganaich as part of this year's opening ceremony.'

Scotland's biggest Gaelic cultural festival starts on Friday October 13 with a torchlight procession through Fort William to the Nevis Centre where the opening ceremony will be held.

Highlights include performances by former Mod Gold Medallist Robert Robertson,

Ross Wilson and Gaelic folk Na h'Oganaich.

Last year's event generated £2.5m for host location the Western Isles and organisers are confident they'll see a similar impact in Lochaber, renowned for its warm and welcoming community.

Highland councillor Alister Mackinnon, chairman of the corporate resources committee, said: 'We are delighted the Royal National Mòd is returning to Lochaber, an area where Gaelic and its associated culture remains part of the community.'

'It will be a pleasure to welcome visitors to the Highlands, including those from overseas, who can enjoy the convivial atmosphere, the great range of singing and musical competitions, informal ceilidhs, lectures and other events as part of the exciting fringe programme.'



Pupils from Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar celebrate a month to go until the Royal National Mòd. Left to right: Ciara MacDonald, 11; Owen MacRaild, 9; Shane O'Rua, 10; Arran Stephen, 10; Seumas MacFarlane, 10, and Seumas Stevenson.

M'ALBA | MY ALBA

Ri thighinn air BBC ALBA ... Coming up on BBC ALBA ...

Steòrnabhagh gu Serbia - Smàladh an Teine

Diluain 18 Sultain, 9f
Monday 18 September, 9pm

Turas de 1500 mìle, thar 3 là gun sgur, le carbadan nach eil idir cleachdte ris a lethid. Sin a tha ro bhuidheann de luchd-smàlaidh à Steòrnabhagh ann an cuideachd feadhainn eile à Alba is iad a' toirt 5 seann charbadan smàlaidh agus carbad èiginneach gu ruige Serbia, far a bheil fìor fheum orra.

We follow the journey of an intrepid group of Stornoway firefighters, as they join forces with other Scottish firemen to take 5 retired fire engines and an ambulance 1500 miles across Europe, to Serbia, where they are given a new lease of life and purpose.

DIY le Donnie - An Dùbhlán

Bho Diluain 18 - Diardaoin 21 Sultain, 8.30f
From Monday 18 - Thursday 21 September, 8.30pm

An tèid aig Donaidh air sgioba de luchd-ciùird agus na tha dhith air de ghoireasan, a chruinneachadh airson ùrachadh a dhèanamh air togalach an Retirement Centre ann an Steòrnabhagh? Oh, agus chan eil aige ach 5 là bho thoiseach gu deireadh!

Donnie Macleod and a team of local tradesmen attempt to renovate the community-run Lewis Retirement Centre in Stornoway in five days. With the local workforce giving their time and all of the building materials to this charitable project free of charge, the pressure is on!

Bannan S4

Bho Diluain 18 Sultain, 10f
From Monday 18 September, 10pm

Tha trì mìosan air a dhol seachad agus chan eil Màiri a' faighinn fois is i air a buaireadh le na cuimhneachan a th' aice air oidhche na h-ionnsaigh. An uair sin tha srainnsear a' nochdadh a' sìreadh Phàdruig agus iad làn cheistean.

3 months have passed and Màiri is still struggling to cope with the memory of the night she was attacked. A stranger arrives looking for Pàdruig and asking a myriad of questions, which causes more angst for Màiri and others in Camus.

Sgiobair nan Taighean-solais

Diciadain 20 Sultain, 9f
Wednesday 20 September, 9pm

Tha fairge cho cunnartach ri gin air an t-saoghal timcheall cladaichean na h-Alba. Cha dèan ach na maraichean as fheàrr cùrsa tro na cuantan fiadhaich - nam measg sgiobair bàtaichean-freastail Bòrd nan Taighean-solais an Caipitean Eric Mac a' Ghobhainn. Tha sinn ga leantainn fad bliadhna.

Only the most skilled of mariners can navigate Scotland's wild waters - among them, Captain Eric Smith of the Northern Lighthouse Board. As skipper of their tender vessels - the Pharos and Pole Star - it's Eric's job to sail to the places other mariners are told to avoid.

Seirm

Bho Disathairne 23 Sultain, 9pm
From Saturday 23 September, 9f

Air fhilmadh mu choinneimh luchd-èisteachd ann an ionad tharraingeach Hillhead Bookclub, tha an t-sreath seo le Màiri Anna NicUalraig a' taisbeanadh measgachadh den cheòl is luchd-ciùil a b' fheàrr aig fèis Celtic Connections. Am measg na bhios air an àrd-ùrlar bidh tè a tha air iomadh duais Grammy a chosnadh, Mary Chapin Carpenter.

Filmed before an audience in the bohemian chic of Hillhead Bookclub, this series showcases a collective virtuosity and features eclectic performances from the best of the Celtic Connections festival. Hosted by acclaimed musician and broadcaster Mary Ann Kennedy, Seirm boasts a cast of musicians from across the globe, including multiple Grammy winner, Mary Chapin Carpenter.

Talamh gu Truinsear

Bho Diciadain 27 Sultain, 9f
From Wednesday 27 September, 9pm

Canaidh iad gur e farmad a nì treabhadh agus ma 's e tha còir gun cuir an gàrradh aig Fraoch Nic an Deòir ann an Ìle spionnadh dhan duine is leisge. Eadar farrasgagan is peasair ìth-slà, figean is gorm-dhearcan, tha Fraoch a' sealltainn an dà chuid an saothair agus an stòras a tha ri fhaighinn às a' ghàrradh.

The series follows Heather Dewar over a year of planting, weeding and cooking. Against the backdrop of the stunning Islay countryside, she shares her gardening knowledge and favourite recipes.



DIY le Donnie - An Dùbhlán



Talamh gu Truinsear



BBC.CO.UK/ALBA | BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER

FW

Glenborrodale

HIGHLAND Council is calling on ambitious home buyers to come forward as a former primary school in Ardnamurchan goes up for sale.

Glenborrodale School has been placed on the property market, available for offers over £50,000. The property comprises of a site extending to 0.33 acres which includes the former school building and a toilet block outbuilding.

Although the 130-year-old, timber-roofed building does present significant challenges to any potential buyers, it offers a rare opportunity for any restoration experts interested in a long-term project. The site is situated in the heart of the village of Glenborrodale on the scenic shores of Loch Sunart.

The council-owned primary school building has not provided education for pupils since August 2001 and has been mothballed for nine years, with young pupils in the area now attending Acharacle Primary School.

A recent council report underlined the lack of demand for Glenborrodale School to re-open as pupils from the local community attending Acharacle Primary School are well settled and are benefiting from being educated in a purpose-built school.

For more information visit Highland Council website.



The former Glenborrodale school building is for sale.

Fort William

MORE than 80 motorcyclists and pillion passengers were spoken to during a recent campaign to promote road safety across Lochaber and Skye.

Road policing officers based in Fort William carried out the campaign in conjunction with the wider Police Scotland Operation Zenith.

Both initiatives were aimed at promoting safe and responsible motorcycling, reducing casualties, raising awareness and enforcing legislation.

Sergeant Ewan Calder of the Fort William road policing unit said: 'The vast majority were appreciative and endorsed the campaign and are aware Police Scotland are making every effort to reduce serious and fatal road accidents.'

