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90p



Mull celebrates 80th Mòd with 'best one yet'



Mull on alert after scam

by Kathie Griffiths
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Scammers have duped thousands of pounds out of people on Mull in a spate of fake bank calls.

The Oban Times understands more than 10 people in Tobermory have lost money to the 'convincing' scam and others living in Dervaig also received calls from people pretending to be from the Clydesdale Bank's own fraud squad.

A friend of a woman on Mull tricked out of £2,500 contacted The Oban Times to warn others to be vigilant.

She said the woman felt 'violated'.

Neither of the women would be named but wanted to stop the same thing happening to others.

The friend said: 'She is just beside herself. She burst into tears when she told me.'

She said they have taken everything, she has nothing left. All her savings have gone. She feels violated.

'My friend is one of the nicest people you would want to meet. She would do anything for anyone. She's heartbroken over all of this.'

'The phone call said they were from the bank's own fraud squad. They even gave her a Clydesdale bank number to ring them back on. It was only when she went to the bank the next day she discovered money had gone from her account. She had worked hard all summer to save that. She doesn't know who she can trust anymore. She won't talk to anyone on the phone now because she can't see a face.'

According to the friend, she knew of 12 people affected in Tobermory and said there

Continued on page two

X marks the spot for Tracey



Lucky reader Tracey Campbell has scooped £2,500 in our Spot The Ball – after entering the competition just three times. The Oban mum-of-two was all smiles when she picked up her winning cheque from editor Susan Windram this week. For the full story, turn to page three.

Eight months for former Oban officer

A former Oban police officer has been sentenced to eight months in jail for possessing more than 60 child porn images and videos, including one of a baby.

Darryl Burnside has also been placed on the sex offenders' register for 10 years.

The 50-year-old, of 45 Nant Drive, Oban, admitted possessing indecent photographs or pseudo photographs of children at his home address between September 13, 2016, and October 13, 2017.

Burnside was sentenced on Wednesday September 12 at Oban Sheriff Court.

At the time of his arrest, he was a serving police officer in Oban, where he had been working since 1990. He has since retired.

Following intelligence, officers searched Burnside's home and seized a Kindle and a Dragon Touch Tablet.

An analysis of the Kindle uncovered four category C images, and three moving images in category A.

On the tablet were found 49 images in category C, one image in category B, and seven images in category A – the worst in the scale.

Flooring solutions by Mathesons





Model fundraiser

Visitors in Benderloch took in all the sights at the weekend – including the leading tower of Pisa, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The famous Italian attraction was just one of the miniature iconic landmarks featured alongside displays of small-scale cars, trains and planes at a die cast model show in the Victory Hall over two days, raising £1,067.

There were hundreds of exhibits at the show, which donated £300 to the hall for its upkeep and £767 to Scotland's

charity Air Ambulance. George Berry from North Argyll Die Cast Association, who has been collecting models since he was 'knee high to a grasshopper', said: 'I'd really like to thank everyone who came – to display and visit. It was a great success.'

The event also brought a happy end to June and Bob Mann's holiday when they spotted a hoarding for the show on the way home to Leeds.

Bob is a member of the Model Bus Federation: 'It was a bit of luck,' he said.

Blood donors in Oban have helped to save or improve more than 900 lives, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Over just two days in Oban last October, 303 people turned up to donor sessions in town to give the gift of life and now the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service is hoping for a repeat.

The transfusion service will be back at the Corran Halls on Tuesday (September 18) and Tuesday October 23 from 3.30pm to 7.30pm.

On the service's last visit to Oban, 43 new donors were welcomed through the doors.

One of them was 23-year-old Leigh MacKenzie who is a nurse at Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital, but has since been volunteering in Africa.

'Because I've been in Africa I can't give blood this time but I'll definitely do it again,' she said, adding: 'It's one of those things you talk about



doing because you know it's a good thing then chicken out when it comes to it, but I went along with a friend and it was really quick and easy. There was nothing to be scared about.'

Leigh's friend was Oban High School PE teacher Cara Potts.

Leigh, who is about to return to Kenya for another

three months with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) where she is helping 15- to 35-year-olds find employment through entrepreneurship, continued: 'I felt a bit guilty for not giving blood earlier.'

'I give blood transfusions at work to help people and now I can say I've helped people as a donor too. I hope more

people will give blood this year.'

Jennifer Wilson from Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service said: 'On our most recent visit to Oban in October 2017, we welcomed an amazing 303 donors over two days. This demonstrates that the people of Oban are very committed blood donors.'

Just three teaspoons of blood can save the life of a premature baby. Blood can be used for treating cancer, leukaemia and trauma.

However, donated blood only has a shelf life of 35 days so supplies must be constantly replenished.

People wanting to start giving blood need to be 17 and over. Either register as a donor by visiting scotblood.co.uk or just go along to the Corran Halls when the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service is in town.



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Mull on alert after scam

Continued from page one

were others in Dervaig. 'People feel so embarrassed they've been taken in by it,' she added.

When The Oban Times asked Sergeant Chris Edwards, the new community policing sergeant for Oban, Lorn and the Isles, about the numbers of people caught up in the scams, he said enquiries are on-going for these incidents.

Clydesdale Bank also said it was taking the fraud 'extremely seriously' and was monitoring for any other instance of 'unusual activity'.

Spoofing a phone number can be done with apps and software, making it easy for criminals to impersonate a bank's phone number.

Clydesdale Bank said it regularly communicates with customers on how to protect

themselves from financial fraud and wanted to reiterate that it would never call a customer and ask them to divulge personal information.

Sgt Edwards said: 'We're aware of recent telephone scams on the Isle of Mull and Tobermory area. Enquiries are on-going for these incidents.'

If anyone does receive a phone call asking for these details or telling you about suspicious activity on your account, go into your local branch or phone your bank using a different telephone.

'Alternatively, wait until you have heard a dialling tone before phoning your bank – some fraudulent callers keep the line open and you could end up calling them back.'

The Oban Times previously reported several thousands of pounds was taken from

the account of another Mull woman duped into disclosing her internet banking details.

Last week police reported it had happened again after a different woman revealed passwords and was also scammed out of a large sum of money.

In a separate scam in August, an elderly Oban woman was conned out of hundreds of pounds by a man tricking her into believing she was in an online relationship with him.

He said he needed her to buy him iTunes gift card vouchers and send him the codes from the cards.

Another scam to watch pretends to be from HMRC saying there is a tax bill that needs urgent payment and can be done so with gift vouchers.

POLICE FILES

Around 9.30pm on Sunday September 2, at Scalpay Terrace, Oban, a woman, 32, allegedly behaved in an

abusive manner. The woman was arrested, charged, and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Around 11pm on Tuesday September 4, at Benderloch, a man, 22, allegedly assaulted another male and was in possession of a knife. The man was charged and held in custody to appear

before Oban Sheriff Court.

Around 2am on Friday September 7, at George Street, Oban, a 46-year-old man allegedly urinated in a public place, behaved in an abusive manner and was found to be in possession of cannabis. He was charged and a report was submitted to the fiscal.



Joanne and Nigel Sim with their Jack Russell Dillon, below, are desperate to hear from anyone who may have seen Bluebelle, so that they can bring her home.

Mayday over missing moggy

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Heartbroken owners of a missing moggy who jumped ship at Tobermory during a sailing holiday have put out a desperate mayday call.

Two-year-old Bluebelle was last seen two weeks ago and she may have been inadvertently tempted away by mackerel being gutted on the Flying Dutchman in the port.

Johanne and Nigel Sim from Tighnabruaich, Argyll, spent three days searching the streets and other boats before having to give up and leave without her.

Doing a vanishing act is completely out of character for small, gray Bluebelle who was a five-week-old feral kitten when the Sims' dog Dillon found her under a bush in their garden.

Despite grim words from the vet that she was too weak to survive, the Sims hand-reared her and she became part of their family – she is toilet trained – literally – using the Sims' home lavatory, she shares a Saturday manicure with Johanne and sits on the shoulders of the couple's autistic son as he does the morning hoovering. Johanne said: 'We des-



perately miss her and want her home. The people of Tobermory, Oban and the sailing community have been so supportive helping us find her. I was in bits when we had to leave Tobermory without her. She is a huge part of our family.'

Tobermory Harbour is on alert, Oban FM has put a shout out and access to a wildlife camera has been offered from Ulva to help try and track Bluebelle's movements.

I'm having to wear and sleep in t-shirts to get them as smelly as possible so they can be put in cat traps to try and catch her. We are being helped by the Cat Protection League in Salen which has had the offer of the wildlife

camera. We just hope it works. Bluebelle has lots of funny quirks but she's a bit of a home bird. She usually stays very close to us, so this is very unusual for her. She's left a big hole in our lives and she will be missing us too,' said Johanne, who is also trying to organise a leaflet drop in a bid to get her home.

The Flying Dutchman is known to have gone on to Oban so there is a possibility Bluebelle could now be on the mainland.

Bluebelle was wearing a pink and white reflective collar with bells on it, plus a pink heart-shaped address disc and is microchipped.

Anyone who knows of her whereabouts should call 07900 511194.

■ Around 4pm on Wednesday September 5 at Combie Street, Oban, a man, 24, was spoken to by police and a number of alleged defects were found on his vehicle.

The man was charged and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ Around 1.30am on Sunday September 9, a 70-year-old man was

man, 33, allegedly behaved in an abusive manner at Stevenson Street, Oban, and a woman, 29, allegedly assaulted a male.

Both were charged and a report will be submitted to the fiscal.

■ On Sunday September 9, near to Benderloch, a 70-year-old man was

stopped by police for allegedly driving while over the limit of alcohol. The man has been charged and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ If any member of the public has information in relation to the above, they can contact their local police office on 101.

Third time lucky for Oban mum

Lucky reader Tracey Campbell has scooped £2,500 in our Spot The Ball – after entering just three times.

The Oban mum-of-two was all smiles when she picked up her winning cheque from editor Susan Windram this week.

'This really was third time lucky! My aunt and uncle always play it and when I heard a prize had to be won last week, I thought I might as well try.'

'I couldn't believe it when I got the phone call saying I'd won,' said Mrs Campbell, who works as a sales assistant in town. 'My girls are very excited. I'll take the family on holiday and put the rest away for Christmas.'

Mrs Campbell, who has never watched a shiny match, says she will now be a regular Spot The Ball player.



Tracey Campbell picks up her cheque from Oban Times editor Susan Windram.

Dunbeg man jailed for assault

A Dunbeg man has been sentenced to 14 months in jail.

Craig McIvor of 11 MacVicar Court, Dunbeg, who was already carrying out a community payback order (CPO), pleaded guilty to assaulting a woman.

He was given nine months in jail for the assault and a further five months for his outstanding CPO when he appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday September 11.

On July 1, MacIvor seized the woman by the body, seized her hair and repeatedly struck her head against the floor.