'Most were fully aware of their obligations as riders and the challenges involved in being a motorcyclist on trunk and rural roads.'

Over the course of the campaign various offences were detected. These included 10 offences relating to roadworthiness of motorcycles and number plates, two speeding offences and one careless driving offence.

Several riders were given advice in relation to wearing suitable clothing and one rider was reported for not wearing a helmet.

Officers based in Fort William and Dingwall will be continuing their high visibility and unmarked patrols and will revisit this campaign later in the year.



Police promoting road safety among motorcyclists.

Morvern distillery gets to work on first organic malt

A NEW organic whisky distillery has started distilling its first batch of spirit.

Perched above the Sound of Mull in the remote community of Drimnin on the Morvern peninsula, Nc'ean Distillery, formerly called Drimnin Distillery, has begun work on its first single malt - which is expected to be ready in 2020.

Committed to a sustainable manufacturing approach, Nc'ean claims to be the first organic distillery in Scotland.

The distillery has been designed as the first fully organic distillery in Scotland powered by renewable energy. Wood chips for the biomass boiler are sourced from a local forest, while all by-products are recycled as animal and plant feed on the remote estate on which it lies.

Annabel Thomas, chief executive officer and founder of Nc'ean Distillery, said: 'We're using some of the most imaginative distilling ideas from around the world and the best ingredients Scotland has to offer. We're trying longer mashing times



Distillery manager Gordon Wood watches over the distilling process.

and slower fermentation and experimenting with yeasts not commonly used in distilling.'

Until the first batch of single malt hits shelves in three years, the distillery is releasing a limited number of nearly casks for sale in bond.

Located at the edge of the Morvern peninsula, the distillery has been in the planning for five years, with construction work starting just over a year ago.

Annabel said: 'After so many years of planning

and preparation, we're delighted to have reached this milestone. It has been wonderful to see our vision start to come to life and we are looking forward to the next stage of this exciting journey.'

Nc'ean Distillery sits on the Drimnin estate in Morvern, which is owned and operated by Annabel's family, with dramatic views overlooking the Sound of Mull.

While the idea to establish a distillery on the estate first gained traction in



Distillery chief executive officer and founder Annabel Thomas.

2013 with the creation of Drimnin Distillery Ltd, Annabel - with the help of managing director and former Carlsberg UK boss Benet Slay - has since gone on to make it a reality.

Earlier this year, the distillery's name was changed to Nc'ean ahead of its opening in March.

The name Nc'ean comes from Neachneohain, the Queen of Spirits in Gaelic legend. Neachneohain was a huntress: strong, independent and never afraid to walk her own path.

Inverlochry



Braxi Hall comes alive to the sound of Africa

The Braxi Hall at Inverlochry came alive to the sound of drums last week when the Highland African Beats group held one of its regular sessions. There was a good turnout of enthusiastic members, above and below, for the Thursday night event.



The A82 road was blocked after this incident involving a large crane.

Glencoe road blocked by crane accident

THE A82 one mile south of Glencoe was blocked on Friday after a 38-ton crane toppled on its side.

The driver suffered only minor injuries, but was taken to hospital for treatment.

No other vehicles were involved in the incident near the Clachaig junction shortly after 8am.



Scottish Opera



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A recent successful session on using the new defibrillator was held in Invergarry hall.

Second defibrillator for Invergarry

INVERGARRY has a second defibrillator after a successful application by the local community to the Glengarry Trust.

The new equipment has been installed in Invergarry Community Hall.

The hall has a large footfall as it has public toilets and is adjacent to Glengarry shinty pitch.

A training evening, run by Pam Gowie

from NHS Highland, was held recently which allowed interested residents to learn how to use the equipment.

The evening proved a success with Girl Guides joining in with the adults.

Glengarry Trust and Glengarry Community Council gave donations to support the charity Lucky 2 B Here, which supplied the defibrillator.

SWI centenary tea in Fort William

MEMBERS of the Lochaber Federation of the Scottish Women's Institute (SWI) gathered recently for a delicious afternoon tea in

Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church, Fort William, to mark the national parent organisation's centenary. Members of the Lochaber

branch of the SWI enjoyed a special afternoon tea, with plenty of delicious treats on offer, to mark the national anniversary.

RETRO Roamer

Retro Roamer - more late summer 1980s musings

Local worthy making his way home up the hill at 2.30am on Saturday. With a very good shot in him, he was spotted and stopped by the 'polis' who wanted to know his plans for the rest of the early hours. 'I'm going to a lecture,' the bold boy advised. Came the not unexpected Constabulary response: 'A lecture? At this time of day?' 'That's right,' slurred local worthy. 'When I get home in this state the wife's going to give me the longest lecture I've ever had in my life!'

Monday lunchtime in a town takeaway. In walks a customer, her head in the hood of her anorak because of the Fort rain and wind. She selects a piece of cheese and a couple of oatcakes. 'Have you any garlic?' she asks. To which the ever-alert counterhand replies: 'You'll have to go to the corner shop for that, madam'. 'Madam' looks at him and says: 'You're the only one in town who's recognised me!' It was Thelma Barlow - Mavis Riley of Coronation Street fame. She was spotted later in the day when she had dinner in the Crannog. Was the ever-harassed Derek with Mavis? Well, I don't really know.

A European customer was speaking to Divy up in the Snow Goose restaurant on Aonach Mor. 'Have you some Pils?' the visitor asked. Divy went through the back to have a look and came back and said: 'We've got Anadin or aspirin, if you'd like a couple'. European gives Divy an odd look and explained he was hoping to buy a bottle of Pils lager.

Roy Bridge, Spean Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council has come up with the answer to a question I've heard numerous times from several other community councils and tenants' and residents' associations. 'How do you get Lochaber District Council to reply to letters?' Well, the above mentioned community council has photocopied all of its unanswered correspondence - some of it going back over a year - and delivered the file by hand to the chairman and chief executive of Lochaber District Council. Other organisations may care to take note.

It must have been a pretty uplifting experience for the lorry driver who arrived at Scotstoun, Strontian, last Friday. He had delivery and collection notes for DAF/British Leyland at Scotstoun, Strathclyde. Somehow he'd made the longer haul to the Highlands and across on the Corran Ferry. As ex-Provost Margaret Murphie used to say: 'Decisions are being made for Lochaber by some well-intentioned people in the south who don't know how to read a map.'

It pays to advertise. Following AA man Gordon Clark's successful mechanical work on a grounded commercial helicopter last week, a Sea King from Lossiemouth landed in the West End car park, close to the AA HQ. On its windscreen were two stickers - AA Homestart and AA Relay. Honest!

A sister paper of the Lochaber News excelled itself last weekend in its report about the intention of British Waterways Board to market and promote the Caledonian Canal. It stated: 'By 17 votes to three, the region's libraries and leisure committee decided not to contribute towards the cost of appointing a proposed tourism development officer for the Caledonian Hotel. My only surprise in reading this, apart from 'canal' becoming 'hotel', was that it wasn't a 20-0 decision!'

Wattie Whitehead got a new hearing aid. For the first time in long enough he was hearing everything as clear as a bell. So Wattie went for a celebration drink in the masonic club. There he got into conversation with a group of patrons. The likely lads soon twigged Wattie had a new ear piece and after 10 minutes of normal banter and chat, they started to whisper among themselves and communicate by miming. Poor Wattie hadn't a hear-in, so he adjusted the aid until it was sounding like the steam train's whistle. But he still couldn't make out a word. Until, that is, the table erupted in laughter to give the show away.

Maurice Walsh wrote many a pawky novel, not the least humorous of which was 'The Road to Nowhere'. It is fitting then that the Irish author - who began his working career in Scotland as an excise officer at Ben Nevis Distillery - may be succeeded by a modern day writer who will pen a historical follow-up with the working title 'The Road through An Aird'. Because, from what I'm hearing via the Scottish Office, the continuation of the new A82 through the reclaimed land and branching off to Caol may never happen.

The police description of the successful search for a minister and two companions who got stranded between Loch Morar and Loch Arkaig was particularly apt. 'Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team and an RAF helicopter crew went out to search for the stranded trio and completed their task in their usual accomplished manner, with the minister and his companions being uplifted on Sunday morning.'

A cow on local croft land didn't exactly jump over the moon prior to Lochaber Agricultural Show. But it did make a pretty good job of climbing up a ladder! Apparently said ladder had been placed in a strategic position to protect flowers and plants prior to the show judging, particularly as it had been noted one cow might take a shine to the exotic colours as a change from its usual diet. So what did the cow do? It simply stuck its head in between the rungs of the ladder and chomped happily away at the rows of exhibits. Then, satisfied, the cow lifted its head and charged off with the ladder round its neck!



Ballachulish Ferry, 1959.

Pioneer care scheme falters after too few people seek its support

SANDY NEIL
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LISMORE and Appin's 'successful' new care scheme is under threat after too few people signed up to it, resulting in the coordinator's post not being renewed.

The Appin and Lismore Community Care Scheme, a social enterprise model of home care employing local carers to care for local people, was due to be rolled out across Argyll after its 12-month trial ends in October.

A Lismore carer told us the innovative project was the 'ideal solution' to problems faced in remote Argyll, as growing numbers retire to 'paradise' only to find old age turns into a 'nightmare'.

But one carer on Lismore, retired teacher and 'potential client' Mary MacDougall, fears the island is now losing its 'highly successful' home care service, saying: 'My 90-year-old mum receives care from this group, and she and I are anxious about this.'

She told *The Oban Times* the care was 'inadequate' before because external carers didn't turn up due to cancelled or missed ferries, or left when they could not find clients in their allotted time.

In 2016 Appin Community Trust successfully bid for £17,000 from the Integrated Care Fund to employ a care coordinator, Elizabeth Bruce, for a year through Highland Home Care. A team of Lismore and Appin Carers were recruited and trained, even winning a Scottish Care Award this year.

Ms MacDougall continued: 'Care in the community, by

members of the community, seemed the ideal solution. We can give them the care. We have had the training. A person could be looked after in their own home without any distress.

'If an elderly person falls in Lismore, there is no doctor, no nurse. The person is lifted by helicopter to Oban. They cannot leave hospital until there is a care package in place. How much does that cost?'

The scheme, she said, had stopped ill and elderly islanders 'bed blocking' Oban and Glasgow hospitals, or forever leaving for sheltered housing and care homes far from family and friends on the mainland, 'which must be more expensive for Argyll and Bute'.

'But it seems, like all good ideas in Argyll and Bute, it's going to be scrapped and all the costly training will neither benefit our communities nor Argyll and Bute Council,' said Ms MacDougall.

'Liz has been given notice that her job ends on October 15. She made sure we were competent and confident to look after people. I would give Liz a full-time job and send her to other islands. They all have the same problem: a stretch of water between them and help.'

Islander John Livingstone, who died of cancer in August, spent his remaining time at home with family on Lismore thanks to Liz Bruce and the carers' support, his son Andrew said.

'It meant everything for him. He would have gone downhill a lot quicker if he had gone into hospital. We would not have been able to spend that much time with him. It worked very

Fab four celebrate degree success



Four former pupils of Oban High School graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Marine Science from SAMS UHI on Friday. Daniel Burt, Joni Anfield, Rebecca Kynoch and Stacey Felgate were among 19 undergraduates who presented with their degrees at a ceremony in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls. For full story and more pictures, turn to page four. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

well. They were able to tell us how to make a hard situation very much easier,' he said.

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership stated: 'Funding for the care coordinator would be generated from a percentage of the

funding they received for each client they supported. However, local residents in Appin and Lismore who receive care, like everyone else, have the legal right to choose their own care provider and the scheme has unfortunately been unable to

attract sufficient residents to retain the coordinator's post.

'They had issues in recruiting and retaining staff which means they have also not been able to expand their care provision.'

'This model of care has been

highly recommended and it is important we work together to build on the framework. We will continue to hopefully find a solution, and our priority is to ensure continuity of care for the clients living in Appin and Lismore.'

Brave Ciara loses battle with illness

'BRAVE' Ciara Caskie Allan, 16, from Islay has lost her 13-year battle with illness.

Sharing the sad news on the Ciara Caskie Allan Appeal Facebook page, the family said: 'Sadly today we lost our brave little girl'.

'Despite her amazing courage, coupled with the most infectious smile and overwhelming personality our dearest Ciara lost her long running battle with her horrible illness.'

'No words can express how we are all feeling this evening, our home seems completely empty without her.'

'As a family we would all like to thank each and every one of you that gave Ciara your support and encouragement over her 13-year battle. One thing this journey has taught us is that thankfully there are still far more good people in this world than there are bad.'

'Tonight she sleeps in a better place free of pain and illness but forever in our hearts.'

'God bless you, Ciara.'

Grants available

AGE Scotland has announced £15,000 in grants for innovative projects that promote social well-being among older people.

The charity has invited Men's Sheds across Scotland, including Fort William, to apply for funding towards start-up costs, volunteer training, storage units, tools, machinery, or other equipment.

The charity's small development grants programme is supported by the Robertson Trust and the Scottish Government.

The closing date for applications is October 31.

Lochaber Ideas Week

November 13-17, 2017

Enter the Dragons' Glen and win a £10,000 investment for your business idea!



Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is delighted to bring you a bigger, better, faster Dragons' Glen as part of Ideas Week 2017 in association with West Coast Communities Growth Trust administered by Foundation Scotland, with £10,000 prize money available for one daring entrepreneur!

Dragons Angus MacDonald, Anja Baak, Steve Ham and Emma Parton ready to inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs right here in the Outdoor Capital of the UK, Lochaber!

This is the fourth year of the Dragons' Glen competition - inspired by the popular TV show! The competition is open to all Lochaber residents, aged 16 or over, who have a business idea, and businesses wishing to diversify or introduce an innovative new concept. Dragons' Glen applicants are asked to produce a 90 second video pitch along with a written application explaining why their venture is of "important to the area".

2014 saw Oliver Millington of Three Wise Monkeys take first place and since then he has taken his vision of renovating an old church into the town's first indoor climbing centre a reality!

A representative from 3WM

said "Well, we did it. An awesome new Indoor Climbing Centre in Fort William. No more nothing to do on a rainy day, no more nothing to do on the dark winter evenings. 3 Wise Monkeys happened because we believe the UK climbing community deserves better - and we're pushing ourselves all the time to make that happen"

“Winning Dragons' Glen in 2016 helped me to launch my first collection**”**

Lorna Gillies
2016 Dragons' Glen winner

In 2015 Clan Pods were our winners. Today they continue to put in exciting new structures throughout the Outdoor Capital of the UK, including major works at Glencoe Mountain Resort.