In MacIvor's defence, his solicitor, Laura McManus said: 'In the report, he is able to recognise a pattern with his alcohol use and his offending.'

Mrs McManus said her client's employer would be willing to give him a final chance if he was to receive a

community payback order.

She added: 'What I am asking your lordship to do is to give him that last chance.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'In light of all these matters, I don't think a community payback order is enough.'

'You are a young man with talent and ability. Your real problem is alcohol and I hope you will be able to rise above it.'

McIvor's sentence was backdated to August 15.

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Volunteers give cinema foyer a facelift

Volunteers armed with brushes and paint rollers have given Oban's Phoenix Cinema a facelift.

Saturday saw a band of dedicated helpers and staff giving up their free time to freshen up the inside of the non-profit community-owned cinema in George Street.

The cinema has launched a Facebook appeal for funds and volunteers to get it into shape.

Trouble sprang after the roof above the small screen started to leak to add to the cinema's woes. Work is still needed on the roof but in

the meantime efforts at the weekend concentrated on the foyer.

Manager Jennie Larney wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who turned up at the weekend, with a special mention to David Nichol from Oban's Specsavers who did all the preparation work before the redecorating could begin. Oban councillor Jim Lynch was also one of the volunteer decorators.

Anyone who can donate money, time or skills should contact the cinema on Facebook or just call in. Help is also needed to update the toilets.

by Sandy Neil
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Limited (CMAL), expanding its harbour area, absorbing Argyll and Bute Council's too.

On Thursday Phil Day, director of operations at the Northern Lighthouse Board, said the OBMG was now working with stakeholders to investigate a trust port. The CMAL option will be left on the table if the trust port is not viable.

Tony Bennett, chairman of the stakeholders' group, said 24 out of 25 members preferred a trust port, with a council-run port as the next best option. Mr Bennett said 18 stakeholders had volunteered to establish the viability of a trust or a municipal port, with three working groups investigating navigation and safety, legislation, and finance.

"The management group has endorsed that proposal," Mr

Bennett said. "We are finally singing from the same hymn sheet. The difficult bit starts now."

The group now must demonstrate sustainable governance and finance, or the other two options will be looked at.

Paul Jennings, Oban Bay harbour manager for CalMac, explained the OBMG had set up a safety management system for incidents to be reported quickly by anyone:

"We still get many near misses that is why we need to improve the situation," he said.

Meanwhile, on Thursday afternoon, Argyll and Bute Council's harbour board voted against supporting CMAL's expansion for now, and instead asked it to pause for further consultation "given the interest expressed locally in establishing a trust port".

No short-term fix for play park

Argyll and Bute Council has given up hope of finding a short-term solution to fix the currently closed Oban Community Play Park.

The park for five-to-15-year-olds has been closed since March after it failed a safety inspection because sections of flooring had become hazardous.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: "We had been exploring the possibility of carrying out temporary repairs so that the park could be opened in the meantime and until a permanent solution could be found.

"Unfortunately, it has since been established that temporary repairs will not be possible and we are now working to move towards a permanent fix as quickly as possible. We will remain in contact with the community throughout the process and we once again thank them for their patience and understanding."

Representatives of Friends of Oban Community Play Park and Atlantis Leisure met with an Argyll and Bute Council officer last month to discuss the 'big play park'.

Another meeting is scheduled to take place in a "couple of weeks".

In the meantime, the council will cut the grass and keep the place looking "as nice as possible".

Oban man jailed for police threats

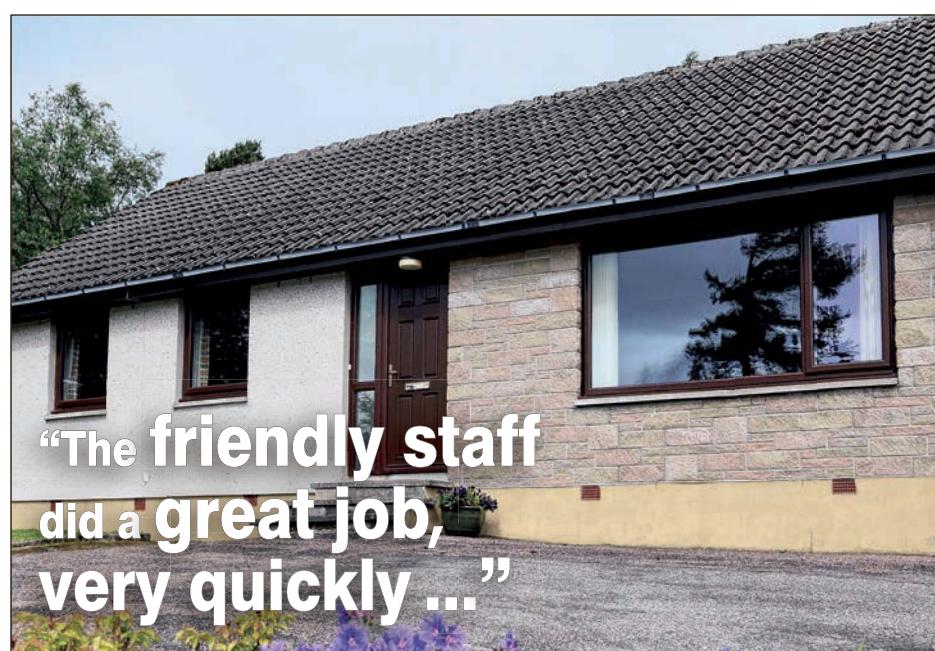
An Oban man was given a 10-month jail sentence for throwing a glass and threatening police officers.

Karl Boulger of 2H Scalpay Terrace, Oban, pleaded guilty to throwing a glass and refusing to leave a licensed premises, uttering threats of violence to police officers, and spitting at one.

The 24-year-old was sentenced to six months in prison for this incident, and a further four months for an outstanding community payback order.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: "This was a serious crime – one that could have left people badly injured. The threats you were making to the police officers and their children were appalling. I don't think a community payback order can give the public protection."

Sheriff Hughes sentenced Boulger to 10 months in jail, backdated to August 13.



"The friendly staff did a great job, very quickly ..."



"...and took all the old windows away, leaving no mess."

- Alistair Gillies, Gorthleck



Unwanted pylons may land at celebrity's door

by Kathie Griffiths
kg Griffiths@obantimes.co.uk



If controversial plans for 52 more pylons in Dalmally go ahead, one would be just feet away from TV personality Clive Anderson's holiday cottage.

The celebrity has asked No More Pylons for Dalmally campaigners to keep him in the loop. Villagers battling plans for 52 new pylons running through the area say power developer Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN) cannot justify the move.

Co-lead campaigner Julian Penney told community councillors at a recent meeting that SSEN had cut off all communication but 'troops' were now being rallied to escalate action.

Details are being kept under wraps but Mr Penney said the community refused to



be 'treated like mushrooms'. Speaking to The Oban Times, Mr Penney said SSEN's case for the pylon towers, adding to the 29 already in place, was 'not stacking up' and residents would do everything in their power to save their dramatic scenery from being decimated. There are also serious health concerns, he said.

'They think they are dealing with a load of banjo players in the hills but this campaign is going forward. We are rallying the troops and are looking at all avenues open to us to

escalate our action,' he said. 'Clive Anderson has a holiday home near here and if the pylons go ahead one would be about 150ft away from it. He's not pleased about it and has asked to be kept in the loop.'

'At some point SSEN will have to put in a planning application but when they do, it's going to be tough to get it through. It will have to go through the Scottish Government's energy minister. They are not going to allow pylons across this landscape. There are nine projects

across the UK where power companies and the National Grid are taking down pylons and putting cables underground - Exmoor, Dartmoor and the Lake District. Just 17 miles away in the Loch Lomond National Park they are taking down 17 pylons. We might not be in a national park here but our vista, the scenery, is just as dramatic.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell is backing the campaign and has told SSEN that if it wants new power lines, then they

should go underground. However, Mr Penney said: 'Their advisors are saying under Loch Awe is too shallow. That's complete rubbish. It is doable. I've asked them who are their consultants but they have cut off all communication. I don't even know if the table-top exercise they say they've done exists at all.'

A SSEN spokesman said its underground cabling options were still being assessed and a proposed final solution had not been determined yet.

'We remain committed to engaging openly and meaningfully with the local community, elected representatives and other stakeholders as we continue to take forward the project,' he said.

Guitar master set for Victory Hall gig

Acoustic guitar master Adrian Nation plays Benderloch's Victory Hall tomorrow, September 14.

The gig, the latest in the 'Benderloch Palladium' series, comes ahead of a performance at Duart Castle, Mull, on Sunday and a tour of Canada and the Netherlands.

His songs have been described as 'a glorious collision of emotions' - one of them is entitled Benderloch Stone and concerns an exile in Canada looking for a stone to be thrown in the water for his late father.

Nation made it through to the final of Sky Arts' Guitar Star in 2015 and last year released his fourth album, Anarchy and Love.

Rock Society Magazine said it was 'hard to believe there's only one man on stage' and Guitar and Bass Magazine described Nation as 'a superior fingerstyle troubadour'.

For details visit The Victory Hall Gigs Facebook page.

Summer may be over, but there's still plenty to look forward to

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

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Another exciting and hectic weekend is approaching at speed.

On Saturday we have the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final between Newtonmore and Lovat at 2pm in Mossfield. It's always an exciting event and well worth going along to.

I always let visitors to the town know about it as it's a fantastic spectacle for people who have never heard of shinty before. It's also being televised on BBC2, so if you're going along remember to brush your hair and wash your face, you never know who'll see you on TV.

On Sunday we have the annual Motorfest, which for the second year will be in Station Square, which is a fantastic venue for it - lots of space for the growing number of vehicles (about 70) which appear each year and this year we have the

WHERE IS THIS?



added benefit of The Clan Mountain Bike Stunt Show which will be amazing and a huge draw for bike fans of all ages.

If you like your lunch included in your day out at Motorfest you'll also be delighted to hear that The Olive Garden is holding its first carvery of the autumn,

which sounds ideal to me - a lovely lunch and then a gentle stroll admiring all the cars to walk it off gently. Just don't try any of the bike stunts!

Last week's photograph was of the sign at Dolce Vita on George Street, which is a beautiful sign by Sheila MacGregor and Louie Barrow with the stained glass by Peter MacLellan.

This week's photograph is a wee bit harder to spot, you need to pay attention.

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University first for SAMS

A marine scientist who studied at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) UHI has become the first person to be awarded a University of the Highlands and Islands' Master of Science by Research degree.

Eleanor Wood, who now works as a research technician at Swansea University, received her award at the SAMS UHI graduation last Thursday, September 6, as one of 46 graduates and prizewinners. The University of the Highlands and Islands, one of the newest in the UK, obtained research degree awarding powers last year.

Professor Clive Mulholland, the university's principal and vice-chancellor, said: 'The University of the Highlands received confirmation from the Privy Council in June 2017 that it had been successful in its application for Research Degree Awarding Powers.