Last year's winner was Scottish Fashion Designer Lorna Gillies who wowed the Dragons' with her bespoke traditional womenswear with a contemporary twist.

Lorna Gillies said, "Winning Dragons' Glen in 2016 allowed me to take a trip to the isle of



Top: Oliver Millington. Left to Right: Angus MacDonald OBE, Emma Parton, Anja Baak, Steve Ham.

Lewis, visit the Harris Tweed mills and form relationships with the independent weavers based there. It also allowed me to buy fabric in bulk which helped me to launch my first

collection." "I have also been lucky enough to showcase my products in various Highland Shows across Scotland including the Royal Highland

Show and Scone Palace Game Fair." "I encourage entrepreneurs to enter Dragons' Glen - I mainly did this to take me out of my comfort zone! So take

part and good luck!" This year's event will take place on Wednesday 15th November at 5pm at The Moorings Hotel in Fort William. Anyone who dares to enter

the Dragons' Glen should email chris.obrien@lochaberchamber.co.uk please note that the closing date for entries will be 5pm on Friday 29th September.

FW

Viewpoint

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

Traffic congestion and drivers not heeding speed limits all contribute to frustration and fears for people living in the communities where these problems arise.

Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge are two such communities. But this week, we hear they are taking the situation into their own hands, looking to find a possible solution.

One suggestion was should interested residents be issued with hand-held speed guns, similar to those used by traffic police, to help combat speeding drivers?

It is a bold move but as Police Scotland's local inspector Isla Campbell said there are a lot of things to consider, not

least residents own safety when out with the speed guns – not just from passing traffic but from possible unhappy drivers.

And surely ordinary citizens shouldn't have to take matters like these into their own hands.

While we can understand Police Scotland having trouble manning speed checks in the many areas of concern, why can't the powers that be look at putting up a temporary speed check to monitor the traffic in the area causing concern or flashing speed limit signs, which may not guard against boy racers, but they might just help reinforce the limit to the vast majority of drivers?



Days gone by – 1995

Our photograph this week is from August 1995 and pictured are cousins Russell Tosh, 13, Gayle Dickie, 11, and Christopher Anton, 10, who swept the boards in the handicraft competition at the Lorn Show, with Russell taking the overall trophy.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



JUST to keep things varied, this week's piece is a split offering of subject matters divided between film and music.

When Monsters Call

In contrast to my last foray into film reviewing when my disappointed take on the new Whisky Galore film was featured by the Scotsman because of the level to which it slated the subject movie, this is altogether a much more positive comment.

Watching a film for me is always a risk. The feelings evoked by seeing a good moving picture can be very inspiring, energising and enriching. A good story, well told, is one of the age-old learning and leisure tools of mankind and film is a very fine modern-day vehicle for this ancient aspect of human interaction.

However, when one chooses the wrong film and expectations are dashed, you are left feeling as if you have been robbed of three hours of your life. Thankfully, my last film experience was a good one.

When Monsters Call was released early this year in the UK, but I missed the cinema viewings so watched it online at the weekend.

The film centres round a young boy

and his simultaneous battles with school bullies, a difficult relationship with his – at first appearances – domineering grandmother, his estranged father and the terminal illness of his mother.

An influence of guidance and wisdom comes to him in the form of an ancient yew tree which has come to life. With three old stories relating to conflicting human behaviour along with wise words, the yew tree guides the boy to face his inner and similarly conflicting fears. The film ends with a deeply sad but satisfying feeling of acceptance and closure.

Mortality and the complexities and conflicts of man's character and behaviour are common themes in anthropological study and this film captures these themes in a very simple and beautiful way.

I would highly recommend this film and would also recommend finding and seeking guidance from our own ancient yew trees of wisdom – some of them aren't even that ancient!

BOW Fest

Yet again, The Best of the West Festival in Inveraray delivered a fine weekend celebrating and promoting a variety of the best food, produce and music that

Argyll has to offer. Hosted by the Duke and Duchess of Argyll in the grounds of Inveraray Castle, this was their biggest event yet, with three days and nights of revelling and sampling of food and drink. Despite some of the questionable doings of his ancestors, Torquil Campbell is a very fine host and along with his wife Eleanor leads a great team of festival organisers who have created one of the best events of its kind in the country.

We had the pleasure of finishing off the Friday night's entertainment, but the musical highlight for me was listening to young Strachur band Heron Valley who were on before us. This is a band that will be at the top of our music scene very soon.

Food highlights were a close call between Loch Fyne oysters and The Real MacKay Stovie Company. Unfortunately no whisky highlights could be identified as we were all driving, but there was a fine array to choose from. For those on soft drinks the delicious creamy milk from the Wee Isle Dairy on Gigha was a perfect alternative to a dram!

If you didn't make it this year, get it in the diary for next September and leave your car at home.



Jennifer E. Anderson: Lovely pic! How time flies! Xxx
James Stewart added: Ben Carmichael? Behind the big fella, Gregor Mcluckie.

Do you recognise yourself or an old classmate in the photograph? Let us know, email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

Social media

Photographs from our archives have been going down a storm with many people recognising themselves or old school chums. This photograph from a book safari at Oban Library had a lot of people reminiscing.

Lena Duran said: Allan Beaton with magnifying glass, Laura Beaton, Mary McCuish, Martin Still. Faces I know but can't remember names!

Louise Kilmurray Marshall: Theresa Cooper I'm 99.5 per cent sure that's you on the left of the man.

Gregor Mcluckie marvelled: Wow, can't even remember that but look how young we are must of been first or second year in high school.

James Stewart laughed: That's not me Gus my head was never that shape.

Thomas Shaw: What year was that?

Press policy

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

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

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

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

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

Cinema's aim is to cover all of Lochaber

Sir,
In response to the letter of August 23 regarding the Lochaber Cinema Group plans for a community cinema in Fort William, we would like to answer some of the concerns raised.

Lochaber Cinema has been working since February 2016.

We have tried to cover as much of Lochaber as our volunteers can manage. We have screened children's movies once a month in the Venue Cinema and Theatre in Kinlochleven, The Community Centre in Caol, and Kilmallie Hall in Corpach. We also went out last Christmas to screen a movie at many local primary schools, including Mallaig primary school.

We initially looked at the old cinema building in Cameron Square, however, given the costs of upgrading, including a new fire escape route, new disabled access lift, further major upgrading inside, it was clear that this was not a project that was viable. In order to receive grant funding, you need to own the property or have a long lease of 20+ years, and neither of these would have been an option.

Our planning application was submitted and up on the council website from Friday 16/06/2017 and planners were seeking comments for nine weeks. The planning application itself was from months of work put in by our agent Stephen Fair.

There were no objections from local businesses or from residents in the neighbouring flats. We also held a public consultation meeting two weeks ago in the Duncansburgh Church Hall. Plenty of time was allowed for submitting comments directly to the planning application process. The planners did a great job in issuing planning permission on time and without any onerous conditions.

Their approach fits perfectly with the Scottish Government aims: to increase town centre footfall, and encourage innovative re-use of retail units whilst national shopping habits continue to change and risk the decline of traditional high streets. Far better to see two empty High Street units back in use, and an all-weather, all-year-round community use at that.

The shop units we have chosen have had much speculation as to the sizing but as our plans show, two screens can be fitted in there. What is wrong with being small? We do not aspire to be a multiplex cinema in fact many community cinema groups have sprung up in recent years all over Scotland.

LCG would like to thank the planners of Lochaber for giving our project the green light and giving Lochaber the chance to have a new entertainment facility for all ages.

As a group, LCG are members of

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk



MA SHEALLAS SINN air ais air eachdraidh na Gàidhlig thar còrr air ceud gu leth bliadhna saoilidh mi gum faodte a ràdh, mar a thuir an sgrìobhaiche Mark Twain ma dheidhinn fhèin uair, gum bheil gainnead firinn ann an naidheachd a bàis! Nach bu mhath gun leanadh an suidheachadh sin agus nach biodh adhbhar tuilleadh aig Gàidheil is eile a bhith a' bruidhinn air bàs cànanach gum biodh adhbhar moit aca à ath-nuadhachadh nan cuid cànan is a cultar. Mar a dh'innses eòlaichean cànan dhuinn bitheanta, cha ghlèidh cànan sam bith beò gun i bhith ag atharrachadh agus a' gluasad air adhart fo bhuidhean an t-saoghail anns am bheil ear glaeachdadh. Anns an t-seadh dhùbhlachadh sin feumaidh Gàidhlig a bhith ag atharrachadh cuideachd agus 's e an t-amas a dh'fheumas a bhith againne nach caill sinn cus a tha ro luachmhor anns an ùrachadh sin.

Tha mi a' sgrìobhadh 's mi dìreach air tilleadh bho Mhòd Ionadach na Dreòlluinn ann am Muile, an dàrna Mòd agam ann an cola-deug oir bha mi aig Mòd Ìle an t-seachdain roimhe. Abair gun do chòrd na tachartasan sin rium is aogheachd nan eileanan fa leth cho gasta agus fialaidh 's a bha riamh, agus cuideachd deagh irean ciùil agus Gàidhlig a bha nam misneachadh. Aig amannan saoilidh mi gum bi a h-uile duine againn a tha an lùib na Gàidhlig a' faireachadh beagan dì-mhisneachail, ach an uairsin thig neach an lùib tachartais leithid fear de na Mòdan ionadail seo agus thig ùrachadh misneachd às na sgàthain sin air coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig.

Saoilidh cuid nach eil anns na Mòdan ach tachartas aon latha sa bhliadhna agus nach eil iad a' cur ri spionnadh agus cleachdadh na Gàidhlig anns na coimhearsnachdan, ach na mo bheachds a sin fada ceàrr! Tha oideachadh agus ionnsachadh ma choinneimh fharpaisèan Mhòdan a' dol air adhart fad na bliadhna a' tarraing aire agus aithne dhaoine aig gach ìre chun a' chànan agus a' togail a h-inbhe.

Cinema for All, Filmhub Scotland and Filmbank. We have also been receiving advice from the Eden Court programmer, director of Regional Screen Scotland and various other cinema and film industry people. We have taken the time over the last two years to forge these relationships.

The group itself has worked extremely hard in delivering screenings and being involved in getting to know the cinema and film industry. Information about our project is on our website and on our Facebook page.

What has been most heartening in the last few days, is the support we as individuals, and as a group, have received both in person, and on our Facebook page. We would like to thank each person who has voiced their support, it means a lot to us all.

Marie MacPherson
LCG Chairperson

Mull residents' fears over Gazelle use

Sir,
Regarding the article 'Debate continues over treatment for pine weevil':

I write on behalf of a group of more than 50 residents of North West Mull concerned about the use, in forests across the island, of Gazelle, containing amongst other chemicals the neonicotinoid acetamiprid. Our deeply held concerns are three fold:

The dire effect of neonicotinoids on wildlife and biodiversity. This includes aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, and the animals and birds that feed on them;

The water solubility of acetamiprid which raises concerns over the possible contamination of private and public water supplies and the subsequent effect on human health;

The risk to health of contractors handling the treated seedlings or spraying the Gazelle – much of the time in very remote areas of Scotland away from management supervision.

Acetamiprid has not been proven to be safe and there are a growing number of scientific papers, published more recently than 2013, which provide evidence to support our concerns. In 2015 it was classed as 'highly hazardous' by UKWAS (UK Woodland Assurance Standard). Currently the EU is considering a complete ban of neonicotinoid use in its member states. We understand that nearly 150 pesticides and herbicides previously licensed as safe to use have subsequently been banned.

On Mull there are two community-owned forests and thankfully, in response to our concerns, North West Mull Community Woodland Company and South West Mull and Iona Development have agreed NOT to consider using Gazelle with-

out first consulting the community. Forestry Commission Scotland has not used Gazelle in Mull forests, however, this pesticide has already been used in two privately owned forests on the island.

There are alternatives to using Gazelle, including using more mature saplings, extending the fallow period between harvesting and replanting to more than five years possibly with the addition of using barrier methods (such as nets and wax). Across Scandinavia and a growing number of European countries non-chemical methods are being used.

In order for forest managers to be able to extend the fallow period there would have to be a change in the Forest Design Plan contracts and any associated grant requirements. This would need the support of the Scottish Government and its agent Forestry Commission Scotland.

It would also be good to see outside funding support for further research in to alternative methods of pine weevil control as seen in other countries. **Caroline Wood on behalf of 'No Neonicotinoids on Mull Group'.**

Islay councillor urged to meet with ICC

Sir,
I write in response to Councillor Redman's letter to *The Oban Times* (7 September 2017). I understand that the decision to withdraw some support to Trust Housing on Islay was made in 2011 by Argyll and Bute Council long before the Health and Care Partnership was set up to deliver integrated care.

Maybe instead of arguing against a decision made some years ago and, incidentally, brings Islay into line with all other Trust Housing policy across Scotland, Councillor Redman could make a constructive contribution to how we can all provide care for people living in their own homes or in supported accommodation.

This planning is already under way in the Islay and Jura Locality Planning group to minimise the disruption to the lives of residents and their families.

I gather Councillor Redman was invited to the Islay Community Council to explain his role on the integrated joint board and his views on health and social care but unfortunately he didn't attend. Could I suggest that he contacts the ICC to try and arrange another date? As an interested member of the public I would like to hear his views.

Could I also suggest he thinks again about relying on stock labels such as separatist and unionist and thinks about people as human beings and constituents. Maybe he could also reflect on the meaning of the word democracy.

A. Humphreys
Port Askaig, Islay

Ailean Caimbeul

A bharrachd air na mìltean a tha an sàs anns an deasachadh sin, tha mìltean eile a' cruinneachadh airgead gum na tachartasan a stèidheachadh agus cosgaisean siubhail, is eile, fharpaisèan a chòmhdach. Na mo bheachds chan eil duine dhiubh sin bheachd gur ann a' frithealadh tiodhlacaidh a tha iad!

Gun teagamh shìolaidh craos teine na Gàidhlig thar linntean ach tha fianais Mhòdan a' toirt dòchas gum bheil griosach an teine sin ga bheothachadh tro leasachaidhean foghlaim agus ealain a' chànan. Rud cho togarrach 's a chunna mi aig an dà Mhòd seo b' e na bha de luchd-ciùil òga proifeiseanta Gàidhlig a' brìtheamhachd!