'This achievement followed detailed scrutiny from the quality assurance agency, which was assured that the arrangements for the univer-



The entire graduating cohort of the BSc in Marine Science, with University of the Highlands and Islands deputy principal Professor Crichton Lang and SAMS UHI director Professor Nicholas Owens. The whole class won the SAMS UHI Student of the Year award.

sity's research students were robust and met the standards expected from all universities.

'Today's graduation sees the first research degree being awarded using the university's new powers; a moment of cel-

ebration not only for Eleanor Wood, but for the whole of the University of the Highlands and Islands.'

Eleanor said: 'It is really fulfilling to be graduating as the university's first MSc research

student and I wish the future SAMS UHI students the best of luck with their research projects.'

'Studying at SAMS UHI has been of great benefit to me as the institute is renowned

for excellent research and the scientists there are well known throughout the marine science community.'

In this coming academic year, SAMS UHI will host 44 postgraduate students, of

which 36 are University of the Highlands and Islands students.

The previous academic year was the first time students had outnumbered staff at the Oban-based institute.

SAMS UHI director Professor Nicholas Owens said: 'While SAMS UHI has offered postgraduate study for some time, our students would historically have received their qualification from another university.'

'The masters degree is a tremendous personal achievement for Eleanor and we wish her, and all of today's graduates, the very best in their future careers.'

'Eleanor's award is also a significant milestone for SAMS UHI, the university, Oban as a university town and the Highlands and Islands region.'

A number of prizes were awarded during the graduation ceremony in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls, with the entire graduating cohort of the BSc in Marine Science winning the SAMS

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James Coogan won the Tim Boyd Prize for Oceanography.



SAMS Council Award for Academic Excellence was awarded to Ivan Cautain.



Dr Ruth Paterson, a former SAMS graduate, was awarded a PhD this year.



The SAMS UHI Joint Masters Degree in aquaculture attracts students from all over the world. Pictured are some of the international students, with course leader Professor Elizabeth Cottier-Cook, left, who returned to Oban especially for graduation.

UHI graduate

UHI Student of the year award. Programme leader Dr John Howe said of the 19 honours students: 'They have demonstrated exemplary conduct, astonishing maturity, dedication and above all, perhaps most importantly, a strong bond of friendship.'

Dr Shona Magill, Head of Student Services, said the group had made a huge contribution to student activity at SAMS UHI.

Addressing the graduates during his keynote speech, Professor Stuart Monro, scientific director of the Scottish Consortium for Rural Research, said: 'Go out and use the knowledge and understanding you have gained at SAMS to steward this wonderful world.'

Other prizewinners were: Johanna Fehling Memorial Prize (Best published paper by a PhD student) – Paul Dees; Prize for best EMMS Masters project conducted at SAMS – Kirsten Dinwoodie; Best dissertation for the ACES cohort 2016-18 – Nikko Cabillon;



Eleanor Wood, above, with director of studies Dr Michele Stanley of SAMS UHI, the University of the Highlands and Islands' dean of research Michael Rayner, and vice-principal for research Professor Neil Simco, and pictured right in the lab environment.



SAMS Council Award for Academic Excellence – Ivan Cautain; SAMS Award for Overall Achievement – Hanna Ewen; Tim Boyd Prize for Oceanography – James Coogan.

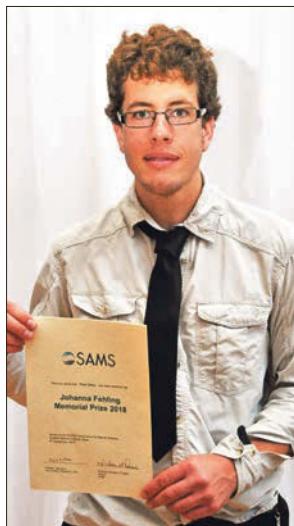
The Scottish Association for

Marine Science (SAMS UHI), based at Dunstaffnage, near Oban, is Scotland's largest and oldest independent marine science organisation.

It is an academic partner within the University of the Highlands and Islands.



Senior academic staff and special guests from this year's graduation. SAMS UHI's Dr David Hughes had the honour of carrying the ceremonial mace.



Paul Dees won the Johanna Fehling Memorial Prize for the best published paper by a PhD student.



Winner of the SAMS Overall Achievement Award went to Hanna Ewen, pictured with Prof Crichton Lang, University of the Highlands and Islands deputy principal.



Some of the members of Oban U3A help cut the birthday cake to celebrate the group's 10th anniversary.

University of Third Age celebrates birthday

Members of Oban U3A celebrated their 10th anniversary at the Corran Halls on Tuesday.

Oban U3A has grown to 120 members and 19 interest groups that meet in various venues since it began.

Groups include various languages, science, geology, wildflowers, outdoor activ-

ity groups and many more.

The University of the Third Age is for people of a certain age who are no longer working full time and come together to learn for fun.

Everyone is welcome to attend the monthly meetings, held on the first Tuesday of the month at 10.30am in the Corran Halls.

The group meets to find out what is happening in the U3A and to hear interesting talks by invited speakers.

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Mull celebrates 80th Mòd with 'best one yet'

by David McPhee
dmcphee@obantimes.co.uk

 local councillor. This year's highlight took place on Friday, when hundreds of primary school pupils gathered on the beach at lunch time to perform as a massed choir.

More than 100 entries were recorded in the first event, which was held on June 14, 1938, including choirs from Bunessan, Lochdon, Pennyghael, Salen, Tobermory and from Coll.

Fast forward 80 years and the Mull mòd has become a two-day event, attracting hundreds of competitors from across the country. The date of the mòd was changed from

that a mòd would be held each year.

June to September in 1997. This was done because the Royal National Mòd takes place in October and the change of date would allow competitors to receive constructive criticism before the national.

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles Mary-Jean Devon said: 'This was without a doubt the best mòd, especially the amount of children. There must have been about 200 kids on that beach. It's just terrific. There was a great atmosphere.'

'The thing that's coming through to me is that the competitors are getting younger and the standard of the young people is unbelievable.'

'We know how to do a mòd.'

Chairwoman of Mòd Ionadach na Dreòlliunn (Mull Mòd) committee Janet MacDonald reiterated Councillor Devon's sentiments.

Mrs MacDonald said: 'It went very well. We are really chuffed about it.'

'I am really pleased about the

massed choirs on the beach.'

The atmosphere of the event ran well into the night, with ceilidhs taking place on both Friday and Saturday, and even on to the CalMac ferry.

Members of Taynuilt and Aberfeldy Gaelic Choirs captivated the lounge aboard the MV Isle of Mull with their singing – they even managed to silence, and engross, a rowdy group of men celebrating a stag do.

More photos on pages 10-11



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To celebrate the event's 80-year anniversary, hundreds of pupils gathered on the beach to sing in harmony. 17_T37_MullMod06



Eva Bisp from Rockfield Primary School did well in the solo 7-8 learners' competition. 17_T37_MullMod08



Bethan Neil had a very successful Mod, finishing first in her conversation and receiving a second in two singing competitions. 17_T37_MullMod09



Millie Bonniwell from Rockfield received a first place badge for her Mull Hymn and fluent solo singing. 17_T37_MullMod11



Ruaraidh MacLean from Mull Mod Club won his fluent recitation. 17_T37_MullMod13



Chairwoman of Mòd Ionadach na Dreòlliunn Janet MacDonald, with committee member Marion MacLean.

17_T37_MullMod15



Rockfield's Marco MacGregor won the 9-10 fluent solo singing.

17_T37_MullMod04



Innes MacKay from Dunbeg Primary School won the boys' solo 9-12 learners' competition.

17_T37_MullMod12



Alasdair MacLean won the local song open competition.

17_T37_MullMod22



Lothian Gaelic Choir cleaned up in the choral mixed voice and choral puirt a beul competitions. Pictured are Lothian conductors with relatives of the original Mull Mod committee.

17_T37_MullMod24



Aimee Spreadbury, Neha Toledo, Millie Bonniwell, and Eva Bisp. 17_T37_MullMod10



Còisir Og Mhuile won their unison song.



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OT



Tobermory Primary School's P3, P4, and P5s after they performed their action song.

17_T37_MullMod01



Dervaig Primary School after the pupils took part in the action song competition.

17_T37_MullMod02



Lochaline Primary School pupils in costume for their action song. 17_T37_MullMod03



Lochaline Primary School Choir. 17_T37_MullMod14

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The complete loan terms and conditions are stated in the application form.

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If you are interested in applying or would like more information, please call Home Energy Scotland on **0808 808 2282** (free from landlines and most mobiles).



Tobermory High School students, Daisy Buchanan, Holly MacLean, and Lilly Hargreaves, all helped to ensure the event ran smoothly. 17_T37_MullMod16



Oban High School's Logie Johnston won the boys' under 19 bagpipes for beginners, while Calum Dunbar from Inverness won the 13-15 bagpipes Strathspey and reel, while Tobermory's Rory Reade won the 13-15-years march. 17_T37_MullMod19.



Folk made the most of the giant mòd frame. 17_T37_MullMod18



Cathanne MacLean alongside her son Ruaraidh. Cathanne competed in the mòd for the first time in 20 years. 17_T37_MullMod20



Morag Fraser hands over the Detta MacLean Memorial Trophy to Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich's conductor Elizabeth Jack. 17_T37_MullMod23



Alasdair MacDonald, who won the Chrissie MacDonald Memorial Cup for 5-6-year-old fluent conversation.



Shona Keith from Lochgair won the solo open event. 17_T37_MullMod21

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OT

Argyll and Bute supports suicide prevention

Scotland is Working Together to Prevent Suicide – including across Argyll and Bute.

This week is Suicide Prevention Week (September 10-16), which started with World Suicide Prevention Day on Monday, September 10, and offers an opportunity to acknowledge that suicide is preventable and that it's everyone's business.

The continuing Choose Life 'Read between the lines' campaign asks everyone to be alert to the warning signs of suicide in people close to them. If you're worried about someone, such as a friend, family member or workmate, asking them directly about their feelings can help to save their life.

Signs of suicide can be difficult to spot which is why the campaign encourages people to take all signs of distress seriously, even if it seems a person is living a normal life.

People can feel assured that asking a person about what's troubling them can make a positive difference.

The emotional impact on

families, friends and communities bereaved by suicide is devastating and can have long-lasting negative effects on those left behind.

Mental Health Minister Clare Haughey said: 'Every life matters and no death by suicide should be regarded as either acceptable or inevitable. Over the past decade, Scotland has made real progress in reducing deaths by suicide but we want to go further. Our view is that suicide is preventable, and anyone contemplating suicide or who has lost a loved one to suicide should get the support they need.'

If we are to achieve this, we need to make clear that suicide prevention is everyone's business. We need to work together across sectors and organisations to identify and support people in distress, strengthen communities, and save lives.'

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Life as foot expert

The Oban Times is running a series of articles championing the work carried out by Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles locality. Each article features a specific service provided by the HSCP and focuses on the staff who provide that service and the role they play in making a positive difference for the people living in Oban and surrounding areas. This week we look at the work of Linda Johnstone.

Linda Johnstone is one of Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's podiatrists, based in Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban. She qualified in 2010 after completing three years of training and is registered with the Health and Care Professions Council, which is a regulatory body that maintains the register of a number of healthcare professionals. She works as part of a small team of three podiatrists and one trainee podiatry assistant, who provide podiatry services from several clinics in Oban and surrounding areas, including

Tiree, Coll, Colonsay, and Mull.

Podiatrists, who were traditionally known as chiropodists, are health care professionals who have been trained to prevent, diagnose, treat and rehabilitate abnormal conditions of the feet and lower limbs. They also can help to support people to remain mobile and active, relieve pain and treat infections.

The podiatry service provides:

- Nail surgery under local anaesthetic for infected, ingrown, thickened or painful nails
- Wound care
- Child foot health
- Management of the 'at risk' foot
- Treatment of painful corns and callous
- Musculoskeletal problems, including heel pain, arch pain and bunions
- Orthotic therapy (lower limb custom-made ankle/foot support equipment)
- Health promotion and advice on verrucae, dry skin, sweaty feet, blisters and fungal



nails

The podiatrists also provide training and self-care advice for carers, patients and family members to support personal foot care needs such as toenail cutting and filing dry skin. Personal foot care

training courses are available throughout the year and people interested can check they meet the criteria to sign up for the course or get further information by contacting the Podiatry Admin Support Team direct on 01631 788 977. There

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Func

Bho Dhiarmain 20mh Sultain, 10f
From Thursday 20th September, 10pm

Comadaidh ur làn geur-chainnt agus mi-mhodh
A witty, courageous new sketch show



Piobairean Lionacleit ann an NY

Diluain 17mh Sultain, 9.30f
Monday 17th September, 9.30pm

Brosnachadh à bròm: piobairean Sgoil Lionacleit a' cuimhneachadh an caraid
Tragedy inspires a pipe band to pay tribute to their friend



Bannan

Bho Diliuin 17mh Sultain, 9f
From Monday 17th September, 9pm

Sreath 5 - dràma làn amharas
Series 5 - drama full of suspicion



An t-Eilean

Bho Dhimairt 18mh Sultain, 8.30f
From Tuesday 18th September, 8.30pm

Sreath mu choimhearsnachd san t-Eilean Sgitheanach
A series following a community in Skye



Port

Disathairne 15mh Sultain, 9f
Saturday 15th September, 9pm

Julie Fowlis is Muireann a' taisbeannadh ceòl Ceilteach
Julie Fowlis and Muireann showcase Celtic music

MABA 10

BBC ALBA

keeps Linda on her toes

is also foot care advice and video resources available on NHS Inform website www.nhsinform.scot which are intuitive and trusted clinical NHS advice and resources.

Adult foot problems occur, or can be worsened, because of poorly fitting shoes. Podiatrists can provide advice on suitable footwear. More often than not many people wear slippers at home because they are easy to put on and off, and are soft and comfortable. However, slippers do not give much support to the foot and the soles may have little cushioning. They may also lead to trips and falls around the house.

Linda said: 'It is really important for people to check they are looking after their feet properly and this includes wearing suitable footwear to avoid slips, trips and falls.'

'There's a variety of things we can educate patients on, including their family or carers to reduce the risk of falls. However, the reasons people fall can be complex and sometimes you'll need the support of others.'

'Our team offers support and help to reduce risk of further injuries, and help you to continue to carry out activities that are important to you.'

Last year there was a new telephone service launched in Argyll and Bute for people at risk of a fall or who have had a fall. By telephoning the new falls number people are directly contacting Argyll and Bute HSCP falls prevention specialists who are able to advise people where to get support in their own area. The self-referral number for falls is 01546 604050.'

In my job no two days are ever the same. I support lots of patients with a variety of care needs in my role, from people with ingrown toenails to musculoskeletal (MSK) problems to patients with long-term conditions such as diabetes or rheumatoid arthritis. All patients receive an initial assessment where their care plan is established. This may include a one-off treatment, an ongoing care plan for more complex cases, referral on to another specialism or referral

to their GP.'

Linda never tires of the variety of conditions and finds her role really rewarding when directly treating patients. She enjoys the challenge of treating and caring for high risk patients who have chronic wounds, and sharing patients' care with other health professionals to help keep people active and mobile.

As a team, the podiatrists recognise the importance of promoting self-care and actively educate patients so that they feel confident in their foot care at home. In 2017 Argyll and Bute podiatrists worked hand-in-hand with the technology enabled care team to develop 'Flo', a diabetic foot care self-management text messaging digital service which is now being used to help their patients with diabetes care for their feet.

'Flo has been supporting patients with diabetes to self-manage between routine appointments, using her friendly text messaging persona to motivate patients to undertake daily foot checks

and subsequently providing patients with foot care tips, advice and information to help them get the capability to identify if, and when, their feet need to be clinically checked and to encourage best practice in improving personal foot care.

Linda continued: 'Flo interacts with our patients to remind them to check their feet for any change or damage, along with offering regular advice and information pertinent to their foot care.'

We recognised that most patients use their mobile phone regularly, and so we know that Flo is in their pocket rather than a leaflet that may be looked at once or not at all. It's also reassuring to know that Flo's text messages are recorded on the patient's phone enabling patients to look back on them at any time.

'The service is a more modern way of communicating with patients and is really successful. Anybody interested in the service can contact the podiatry department to check if they meet the criteria to use

the service on 01631 788977.

'Nothing is more satisfying for me than seeing patients walk out of a clinic with less pain; feeling empowered to take ownership of their conditions with new advanced technology, advice or a new device. It really does make my job worthwhile.'

People can self-refer to the podiatry service by picking up a form from the hospital out-patients department or their local GP surgery.

Linda and her family love living in Oban. She relishes the scenery and rural lifestyle. As a family they enjoy taking part in many local community activities and she cannot imagine a better place to live and raise her children.

She also enjoys competing in Masters swimming events and has a volunteering role with the Oban Otters Swimming Club.

She also takes part in the local bootcamp outdoor training to keep her fitness levels in check.

Linda and her children also enjoy taking part in Oban's Ganavan sands Parkrun on Saturday mornings.

Payment for carers welcomed

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell has welcomed the news that carers will receive the first payments of the new Carer's Allowance Supplement from mid-September, back-dated to April. Eligible carers will get a supplementary payment of £221, equivalent of an extra £8.50 per week, an increase of 13 per cent on Carer's Allowance from the Department for Work and Pensions.

The Carer's Allowance Supplement will benefit 982 carers in Argyll and Bute.

Beaumont rides in during world tour

World-renowned cyclist Mark Beaumont will visit Oban this month.

He will host 'an evening with' event at the Corran Halls on September 17, exploring his Around the World in 80 Days tour.

The tour has already visited Fort William and Arran, and will go on to reach Glasgow and Peebles in the Scottish Borders.



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OT

Rotary £3,000 boost to Rockfield arts plan

The Rotary Club of Oban has made a generous donation of £3,000 to The Rockfield Centre to enable the creation of a community arts programme ready for the opening of the main building, writes David McPhee.

The funding will be targeted towards a 'messy space' room which will support wide engagement in community arts across all ages.

With an innovative method of funding, the Rotarians' funds will be matched pound for pound by MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust to enable the working space structure to be ready for use immediately the main building opens.

Eleanor MacKinnon, project facilitator for TRC, said: 'This is a huge pledge from the Rotary Club of Oban and from MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust (MBCT). We are delighted to put these funds to such good use. This joint funding method means the trust can prepare the messy space

room ready for our opening and thus enabling hands-on community arts activity from day one in the main building.

'This project will not only enable our tenants, such as the young carers, and the wider community to participate immediately, but also will play an integral part in our programming of arts activities in the main building for the future.'

Graham MacQueen said the funding would enable huge community involvement across the board: 'Community involvement is the ethos of our charity and the use of these funds matched together with Rotary to give a significant amount will contribute greatly to help everyone of all ages participate and enjoy The Rockfield Centre from the first day it opens.'

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Coastguards walk for Ali

Coastguard volunteers went the extra mile on a walk to Skye in memory of a colleague who died from cancer, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The group from Oban left Pulpit Hill on Thursday morning and arrived at Edinbane, Skye, at 5pm on Friday, foot-weary but elated, helped on the way by supplies of coffee and cake – with even a bottle of whisky handed out on route.

Ali MacNab, who was a key member of the town's Coastguard Rescue Team, died in January 2016, aged 48.

Mr MacNab grew up in Edinbane and his friends walked a little further once they got there so they could reach Duibaig Beach where he used to fish with his dad.

Mr MacNab's extended family joined them for a poignant photograph at the beach. By the end of



The team members undertook the walk in memory of their friend and colleague Ali MacNab.

the weekend the group had already topped its target of £1,500 with more donations and gift aid still coming in.

'Next year? Already in the planning,' said Iain MacKinnon, who was this year's driver supporting team members Calum Carnie, Ron

Stevenson, Steve Miller, Andy Barrie, Tim Aitkenhead and Davy Bryce. Funds will go to Cancer Research UK.

Last year's walk brought in £6,500.

To make a donation go to [justgiving.com/fundraising/iain-mackinnon3](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/iain-mackinnon3)

Fury following ferry 'chaos'

The summer ferry 'chaos' has already cost Outer Hebrides tourism £6 million, with the figure 'spiralling' higher as disruption continues, an islands tourism group claims.

Chairman Ian Fordham of Outer Hebrides Tourism has called on CalMac to recompense island businesses for their losses. The group said it 'sees no end to the critical issues caused by the continued unreliability of ferries to these islands as we end the season as it began – with disruption'.

Mr Fordham added: 'Four months on at the end of that summer season, a third instance of cancelled and rescheduled ferries again causes tourists to cancel their holidays, leaving accommodation and activities providers with late cancellations. The economic cost is spiralling upwards causing critical concerns about the future of tourism businesses in the Outer Hebrides.'

Labour in the Western Isles has demanded an urgent statement from transport minister Michael Matheson MSP on the 'current shambles'.

End to end entertainment at Bookends Festival

Get ready for a week-long festival of the written and spoken word coming to Benderloch.

From Saturday September 22 to Saturday September 29, everyone is invited to go along and listen to authors read their novels, old and new, be dazzled by a storyteller or just relax in The Reading Room surrounded by lots of books.

Listen to authors, join in a writers' open mic, try your hand at bookbinding, footstomp at a folk and Americana gig, catch a movie, experience theatre and grab the chance of a one-to-one with writer-in-residence Kenneth Stevens about your own written work, - opportunities are bountiful at Bookends 2018. As if that's not enough, there is the extra bonus of a fringe week to follow

Bookends at its festival home in Victory Hall from Monday October 1 to Friday October 5.