HAVING had the honour of adjudicating at the provincial Mòds in Islay and Mull in the past fortnight, I feel re-encouraged to believe that the decline of Gaelic is being arrested. Performances were clearly motivated and enhanced by Gaelic medium education and arts initiatives, and it was particularly encouraging to see so many young professional Gaelic musicians involved as adjudicators and role models.

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
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Le taic bho

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Your letters

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

must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not

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

Oban mum to pay damages to grieving family

AN OBAN mother of three who was cleared of killing her partner in a car crash on the A85 near Connel in August 2013 has been told she will have to pay his grieving family damages after a second court ruled she failed to prove her negligence did not cause the accident.

Veteran Vincent Kennedy, 32, died after Veronica MacKenzie collided with another vehicle in the accident which also claimed the life of an elderly woman from Fort William who was a passenger in the other car.

MacKenzie, 36, was cleared of causing Mr Kennedy and Mary Gillies' death by careless driving following a trial in 2015.

But last week the case went before Edinburgh's Court of Session after Mr Kennedy's sister Nina raised a civil action.

She claimed the accident was caused by MacKenzie's negligence and not the slippery conditions described at the criminal trial.

Oban Sheriff Court had previously heard from MacKenzie

that the road was wet on the day of the crash and that she was unable to avoid the collision.

Her solicitor claimed that in the three years leading up to the accident, Transport Scotland annually checked the road conditions at the scene of the crash and found skid resistance 'very low', but failed to upgrade it.

But judge Lord Uist last week said she was to blame and she now faces having to pay Mr Kennedy's family for the loss, injury and damage they sustained as a result of his death.

Lord Uist will decide later this year on how much they should receive.

He said in his judgement, published last week: 'No other driver experienced a skid causing an accident over a period of about seven years.

'That fact is, to me, a very strong indication that, at the time of the accident, the road was not so slippery as to be the sole cause of a vehicle going into a skid there.

'In these circumstances the

defender has failed to discharge the burden upon her of establishing that the cause of the accident was something other than her negligence.

'I shall find the defender liable to make reparation to the pursuers and continue the cause for a proof on quantum of damages.'

Glen Millar, a partner with Thompsons Solicitors who represents MacKenzie, said: 'Ms MacKenzie continues a long fight back to full fitness from her own devastating, life-threatening injuries while at the same time dealing with the loss of her beloved partner and bringing up the couple's three young children alone.

'She has taken strength from Lord Uist's decision and from the fact that, for a second time, after hearing all evidence relative to the accident a court was unable to make any specific finding of negligence by her.'

It is not known if Mr Kennedy's stepson and two children with MacKenzie will benefit from the action.



The Oban Times editor Susan Windram hands over the MacDonald Cup to Billy Forteith and Finlo Cottier. 15_T37_Cup for banned speedboat race finds new home_01

Oban speedboat race cup finds new home

A SILVER speed boat trophy last awarded more than 40 years ago has found a new sporting home: the Round Mull Race, writes Sandy Neil.

Octogenarian Donnie McLeod was the last winner of the MacDonald Cup in the 1960s before a speed limit was imposed in Oban Bay. The cup, sporting two fish-shaped handles and an engraving of two racing yachts, was donated by The Oban Times and handed down from winner to winner.

But when the ban put an end

to the competition, Donnie had no-one to pass it on to, so he hoped it could find a new home.

Oban Sailing Club has now stepped forward to present the prize at its annual Round Mull Race, which races 120 miles over three legs from Oban to Tobermory, then Tobermory to Bunnassan, and then back to Oban.

Billy Forteith, principal organiser of the Round Mull Race, said: 'It is an open race that anybody with a keel boat can enter. You do not need to

be a member.' Finlo Cottier, commodore of the 'thriving' Oban Sailing Club on Dungal-lan Road, said its membership, which has grown recently from 120 to more than 200, could benefit from its range of boats and training from dinghies to powerboats.

Professor Cottier, senior lecturer in polar oceanography at SAMS, said: 'We are trying to create a club that is working with lots of groups in the community and make sailing accessible to everyone.'

Record-breaking Mòd heads to Lochaber

THE ROYAL National Mòd (Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail) will return to Lochaber next month for what is set to be a record-breaking year for the festival.

Participant numbers at the Mòd this year are expected to exceed 3,600 – the highest in a decade.

The nine-day spectacular of Gaelic music, arts and sport will take place in Fort William for the first time in 10 years and will this year welcome representatives from towns and cities the Mòd hasn't seen in generations.

Thousands of competitors from Scotland and across the world, including a delegation of American competitors, will take part in 200 competitions.

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'We're excited to be returning to Fort William for the first time in 10 years and to do so with a record number of participants is just terrific. We've had a very busy year in the run-up to the festival, from running our popular Mòd roadshow which encourages children to take part, to our Mòd Academy bringing dedicated Gaelic tutors to 14 schools throughout Scotland.

'We're thrilled to have local celebrities Robert Robertson, Ross Wilson and Na h'Oganaich as part of this year's opening ceremony.'

Scotland's biggest Gaelic cultural festival starts on Friday October 13 with a torchlight procession through Fort William to the Nevis Centre where the opening ceremony will be held.

Highland councillor Alister Mackinnon said: 'We are delighted the Royal National Mòd is returning to Lochaber, an area where Gaelic and its associated culture remains part of the community.'

Oil rig crash report reveals safety errors

A TUG towing an oil rig which ran aground off Lewis last year was sailing too close to the shore, used a line in 'poor condition', and had 'no contingency plan' for stormy weather, a damning report has found, writes Sandy Neil.

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) last Wednesday concluded its inquiry into the £20m Transocean Winner disaster, leading to calls for prosecutions from environmental charity Friends of the Earth Scotland.

Both Na h-Eileanan an Iar's MP Angus MacNeil and MSP Dr Alasdair Allan urged the return of an Emergency Towing Vessel (ETV) to the West Coast.

The decommissioned rig was being towed past the Hebrides from Norway to Malta by the Dutch registered tug ALP Forward last August, when the tow line was lost in rough weather. The semi-submersible 17,580 tonne rig grounded on Dalmore beach near Carlaway on Lewis' north west coast at 6.52am on August 8. It was removed for scrappage earlier this year.

It sparked pollution fears due to

the 280 tonnes of diesel on board, and two of its four fuel tanks were damaged, leaking 53,000 litres of fuel.

The MAIB's inquiry found: 'The effect of the wind and waves on Transocean Winner led to the loss of ALP Forward's ability to control the direction and speed of the tug and tow. After being dragged backwards by the tow for over 24 hours, the tow line, weakened by the repeated sudden loadings, parted and the tug was unable to pick up the emergency towline.'

Dr Allan said he was 'troubled' by the report: 'Although no lives were lost and there was no significant environmental damage, the incident served to point to the huge danger the island economy and environment would face, if a vessel carrying a large amount of hazardous cargo found herself in a similar position.