Bookends founder Joy Cameron said: 'We have once again transformed the 100-year-old wood-lined hall into a sumptuous reading room where bookshelves line the walls, stacked with pre-loved and new books of all kinds. Relax on our comfortable couches and share a cuppa and a cake as you leaf through old favourites and discover new books which you can take away or read at your leisure.'

The Reading Room will be open to all from 11am until 6.30pm to come along and browse, swap and share books and chat. On some afternoons there will be local featured artists, storytellers and writers who will add to the occasion. Some evenings also have events put on by those who live in Oban and Lorn and have something 'wordy' to share.



What's on at Bookends:

Saturday September 22

Bookends Festival Launch at 3pm. Free entry, join us in the Reading Room at the Victory Hall to find out about all of our events, take part in competitions and select a book or two.

Storytelling with Alasdair Satchell 3.30pm and 4.15pm. Free entry, suitable for all ages, booking advisable.

Author Kellan MacInnes: The Making of Mickey Bell at 7pm. Tickets are £8

Sunday September 23

Author Morven-May MacCallum: Finding Joy at 2pm. Tickets are £8

Author Jess Smith: Jessie's Journey: Autobiography of a traveller girl at 7pm. This free event is supported by Scottish Book Trust

Monday September 24

Oban Phoenix Cinema is showing The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society Please. Call the cinema on 01631 562905 for time, screen and prices.

Tuesday September 25

BookBug Event for pre-5 and P1 children at 11am. Free entry.

WURDPLAY: local writers' open mic hosted by Jamie Livingstone at 7.30pm. Entry by donation.

Wednesday September 26

'Seasons of Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness,' The Tobermory Mainstreet Players bring us music and poetry at 7.30pm. Entry by donation to Home-Start Lorn.

Thursday September 27

Bookbinding and Gold Tooling at 7.30pm. Discover how a book is made and try your hand at gold tooling with bookbinder Fiona Anderson, booking advised. Cost of £5 includes materials.

Friday September 28

Hollow Mountain String Band in Concert at 7.30pm. Footstompin' folk and Americana from Argyll's finest. Tickets are £12 on the door, £10 advance.

Saturday September 29

Author Lorn McIntyre: The Leaper at 2pm. Tickets are £8.

Author Lachlan Munro: The Scenery of Dreams. The true story of Robert Louis Stevenson's Kidnapped Book. Official book launch at 7pm. Tickets are £8.

All events are in The Victory Hall at Benderloch except the film showing at Oban Phoenix Cinema.

Pictured: Joy Cameron, founder of Bookends Festival

Mystery boxes spread kindness in Oban

by David McPhee
dmcphée@obantimes.co.uk



People in Oban have been receiving mystery boxes filled with trinkets with the aim of spreading kindness in the area.

The packages are filled with a bracelet, a chocolate love heart, a badge, and a note which reads: 'The right way to change the world is by doing one act of random kindness at a time #actsofkindnessoban.'

An anonymous social media page was also set up to encourage others to carry out their own acts of kindness.

The administrator of the account told The Oban Times: 'I set this project up because I could see so many instances of people just needing a wee pick-me-up, a smile, a hug or just a compliment.'

'I realised that something



so small could have a massive impact on a person's well-being and that I could start something that could grow, meaning more and more people could feel some appreciation.

'I sent out 30 wee boxes and hid some around town hoping to reach people who would enjoy the sentiment, but would also carry it on.

'I hope that this will grow and reach people in need, spread a little love and kindness.

'Oban is a small town and we are extremely fortunate to have such an amazing place to live, but it's so important to have support and kindness in our community.'

'If anyone received an act of kindness or wants to send or

The mystery boxes have been sent to people in and around Oban in the hope people will pass on the random act of kindness.

do their own, they could tag the page and others can see the positive impact I hope is achieved.'

Dozens of people who received a box have taken to social media to thank the mystery sender.

Speaking about the impact the project has had, the creator said: '[It has been] all positive, some people said that it had been a wee pick-me-up and some said it came at the right moment that they needed.'

GETINTOUCH

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Bravo, bra walkers

Women from across the region put on their bras to give extra support to a good cause, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Thirty-nine women joined a sponsored Twilight Walk from the Victory Hall in Benderloch.

Organiser Nicky Murphy said the event had brought in £1,985 towards a Pink Ladies pampering day for women who have experienced breast cancer.

The special day, now in its fifth year, is on November 30 at Loch Fyne Hotel in Inveraray. The day costs around £5,000 to put on for women who benefit from

the day of pampering, fun and friendship. Women can bring someone with them to share it – last year 85 women attended.

Funds towards the Pink Ladies Day also came from a choir performance at Oban's Royal Hotel (turn to p25), and a coffee and cake event in Oban.

Ms Murphy said: 'It was wonderful to see 39 women turn up for our Twilight Walk in their decorated bras. Prizes went to one lady who put spotlights on hers and the other prize went to friends who turned their bras into unicorns. Thanks for the support.'

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OT

Heritage project plugs into Oban power-house

A man who started his own museum of Mayan music 5,000 miles away in Guatemala is coming to Oban to inspire others, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Samuel Franco will be at the Rockfield Centre on Saturday, September 15, to talk about his work and join in a discussion about different ways communities can celebrate and manage their own heritage.

Organisers are hoping the event, which is free, will attract craftspeople as well as groups, clubs and volunteers from the area and islands, who will bring along examples of their work as well as their voices, views and ideas on what could be achieved.

National project Community Heritage Scotland is co-hosting the day with CHArts which is delivering a major networking initiative to link up all aspects of culture in Argyll.

Catherine Gillies of Community Heritage Scotland, also a former director of Dunollie museum and castle, said: 'A huge percentage of Scottish heritage is managed by volunteers and small independent organisations – in Argyll and Bute it's most of it. They are doing an incredible job of feeding into the tourism package of Argyll but it's not appreciated enough just what a gift the contribution of volunteers' time is to the economic

well-being of Argyll and we need to start measuring just what that input is.'

'What we know is that there is huge energy and huge enthusiasm in communities but it is hard work for them looking after local heritage and people are concerned about sustaining it.'

'By organising these discussion days we are collecting ideas on how we can collectively help and move forward. Community heritage is multi-faceted.'

'We are all in it for the love of it,' she added. 'The fact our second day is coming to Oban is very much a reflection on what we have here on the west coast. It's a power-house of community heritage and, including its islands, is at the forefront of social enterprise. I think we are going to have a great day, capturing ideas.'

A team from the University of St Andrews looking at international community heritage, particularly in Latin America, will also be at the Rockfield event, along with Mr Franco who is a member of the International Council of Museums Latin American and Caribbean Regional Alliance.

The day is free and runs from 10am to 4pm, with workshops and presentations.

Interested? Email Catherine Gillies at catherine@ergadia-heritage.com or call 07833 133928.

PM 'snubs' MP over 'depopulation crisis'

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

The prime minister has 'snubbed' a bid by Argyll and Bute's MP and council to tackle a 'depopulation crisis' with a 'regional immigration scheme'.

The region is set to lose four per cent of its population by 2026, according to figures newly released by the Scottish Rural Affairs Committee, with eight other Scottish councils facing similar falls.

The area's MP Brendan O'Hara says 'with projections forecasting a greater than average decrease in economically active adult and younger people, there are serious concerns about the sustainability and future economic growth of communities across Argyll and Bute'.

Mr O'Hara and the council's chief executive Cleland Sneddon are seeking to address 'this crisis' by piloting a 'regional immigration scheme', 'to help ensure that businesses and public services in Argyll and Bute have access to skilled labour to support the economy and its ambitions for growth in the future.'

The pilot scheme would adopt a flexible approach to immigration, as happens in



Brendan O'Hara asking his question in Parliament.

Canada and in Australia, where specific work visas are approved for areas of specific need, a scheme that has been proven to work.'

Mr O'Hara, speaking in the House of Commons last week, 'after a three-year wait to be picked for a Prime Minister's Questions', asked Theresa May if she would meet him and Mr Sneddon 'to discuss, or at the very least, examine the merits of a devolved or regionalised immigration strategy'. However, he says the idea was 'snubbed'.

Mrs May replied: 'He has asked about a regional immigration policy, an issue that the Migration Advisory Committee looked at a while back. It made it very clear that was not a situation the Government should accept,

partly because of the practical problems in implementing it. When we put forward our proposals for the immigration policy for people coming from the European Union, we will ensure that they are right for the whole United Kingdom.'

Afterwards Mr O'Hara said: 'Rural Scotland is facing a serious crisis of depopulation and it is a crisis that is only going to be exacerbated by Brexit. Rural communities, like Argyll and Bute rely heavily on inward migration, particularly EU citizens, who want to come to work in many of our economic sectors and it is deeply disappointing to hear the Prime Minister is not willing to tackle this issue.'

If the population of Argyll and Bute continues to decrease we'll all feel the

effects as fewer people means fewer folk spending money in our shops, fewer kids in our schools, a shortage of staff in our hospitals and less demand for essential services – all leading to cuts in services for those of us who remain.

'But it doesn't have to be this way and that is why I asked the prime minister to meet with me and the chief executive of Argyll and Bute Council to discuss the proposal. To be snubbed at this early stage and for the PM to simply dismiss these concerns shows scant regard for the future welfare of this constituency.'

I will continue to pursue this policy and make the case for devolved or regional immigration. The days of a 'one-size-fits-all' UK immigration policy are over. It has failed miserably to date and needs to change urgently.'

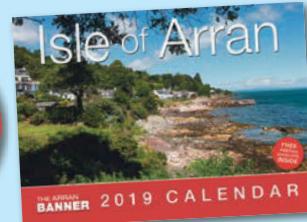
An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'We are open to exploring options around regional immigration as a means of addressing the issue of depopulation in Argyll and Bute, and we would be willing to work with other interested parties on this matter, given its importance to the council's overall priorities.'

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Paul and Rachel Smith from Preston celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary with a lavender tea at Hope Kitchen served by Lorraine MacCormick and Fiona Ferris.

Lavender tea fundraiser was heaven 'scent'

People were queuing up for Hope Kitchen's lavender afternoon tea at the weekend, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Word got out about the lavender lemonade, homemade scones, cakes and dainty sandwiches served up on best china and the event made £532.80.

Even those who could not get there and missed out on the tasty treats made donations online. A chunk of the proceeds will be going to Andy's Man Club to help support its suicide prevention work. The club meets at Hope Kitchen on a Monday at 7pm.

'We had a lovely lavender afternoon tea. Thanks to everyone who came and supported and enjoyed it, and to all who donated online,' said Hope service manager Lorraine MacCormick.

Oban ambassador Kay MacDonald kindly



Lorna MacCorquodale, Mairi MacGillivray and Shanna Laurie are served by Aidan MacLeod and Jessie Scott at the Lavender Tea.

lent out her treasured collection of china tea sets for the occasion; she has 27 of them. Musical entertainment came courtesy of The Catalina Sisters.

MacPhail

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Flying the Flag

Flags have never been a type of symbol that held any great significance or importance to me. What a particular flag represents can mean different things to different people, and under the umbrella of most can be a very wide range of connections and reasons to identify with and to support the overall entity being symbolised.

In truth, I have never felt wholly connected enough to any of the flags common to this part of the world to be comfortable in being represented by them. The Saltire, the Lion Rampant, the Union Jack, the flag of Europe and many others familiar to us all have certain aspects about what they stand for, or have come to be associated with, that I'm not wholly comfortable with.

There are, of course, many positive messages carried by these flags, and how they are perceived is very much in the eye of the beholder, so I respect those who do feel that certain flags are an appropriate

representation of their beliefs, views and identity.

However, my hitherto aversion to flag-bearing may now be nearly cured as I am very pleased that a new flag has recently been designed and unveiled to represent the Isle of Tiree. Tiree has followed in the footsteps of other islands that have added a flag to their name in recent years. This is the end result of a design competition that attracted many hundreds of entries from across the globe.

The winner was Donald Cameron from Scarinish, Tiree, whose emblem depicting 12 golden sheaves of corn placed as a sun-like clock face on a green background is a very fitting representation of a fertile island with famously long hours of sunshine, traditionally known as Tir an Èorna (The Land of Barley).

Donald's ancestors were the last family to live on Craignish to the west side of Ben Hough and were renowned for their skills as fishermen, boat builders and craftsmen. It is fitting that the design Donald has crafted will now be an impor-

tant emblem of his island. To mark the occasion, Professor Donald Meek of Caolas, Tiree, composed a poem entitled Bratach an Eilean Seo (The Flag of this Island). Space does not allow me to include the whole composition but the following stanza encapsulates an important part of what I hope the flag will come to mean.

*Bratach an eilein seo
togaibh gu càirdeil,
togaibh gu carthannach,
togaibh gu bàidheil.*

*The flag of this island,
hoist it in friendship,
hoist it with kindness,
hoist it with empathy.*

I hope the more militant among our population will not now race to conquer all our neighbouring islands, flagless or not by jamming a Tiree flagpole on their summits – Gunna, Coll, The Treshnish Islands, Iona and even Mull are now vulnerable to crusading Tirisdich out to build an empire.

To finish on a serious note, well done to all who brought this worthy project to fruition.

Boost for Argyll food producers

An Argyll company is to share in £65,000 of funding from the Scottish Government for projects supporting locally-produced food

and drink. The Argyll Food Assembly, which gathers local producers and provides a direct link to customers, has been awarded £5,000.

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing MSP said: 'I'm sure that the success of these producers will help to

bolster regional economies and ensures that local food and drink continues to be produced in the area it originates from – which can be integral to a product's identity.'

BOWFest 2018 also benefited from £2,000.

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BUSINESS NEWS

CBI to help expand Scotland's markets internationally

The Scottish Government is teaming up with the leading business group the CBI, to boost Scotland's exports, the First Minister has announced.

CBI Scotland will mobilise its membership to help deliver 300 business peer-to-peer mentorships over the next three years to increase awareness of the benefit of exporting and help ramp-up overseas activity.

These measures are part of a package backed by £20 million investment announced as part of the Programme for Government, unveiled by the First Minister, and come as the latest statistics show Scottish exports increased seven per cent to £28.8 billion over the past year to June 2018 – the fastest rate of growth of any country in the UK.

CBI Scotland and the Scottish Government will also host a major business conference on exporting at the end of November to encourage companies to enter international markets.

Speaking at the CBI Scotland annual dinner, the First Minister made clear the Scottish Government's ambition for exports, and wider economic success for Scotland, would not be defined by Brexit, despite the clear threat posed by the UK Government's plans to leave the EU, single market and customs union.

Tracy Black, CBI Scotland director, said: 'We're absolutely thrilled to partner with the Scottish Government to support the next wave of Scotland's pioneering exporters.'

Young people key to businesses' future

Nearly four out of five businesses in the Highlands and Islands have highlighted the importance of employing and retaining young people and are taking steps to address the challenges of doing so.

The latest Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) Business Panel survey interviewed 1,000 businesses in June this year.

Recruiting young people was viewed as important by 79 per cent of them; more so with firms of 25 or more employees.

Young people are defined as employees in the early stages of their career. The top benefits of having them on board were given as fresh perspective (79 per cent), potential for development (68 per cent), ability to replace lost skills (59 per cent), and acquisition of new skills (56 per cent).

The main characteristics looked for in young talent were attitude and work ethic (88 per cent), communication skills (77 per cent), desire to keep learning (77 per cent), and time management (76 per cent).

Nearly half of respondents had recruited or tried to recruit young talent in the past two years. The main challenges they faced were finding candidates with the required skills and the right attitude and work ethic.

Around a quarter had used modern apprenticeships and a fifth had used graduate placement programmes. Most of those hoped to retain and develop their apprentice or graduate.

Sixty-two per cent of firms that employed young people found it easy to retain them,



Recruiting young people is viewed as important by 79 per cent of businesses; more so with firms of 25 or more employees. Photograph: Tim Winterburn

the remainder, who found it challenging, highlighted the main issues as a tendency to move on after being trained, and the need for employers to be able to offer competitive salaries and career progression. Location, accommodation, employment for partners and childcare were also seen as challenges, particularly in the more rural areas.

Steps being taken by employers to retain younger employees include training, offering competitive pay, providing mentoring and feedback, offering flexible working, and progression opportunities.

The study also reported that 81 per cent of businesses were very or fairly optimistic about their prospects, with 40 per cent expecting growth in the next year or two.

As in previous surveys, the single market and free movement of people were viewed by respondents as more important to the economy

overall than to their own businesses. Almost all (92 per cent) were confident they had the skills they needed for the next two years, but were less certain about the longer term.

Carroll Buxton, HIE's director of regional development, said: 'With this being the Year of Young People, we have taken the opportunity in our survey to explore some of the main issues around the importance of young people to the region's workforce. From the feedback, it is clear that many employers recognise the benefits associated with having young people as part of their team and are taking steps to secure those benefits for their own business.'

'This feedback has been very useful in highlighting, not only the benefits, but the challenges of recruiting and retaining younger employees.'

The report is available at: www.hie.co.uk/businesspanelsurvey

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

HIJOBs – now even better value for money

HIJOBs, Scotland's leading platform specialising in rural recruitment has become even smarter and more cost effective.

New simplified processes mean a platform that was already quick and easy to use is even slicker.

Posting a job or signing up as a candidate has never been easier. Laura Saunders and Christopher Snelgrove, HijoBs' founders, have a very technical term for the platform's ease of use, according to them: 'It's an absolute doddle'.

When Laura and Christopher are not blinding everyone with similar kinds of highly technical jargon, they are constantly looking at ways to make HijoBs both simpler and more cost effective in these challenging times.

As Laura says: 'We cannot ignore the impact that the tough economic climate and the continuing uncertainty over Brexit has caused, particularly in our heartland of rural Scotland. It is our job to bring recruiters and candidates together – and our track record shows that we are exceptionally good at it. But we understand that employers are becoming increasingly anxious about the cost of recruiting, especially in the areas which we serve.'

As a result, HijoBs have unveiled a new,



more affordable price structure that will suit every kind of business, whether a one-man-band or a multi-national company.

Christopher explains: 'We are so confident



in our ability to deliver that if you haven't used HijoBs before, we will give you a free job credit, allowing you to advertise any vacancy for 30 days.'

The new simplified platform means HijoBs is quicker and easier to use – for both businesses and job seekers.

After that, a single credit will cost £49 or a bundle of five credits will cost £199 with no expiry date – use them whenever you want.

These packages will typically work for small to medium-sized businesses that will be recruiting sporadically.

However, a new unlimited package is now available for larger organisations who recruit on an ongoing basis which at £99 per month offers unbelievable value for money – even better value if you opt for the annual up-front charge of £999.

With more than 100,000 users every month, HijoBs is THE solution for businesses across rural Scotland. A second-to-none platform at the cutting edge of technology that quickly reaches the best, relevant candidates via Google Jobs, social media, email and the fantastic HijoBs app.

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The children's idea for the garden was put to a online public vote.

Skye school's memorial delight

Staffin Primary School on the Isle of Skye has beaten off competition from across the country to win a prestigious competition organised by Poppy Scotland.

The charity's design competition – entitled Poppy Places and Spaces – called on schools to explore the power of design as part of remembrance and reflection, with the school putting forward a design to refresh a memorial space in Staffin.

Primary four to seven pupils at Bun-sgoil Stafainn will now receive up to £1,000 to bring their vision to life.

Bun-sgoil Stafainn's winning entry will be located at a memorial area that already exists, but has become tired and underused. The area will now be revived with ideas coming from young people in the area. It will include a Poppy-themed gate and a bog garden to represent the muddy conditions of the First World War, and they have created the idea for poppy-shaped benches and a flower bed. One of the pupils has a great-great-grandfather who died during the Great War and has no grave. The fallen soldier will be remembered at the site, too.

The children from Bun-sgoil Stafainn said: 'We are delighted to have won the competition and can't wait to get started and see our design for a refreshed memorial space for Staffin become reality. It means a lot to us to be able to both represent and give something back to our close-knit community in such a meaningful way.'

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Inveraray – built on a rich heritage

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IAN THORNBER

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There is an ambience about Inveraray which you won't find in any other town in Argyll. Whether you approach it from Glen Aray, or along the coast from Lochgilphead or Glen Kinglas, it makes no difference.

The first view of the tastefully designed white buildings mirrored in Loch Fyne, the tall bell tower and glimpses of the roof of one of the grandest houses in Scotland, is not only easy on the eye, but conjures up great things to come.

If an application was made to any planning authority now to build a town along the lines of Inveraray, it would be passed instantly and doubtless receive many accolades. But Inveraray was not always thus.

Although the settlement of the same name was made a burgh of barony in 1474 and a royal burgh by Charles I in 1648, it was not much different to other coastal communities in Scotland that depended on fish, except that Inveraray was the principal seat of the Earls of Argyll who, according to some historians, came originally from Ireland and, through marriage, became Kings of Dalriada. Later, when they moved their headquarters to Inveraray, they built a large tower-house to the north-east of the present castle, to provide protection for themselves and the inhabitants of the surrounding countryside.

The old town, with the castle as its centre-piece, was little more than a village made up of the accretions of several centuries, causing a visitor to write, 'This place will in time be very magnificent; but at the present the space between the front and the water is disgraced with the old town, composed of the most wretched hovels that can be imagined'.