'The report says that the decision by the master of the tug to leave Stavanger, given the weather forecast, was "borderline" and that voyage planning "did not consider the effect of high winds". The report raises a number of worrying points, such as

the lack of essential information, instruction or guidance in the towing vessel's towing manual. This would have left the crew with insufficient information to carry out their duties, and the fact that the report says that "such arrangements may not be unusual in ocean towage" is deeply worrying.

'It also raises questions about why the nearest ETV was 12 hours away in Orkney. It is clear the West Coast remains at risk of future incidents occurring. Instead of seeing this incident as a wakeup call, the UK Government has so far been deaf to the collective calls for a second ETV based in the Western Isles.'

The rig's owner Transocean paid the Maritime and Coastguard Agency £400,000 of its bill for the operation on top of the £17m spent so far recovering it, with the final bill expected to reach £20m.

ALP Maritime Services BV said: 'We have received the report and are currently reviewing the findings and reasoning behind it. This will take some time and we will be able to comment once the review has been completed.'

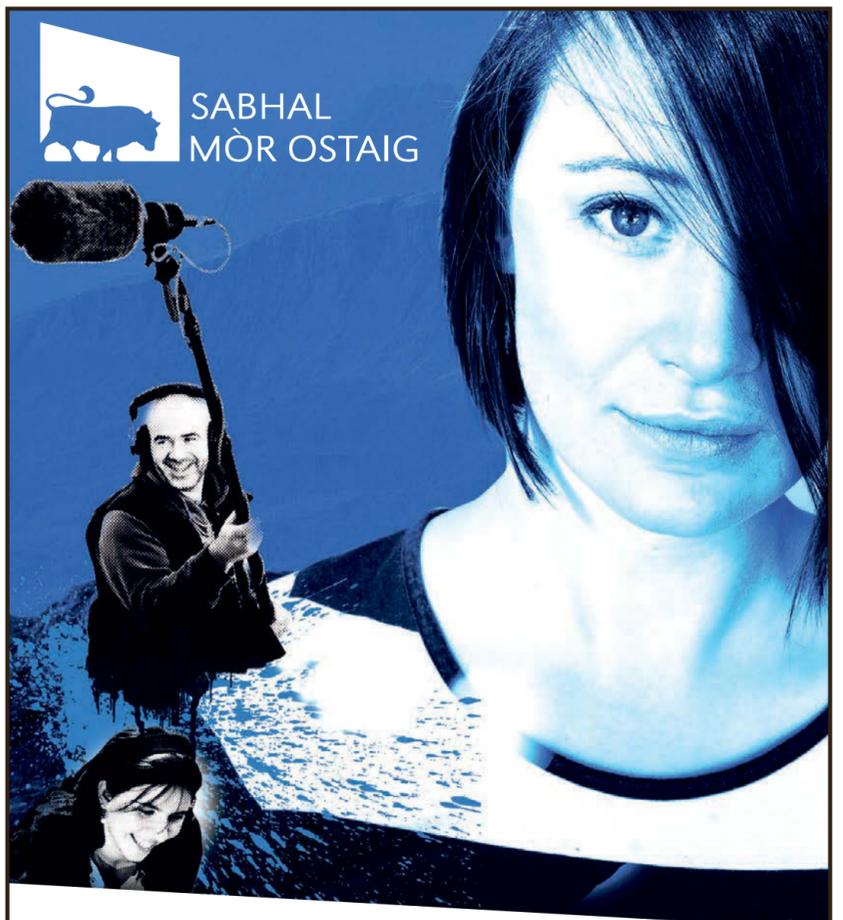
Gearing up for winter driving

PLANS are in place to keep Argyll and Bute moving this winter.

There will be 38 vehicles available round the clock to keep roads open and the number of drivers will be increased.

More than 15,000 tonnes of salt are being stockpiled and 12 road surface and weather monitoring stations will be used.

Policy lead for roads and amenity services Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'With our winter maintenance plan and a budget of £1.645 million, we remain committed to keeping Argyll and Bute moving which is why we have again put in place a robust maintenance plan to keep our roads as clear and safe as possible.'



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Pipe band fundraiser nets £5,000

OBAN HIGH School Pipe Band raised more than £5,000 last weekend when members took turns playing for 500 consecutive minutes.

The fundraising success means both bands that competed this year will be able to attend the UK Championships in Belfast next June.

The sponsored session started at 9am at the performance area at Stafford Street and continued until 5.30pm.

Nan Johnstone of OHS Pipe Band said: 'The day could not have gone better because we were blessed with the weather.'

'We were delighted. Once all the money is counted we are definitely going to be over £5,000. That's with support from local businesses along with people who made it out on the day.'

'We'd like to thank everyone for their support – people are very generous. From the parents to the local businesses, to the public and tourists, we are very fortunate.'

'We'd like to thank the band themselves because it was them that sustained it.'

'And at the top of it all there's Angus [McColl, pipe major] – without him we wouldn't have a band.'



Zoe Cook, Emma Hill, Jennie MacLean and Robbie MacKay of Oban High School Pip Band take a break from their sponsored play on Stafford Street on Saturday. The young pipers and drummers played for eight-and-a-half hours without stopping to try and raise funds to send both young bands to Belfast next year. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

Lochaber come up short against Bishopton

Bishopton	39
Lochaber	12
BT West Division 3	

LOCHABER travelled to Bishopton for their first away game in the West League Division Three this season.

Lochaber were looking to emulate the success of their thumping victory over Moffat in their first game of the season. With five changes to the starting line-up and six players missing from last week, the boys from Banavie were facing a tough afternoon.

Lochaber's line-up saw two debuts for Niall MacIntyre and Koni Johnson, both playing their first ever game of rugby.

Sam Docker also made his first start for the club after coming off the bench last weekend and is the latest player to come through the youth ranks at Lochaber.

The visitors started the game well and in the first few minutes Lochaber took the lead when Findlay Ireland crossed the line to score the first try of the game. Bishopton soon came back into the game with their big forward pack putting the

Lochaber scrum under pressure. That pressure soon told when Bishopton scored their first try of the game.

Lochaber were beginning to miss the experience of some of the absent players as the game wore on and the team conceded a number of unnecessary penalties - allowing Bishopton to keep the score board ticking over.

The visitors' lineout was working well once again and they were able to steal quite a few Bishopton lineouts. The Lochaber men made a change to the front row with captain Callum MacDonald swapping from the second row to tight head prop. After the switch Lochaber were able to compete in the scrum and actually put the Bishopton pack under some pressure.

Near the end of the game Lochaber exerted a big squeeze on the Bishopton scrum and when the ball popped out of the scrum flanker Keith Garrick kicked the ball through and managed to recover it and pop it up to no.8 Rory MacKay to score Lochaber's second try of the game.

A Jonathan McCook conver-



Lochaber's Callum Boyd tried to break the Bishopton line. Photo: Sian Neil.

sion added the two extra points. Despite a spirited finish to the game, Lochaber's efforts came up short and the game ended 39-12 to Bishopton.

Lochaber will now play Wigtownshire at Banavie this Saturday at a 3pm kick off. Lochaber will be looking to get a strong squad out for the

home game and will have a few players returning to the fold now the college students are back from their summer break. Lochaber scores: Tries - Find-

Rugby

lay Ireland, Rory MacKay. Conversions - Jonathan McCook 1.

Shinty ladies looking for votes

Shinty

FRESH from their Camanachd Cup Final appearance last week, Lochaber Camanachd Club Ladies are appealing for shoppers' votes to win up to £4,000.

The club's successful application to the Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme now means that they have been put forward to a customer vote in Tesco stores.

The cash boost will help the club build on their success in previous years and allow more money to be spent on facilities, equipment and sticks as well as strips and transport for the coming seasons. Having won the Camanachd Cup Final in 2016 and being runner-ups in this year's final, the club are looking to consolidate for the future.

Shoppers can vote in Tesco's stores in Fort William and Aviemore for three projects. Voting closes on Tuesday, October 31, whereby the amount of funding each of the competing clubs will receive will be announced.

The project with the highest number of votes will receive up to £4,000, the second placed project up to £2,000 and the third placed project £1,000.

Lochaber club lottery numbers

Lottery

THIS week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 8, 14 and 15. There were no winners this week. There will now be £300 in the pot for this week's draw today (Thursday September 14).

The numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 7, 9 and 17. There was one winning ticket with Karen MacRaid winning the £1,100 jackpot. There will now be a jackpot for £100 for next Thursday's draw.

The Ballachulish Shinty Club lottery numbers for this week were 1, 14 and 15. There were no winning tickets this week so there is a £400 jackpot on offer next week.

The Caol Community Centre bingo lotto numbers for this week are 9, 11 and 17. There were no winners this week meaning that next week's total returns to £200.

Kings win Donnie MacLean Sixes Youth shinty

THE ANNUAL Donnie MacLean Sixes took place at Spean Bridge on Sunday September 3.

After a great day's shinty, Kingussie U14 ran out winners, beating Lochaber U14 in the final.

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Fraserburgh goal fest humbles struggling Fort

Fort William	0
Fraserburgh	10
Highland League	

IT WAS a difficult day for Lochaber football on Saturday as an injury-hit Fort William suffered one of their heaviest defeats in recent years.

Faced with an ever-growing injury list - amounting to almost a full team in itself - the Fort management knew that Saturday's home tie against Fraserburgh was going to be tricky. Little could prepare them, however, for what they were about to experience as a Fraserburgh side firing on all cylinders showed no signs of mercy.

Gary Harris opened the day's scoring for the Broch in seven minutes, signalling a stern warning to the Fort defence. Striker Paul Campbell added a second after 24 minutes before Ryan Sargent and Gary Harris scored before the half hour mark.

Not content with going into the half-time break four goals to the good, Fraserburgh made it five thanks to a Dean Cowie strike.

As the half-time whistle blew, the Fort management team had the unenviable task of trying to rouse the squad before another 45 minutes against a rampant Fraserburgh side. It was clear that the game was now lost for Fort William and damage limitation was now the aim for the second half.

Dean Cowie made sure that

was not going to be an easy task as he grabbed his second of the game shortly after the break. Less than 10 minutes later, midfielder Greg Buchan got on the score sheet before Jamie Beagrie made it 8-0 approaching the hour mark.

Continuing to batter the Fort William goal, the Broch forwards were relentless in their pursuit of goals and the Lochaber side had few answers to the waves of attacks.

Paul Campbell scored his second on 79 minutes before slotting away a penalty to complete his hat-trick and round-off the scoring for Fraserburgh in the final minute of the match.

Football

The double-figure thumping consigns Fort William to a ninth straight defeat in what has been a difficult start to the season for the Lochaber men. The team prop up the foot of the Highland league with a solitary point and a goal difference of -36.

Fort didn't have long to lick their wounds this week as they faced an away trip to Forres Mechanics last night (Wednesday).

On Saturday, the Fort are in league action again as they welcome Deveronvale to Claggan Park. A win could lift the Fort off the bottom of the table.



Barna Tot tackles Bryan Hay. Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



All the young medallists at the Lochaber swim team's awards ceremony. Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Swimmers celebrate at annual awards night

YOUNG Lochaber swimmers enjoyed a night of celebration last Friday night as the Lochaber Leisure Centre Swim Team held its annual awards ceremony.

The evening was a celebration of the success of the young Lochaber swimmers and recognised their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

The results of the club championship, held in June this year, were announced and prizes were presented to the respective winners.

A representative of the swim team said: 'Well done to all the

swimmers and thanks as always goes to the coaches and parents who work tirelessly to support the club and the swimmers.'

If anyone is interested in getting involved in the swim team, or even wishes to support the club, please contact the swim team secretary.

The championship results are as follows: Boys aged 10 and under - 1 Shaun Cann; 2 Cameron Laughry; 3 Rio Bell; 4 Mateusz Will; 5 Ben Britton.

Boys aged 11 - 1 Alex Atkinson; 2 Joseph Tait.

Boys aged 12 - Kai Malcolm.

Boys aged 13 - 1 Evan Atkinson; 2 Gabriel MacCallum; 3 Indigo Grier.

Boys aged 14 - 1 Alistair Tait.

Boys aged 15 and over - 1 Jack Hamilton; 2 Lyall Morris; 3 William Cann; 4 Connor Cann.

Swimming

Girls aged nine and under - 1 Shammon Cann; 2 Yasmin MacCallum.

Girls aged 10 - 1 Iona Dignan.

Girls aged 11 and under - 1 Danni MacLean; 2 Hannah Loughry; 3 Caitlin McGillivray; 4 Elizabeth Morgan; 5 Kirsty Oliver; 6 Eilidh Thomson; 7 Natalie Byrne; 8= Dobrochna Czaplina and Lisa Ford.

Girls aged 12 - 1 Evie-Jay Clark; 2 Rihanna MacCallum; 3 Eva Derbenova.

Girls aged 13 - 1 Jenna MacLean; 2 Poppy Valentine; 3 Alice Ann MacPherson; 4 Lauren Macdonald; 5 Jude Kyle; 6 Connie MacLennan.

Girls aged 14 - 1 Siobhan Gordon; 2 Rachel Ford.

Girls aged 15 and over - 1 Aimee McKay; 2 Amber MacWilliam; 3 Millie Jackson.

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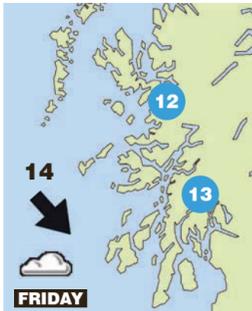
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WEATHER

Thursday	Light rain showers Winds moderate north westerly Temperatures 10°C to 12°C.
Friday	Cloudy Winds moderate north westerly Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.
Weekend Outlook	Cloudy on Saturday Light rain showers on Sunday Winds moderate west north westerly Temperatures 10°C to 14°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday September 14, 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	05.46	1.5	11.44	3.0	18.32	1.6	** ** *	**			Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	01.33	2.9	07.06	1.5	14.07	3.1	20.08	1.6			Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	02.57	3.1	08.25	1.4	15.17	3.4	21.34	1.3			Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	03.55	3.4	09.31	1.1	16.04	3.6	22.28	1.1			Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	04.38	3.6	10.23	0.9	16.41	3.9	23.10	0.9			Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	05.12	3.8	11.08	0.7	17.15	4.1	23.49	0.8			Ferry Crossings/Sea States			
Wed	05.44	3.9	11.49	0.5	17.48	4.2	** ** *	**			Oban to Barra/South Uist		Moderate	
											Oban to Coll/Tiree		Moderate	
											Kennacraig to Islay		Moderate	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)