In 1744 the third Duke, Archibald Campbell (1682-1861) was determined to take the Argyll estates into a period of enlightenment by a different style of land management and placed at its centre a new palatial power house that is today's Inveraray Castle. He began in 1745, leaving the old castle standing for a further 30 or so years as a retirement home for retainers and senior citizens. Otherwise there was more or less a clean sweep. How, you may well ask, can you replace one town with another in the 18th century without modern building techniques and machinery, and where did the occupants go while all this was happening? Fortunately the paper work survives.

Although people often write about 'old families', no family is older than any other only that some families have managed to maintain their identity and keep records of their past longer than many others.

The Campbells were one such family, because if there was one thing they were good at it was keeping invoices and receipts. Very early on in their ascendancy they realised, unlike many of their contemporaries, the pen was mightier than the sword and that when they went clubbing they brought home not just the cattle but also the sheepskin charters.

The result is the Argyll Papers are one of the most important private archives in Britain. It is a fabulous resource for Scottish and British history from the 13th to 21st centuries and attracts visitors from all over the world, researching a wide range of subjects, including family and local history, Gaelic studies, place names, military history, political history, economic and social history, agriculture and industry, architecture and more.

The Friends of The Argyll Papers, a volunteer group established to support the development of the family and estate archive, and to promote its use and enjoyment



by a wide audience, have spent the last nine months studiously going through chests of 18th-century manuscript records and plans to establish the layout of the old town and where people moved to. This has culminated in a fascinating pictorial exhibition called Inveraray the Old Town and the New, which opened last week and will run to the end of October in the castle's clan room with a podcast being launched at the end of September.

Why not spend a day looking round Inveraray and drive or walk up through the planned wooded policies to the castle to see this one-off exhibition and all the other unique treasures in the Campbell family home?

The circles of 18th century muskets and fans of Lochaber axes and swords in the armoury hall, Rob Roy's belt and sporran, ornate French tapestries, a Spanish cannon from Tobermory Bay and much more. Queen Victoria stayed at the castle in 1847 and must have approved of what she saw as she allowed her daughter Princess Louise to marry the Marquess of Lorne, later the ninth Duke,

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Left: Torquhil, 13th Duke of Argyll and 35th chief of Clan Campbell. The silver buttons on his velvet doublet show the sacred royal salmon of the ancient Gaels worn by the Argyll family as successors in the female line of the Kings of Argyll.

Photograph Mark Cator

Above: The Duke of Argyll's coat of arms with the chief's crest of a boar's head.

Photograph Argyll Estates

till in the gift shop or passing you a pot of tea and a plate of scones in the restaurant. He is charming and affable and will talk to you as if you were the only person in the room. He can tell you about the castle's history and of Clan Campbell like no other. If you ask him if there are any ghosts he will relate the tale of the Little Harper who was murdered in 1645 by Montrose's soldiers near where you are standing, and whose music can still be heard. He will also tell you about the Scottish guillotine, more cruel than the French one, because its victims were put on their backs so that they could watch the blade slicing towards their necks. He should know as one of his ancestors died by the Maiden as it was called.

If he proffers you his hand, take it, because afterwards you will be able to tell your grandchildren that you shook the hand of a descendent of King James I of Scotland (1394-1437) and the Fingalian hero who killed a fierce wild boar on Ben an Tuirc in Kintyre. He has many titles including Duke of Argyll and Master of the Royal Household in Scotland, but his Gaelic one, MacCailein Mor, Son of Great Colin, means more to him than any other because it is in his DNA.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

although it was said at the time that no one in Argyll doubted about who was honouring whom in such a marriage.

In 2012 Inveraray castle was chosen by Julian Fellowes for the two-hour special Christmas episode of the highly popular Downton Abbey television series. Photographs of the filming are still on the walls.

If the long table in the state dining room with its rare, silver-gilt sailing ships called 'nefs', or the old downstairs kitchen with seven fireplaces for different methods of cooking, reminds you that it is time to eat, there is a modern restaurant in the basement selling the 'Fynest' in foods from Inveraray, Argyll and Scotland.

Catering for all ages and both deep and not so deep pockets, the menu is designed by Eleanor Argyll, Duchess of Argyll, who founded the widely acclaimed 'Best of the West' – a two-day celebration of the best of local food, drink and music from the West of Scotland. If the castle is busy you might find a tall, very pleasant, dark-haired man on the

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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

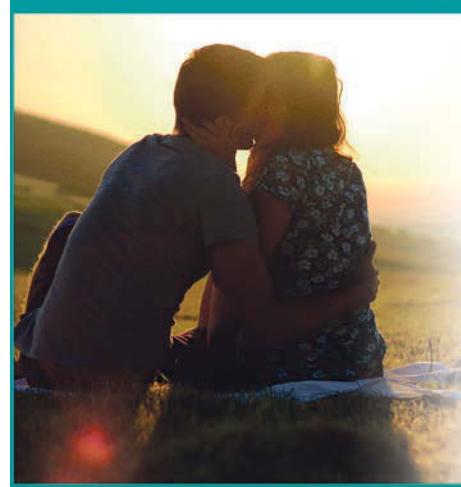


Having recently enjoyed the 2018 Glenfinnan Games, this photograph takes a step back in time to the games of 1997. Pictured is Fort William piper Anna MacDonald with dancers who competed in the local competitions.



Part of Fort William High Street of many decades ago... note the litter! Photograph courtesy of the Roamer Archive.

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LETTERS

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Oban Bay trust port

Following last week's public meeting to discuss the control of Oban Bay, where the results of a survey were discussed, volunteers are now investigating the feasibility of running the bay as a trust port.

Out of 550 people surveyed, 63 per cent voted for a trust port managed by an independent local board, 15 per cent wanted a council-run municipal harbour, and only seven per cent were in favour of a single user, which would see CalMac's ferry and port-owning sister company Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited expanding its harbour area to absorb the area currently managed by Argyll and Bute Council.

Oban Bay Management Group (OBMG) has now endorsed the proposal, but this is where the hard work really begins as the group must demonstrate sustainable governance and finance. If it is unable to do so, the options of a council-run municipal harbour or CMAL taking over as a single user will be looked at.

OBMG should be commended for having listened to public opinion, and we would hope that a collaborative approach can be taken to ensure that the management and safety of Oban Bay benefits everyone, not just the few.

Credit where it's due

It was great to see volunteers in painting the cinema at the weekend providing the foyer with a much-needed facelift.

The social enterprise has had a difficult few months recently, with a recent roof leak above the small screen adding to the venue's woes. But thanks to manager Jennie Larney, the board and a committed band of volunteers, the difficult times seem to be behind them.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed.

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

At the Oban Times we endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephone on 01631 568000; or write the Editor at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO by calling 0300 123 2220 or email: inquiries@ipso.co.uk. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.



For press freedom
with responsibility

Saddened by state of disrepair at Pennyfuir

One of the main carved stone pillars at the front of Pennyfuir cemetery has been hit again and, along with the damage to the left of two sections of plinths, it looks in a sorry state of disrepair.

This once grand facade could do with a good lick of paint. It is the first sight for visitors to witness. They must be saddened at the disrespectful state the council seems happy for the families of lost loved ones to see.

Stephen Jones,
Burnside Place, Millpark, Oban.

Taking issue with remarks over etiquette

I feel I must take issue with Chris James' (The Oban Times, September 6) remarks that the campaign manager for the Liberal Democrats had every right to be angry and abusive due to Ian Blackford's alleged breach of etiquette.

As far as I am aware etiquette is the customary code of polite behaviour in society or among members of a particular profession or group.

To suggest the campaign manager's alleged angry and aggressive manner be condoned or excused is, I would contend, totally against good manners and etiquette.

Surely any normal person would have civilly greeted Mr Blackford and pointed out that it was customary to follow the etiquette, explaining what that was, nevertheless thanking him for his good wishes and passed them on to Mr Kennedy.

Therefore I am afraid Chris James has been hoisted by his own petard on this one.

James Waugh,
18 West Laroch, Ballachulish

Scottish schools' pipe band championships

Most schools in Scotland have pipers and drummers within their pupil population. Schools in Oban and Argyllshire are probably no exception.

May I please ask your readers to seek out their pipers and encourage them to represent their school as a piping quartet, if not as a full band, at the next Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships.

The championships are organised annually by the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust. The next championships will be held at Inveralmond Community High School, Livingston, on Sunday March 10, 2019. More details are on our website www.thechampionships.co.uk

Last March, 145 schools from all over Scotland (and two from England) were represented at the championships, with a category available for all standards of playing.

Five years ago we introduced a new category: freestyle. The aim of this is to provide an op-

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YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase people's images each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here,

simply send it to editor@obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street,

portunity for schools to showcase their other musical skills alongside those of their pipers.

The Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust (www.sspdt.org.uk) hopes that as many young pipers and drummers from your area – with other musicians too if entering the freestyle event – will participate in next year's championships.

Patrick Gascoigne,
Aberlady, East Lothian

Mental health cash welcomed

The decision by the Scottish Government last week (September 5) to put mental health at the centre of its Programme for Government is to be greatly welcomed.

The additional £250m of resourcing pledged will seek to deliver, among other things, 250 school mental health nurses and 350 coun-

sellers in schools. This announcement came on the same day that it was noted that mental health waiting times for children and young people are the worst on record.

As a coalition we have strongly supported the merits of early mental health intervention, which can have an incredibly powerful impact on the lives of children and young people, with benefits continuing into adulthood. In this context, the ability to access school-based counselling services at an early stage in a convenient location can prove truly transformational.

Unlike other parts of the UK, however, there are limited counselling services in Scotland. Indeed, Scotland is currently the only UK country with no national strategy for school-based counselling services. The provision of 350 counsellors is therefore, to be greatly welcomed.

Counselling services are guaranteed in all secondary schools in Northern Ireland and

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Wemyss on Islay.

The roads and street lighting department has already stated that the new LED lights may be the issue. As I said at the MAKI committee for safety reasons alone these faults must be rectified promptly.

I also raised the need for (at the very least) advisory lower speed limit signs through many villages on Islay and outside of the Co-op in Tarbert.

On September 6 I joined fellow Conservative councillors at the environment, development and infrastructure committee. Both myself and Councillor Jamie McGrigor raised concerns from our constituents about the three-weekly bin uplifts for general waste. We made it clear that paying higher council tax with less general waste bin up-lifts is seen as unfair by many of our constituents.

Later on, I was delighted to attend the East Kintyre Community Council meeting in Carradale. It was good to speak to local residents in attendance and get updates on the progress being made with drain repairs and hear from Marine Harvest about its future plans in Kintyre.

I have also been continuing to put out my latest survey across my council ward. There are more and more surveys returned every day which is fantastic. The more I hear from my constituents the more effective a councillor I can be, so please keep the feedback coming in.

Councillor Alastair Redman

Islay

'Wind farm windfall' – triumph or tragedy?

I am not sure if the headline in the Lochaber Times last week (September 6 – Wind farm windfall) regarding community 'benefit' from Stronelaig wind farm reflects a triumph or tragedy.

The Stronelaig wind farm is one of the most controversial in Scotland's history forcing two judicial planning reviews.

The area is wild land of outstanding natural beauty and part of a unique Highland ecosystem. The environmental damage caused by the wind farm will be enormous, with tracks built up the hillside and parts of the area bulldozed and filled with thousands of tonnes of concrete to replace the carbon sink peat.

The John Muir Trust and other outdoor groups fought a campaign on behalf of the public interest to save this unique landscape for the Scottish and world community.

Elected representatives in looking at benefit should consider and reflect on the destruction of a pristine wilderness of unimaginable beauty.

The commercial developer will make hundreds of millions of pounds in the next 30 years from the scheme, so the amount of so-called 'community benefit' is a token effort.

Jim Treasurer

Friends of the Great Glen Environmental Group

Air Cuairt Ghoirid ann an Arcaibh bha e intinnneach beagan a leughadh ann an taigh-tasgaidh ionadail mu sgeulachd "Chabhsairean Churchill" a chaidh an togail aig àm an Dàrna Cogaidh.

B' ann ann an 1914 a ghl-uais a' Chabhlaich Rioghail gu ruige Bàgh Scapa ann an Arcaibh an toiseach ag aithneachadh fear de na h-acarsaidean fasgach as fheàrr air an t-saoghal a bha cuideachd goireasach airson ionnsaighean cogaidh anns a' Bhaltic.

Chaidh seann shiothichean a chur fodha eadar na còig eileanan mu thimcheall Scapa gus dion a chur air cabhlach Bhreatann. Aig deireadh a' chogaidh chaidh cabhlach na Gearmait a chur fo gheàrd anns an acarsaid fhad 's a bha deasbad a' leantainn a thaobh 's mar a rachadh dèiligeadh leotha.

Gus dèanamh cinnteach nach d' rachadh na bàtaichead aca a roinn eadar dhùthchannan a bhuanach a' cogadh, cho-dhùin an Admiral Ludwig von Reuter a' chabhlaich Ghearmailteach gu lèir a chur fodha anns an acarsaid aig Scapa.

Chun an latha 'n- diugh b' e sin an call mara a bu

mhotha riamh ann an aon latha is 52 soitheach gan cur chun a' ghrunnd. Thogadh a' mhòr-chuid ach tha seachd fhathast air a' ghrunnd ann am Bàgh Scapa a' tarraing dhàibhearan far feadh an t-saoghal.

Thill Cabhlach Bhreatann gu ruige Scapa aig toiseach an dàrna cogaidh agus ged a chaidh dion na h-acarsaid ùrachadh, chailleadh 833 seòladair anns an HMS Royal Oak a chaidh a cur fodha 's i aig acair nuair a fhuaiream bata-aigean U-47 air siolpadh dhan bhagh air muir-làn beagan làithean an dèidh toiseach a' chogaidh ann an 1939.

Dh'òrdaich Churchill cabhsairean a thogail eadar na h-eileanan mu thimcheall Scapa gus na caolais a dhùnadh, agus thug an obair ceithir bliadhna. An-diugh tha a' bhuanachd aig muintir nan eileanan sin gum faigh iad siubhal air ais 's air adhart gun chus maille ach nuair a bhios fior dhroch shide a' fagail nan cabhsairean cunnartach.

Ann am beagan sheachdainean bithear a' comharrachadh crioch aimhreit a' chiad chogaidh agus a' dèanamh luaidh

air gaisgeachd. Ach mar a tha soilleir anns an leabhar bheag ghrinn The Moidart Sniper a dh'fhoillsich Fergie Dòmhnullach mu eachdraidh athar fhèin anns a' chìad chogadh cha b' ann dhen roghainn a chaidh na miltean mòra "ghaisgich" sin, bho gach taobh, a chogadh!

Tha e fior mhath gum bheil sgeulachd Sheonaidh Ton Dòmhnullach ann an clò agus saoilidh mi gum bheil i a' toirt urram cuimhne dhan na h-uile nach do thill, cho math ri feedhainn a thàr beò.

Just weeks before we mark the centenary of the ending of hostilities in 1918 it was good to see and read The Moidart Sniper, Fergie MacDonald's account of his father John 'Ton' Macdonald's experience with the Lovat Scouts in the Great War.

Unquestionably a story of valour but also a reminder of the futility and waste of war, this nice little book is a tribute to all who fell and to those who made it back.

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



Fort William. This week's photograph, which was taken in July before the weather started to turn, is sent to us by Harry Payne and is of Colonsay House Gardens.

Wales. In Wales the vast majority of children and young people who received counselling (85 per cent) did not require any form of onward referral once counselling sessions had been completed.

The benefits are therefore obvious and the cost of five sessions of counselling is equivalent to just one contact with mental health services.

It is great to see Scotland now focusing on the delivery of counselling services in our schools and recognising the incredible benefits this can bring.

The Scottish Children's Services Coalition

Islay street lights in the spotlight

It was great to be back on the mainland side of my council ward again.

At the latest MAKI committee I brought up the street lighting issues in Port Ellen and Port

The commercial developer will make hundreds of millions of pounds in the next 30 years from the scheme, so the amount of so-called 'community benefit' is a token effort.

Jim Treasurer

Friends of the Great Glen Environmental Group

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DISTRICT NEWS

OBAN

St Columba's Primary School is hosting an open day on Tuesday October 23 for parents with children under five years.

The school has invited families from Oban and the surrounding area to attend the day to see what St Columba's can offer children.

The event starts at 5.30pm and runs until 7pm.

There will be a tour of the school and a chance for families to meet staff.

LOCH AWE

Niemann-Pick disease...is not a disease most people are likely to have heard of but it's so rare many doctors have not heard of it either.

Niemann-Pick disease (NPD) is a genetic neuro-degenerative condition that has devastating consequences for those who suffer from it.

The age of onset and disease progression varies from person to person, but ultimately this insidious metabolic condition affects the brain and impacts the individual's ability to walk, talk, eat and think. At present there is no cure.

Niemann-Pick UK (NPUK) is a small charity dedicated to raising awareness, providing practical and emotional support and backing research into potential therapies and, hopefully, one day a cure for NPD.

Fundraiser Helen Beveridge of Inverness, took on the huge challenge of swimming the length of Loch Awe - 24 miles - in August to



Helen Beveridge swimming the 23 mile length of Loch Awe.

raise funds and awareness for NPD and NPUK.

Helen has a personal reason for getting involved: in 2016 her daughters Shona, 17, and Kelsie, 16, were both diagnosed with Niemann-Pick disease type C, news that has had a huge impact on her family.

Helen is no stranger to swim challenges such as this, having already swum the lengths of Loch Lomond, Loch Morar and Loch Ness, but spending more than 20 hours in the 10-14°C water of Loch Awe wearing just a normal swimsuit would test anyone. But cheered on by friends and family, she conquered the feat and to date has raised more than £4,000 for NPUK.

Just after the event, Helen said: 'I swam Loch Awe in 23 hours, 29 minutes and 55 seconds. This successful swim completes my four lochs' goal: longest, Loch Awe; deepest, Loch Morar; biggest by surface area, Loch Lomond, and biggest by volume, Loch Ness.'

'Thanks go to my crew and observer for seeing this swim through and to my wonderful family and friends.' You can still donate at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Helen-Beveridge-swim

ARGYLL

A council fund set up to 'bring the armed forces and civilian communities together' is open for applications until Sunday September 30.

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust Local Grants and Digital Development programme makes grants of up to £20,000 to local projects.

Councillor Barbara Morgan, Argyll and Bute Council's Armed Forces Champion, said: 'This is a fantastic fund that has, in the past, supported an interesting variety of projects across Argyll and Bute. What they have in common is the benefits they bring to serving armed forces personnel and their families, local communities and veterans.'

An Argyll and Bute spokesperson said: 'There are a number of strands within the programme that projects can apply to. Community integration

Talented Kilmelford pianist Arabella gets scholarship

Star classical music student Arabella Fyles has 'grand' piano talent.

The 12-year-old from Kilmelford, who has been tinkling the ivories since she was three, has just come back from a week-long piano summer school at the prestigious Chetham's School of Music in Manchester.

The experience was sponsored by Oban Music Society, made possible by a legacy left by the late Elizabeth Graham, known as Bette, of Taynuilt.

Bette left a generous bequest to the society in her will, which meant members could buy a Steinway A piano which now lives in St John's Cathedral for the benefit of the whole community.

Oban Music Society's Richard Hess said there was still money from the legacy to offer a bursary and the plan was now for it to become an annual opportunity for a student of classical music, either an instrumentalist or a singer.

'We decided to offer it to a piano student this year in recognition of our having just bought a magnificent new Steinway piano following our fund raising efforts last year,' he said.

Arabella, a pupil at Oban High School, is due to take her Grade 5 exam in December - the highest grade is Grade 8.



Arabella Fyles was the first recipient of a new classical music student bursary from Oban Music Society.

The young pianist's first piano was a pink miniature baby grand.

Mum Lucy said Arabella 'got a bee in her bonnet' about wanting to play the piano after seeing her Granny play and watching people play it on TV.

Arabella said the summer school was inspiring. 'It was inspiring to be there with lots of other young pianists and see what I will be able to achieve. I loved all the practise rooms at the school. There were so many different types of pianos to play.'

She has had the same teacher

in Oban since she was four and on Sunday September 30 will be performing at Oban PianoFun, an event at Oban Parish Church in Glencruitten Road from 3pm to 4pm.

The musical afternoon, encouraging pianists of all ages and abilities to play in public, is being organised by her teacher Kenn Harrower, who has been a piano tutor in the town for 20 years.

All donations from the event will be given to the Scottish Liver Transplant Unit based in Edinburgh.

content and good practice in managing governance in the digital age.'

APPIN

Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society has started its 75th consecutive year with a concert in

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Appin Village Hall in support of Appin Parish Church Fabric Fund.

The concert, organised by Margaret Ross, has raised £435. The concert was well-attended with great local support.

Soloists for the evening were Oban's Freddie MacKenzie, Appin's Moira Thomson and Helen Jordan, Strathspey and reel, accompanied by Winnie McNicol.

The evening's entertainment gave people a flavour of what to expect in April 2019 when the Strathspey and Reel Society holds its 75th annual Fiddlers' Rally in Oban's Corran Halls.

Rally rehearsals begin today (Thursday September 13) in Oban Guide Hall at 7.30pm. All interested musicians are welcome.



The Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society started its 75th year with a concert in Appin Village Hall.

Sequence choir in the pink

Sequence ladies' choir held a successful evening in the Royal Hotel on September 1 entitled Ladies in Pink.

The venue was a sea of pink as the ladies and gentlemen were adorned with something or everything pink.

Entertainment consisted of soloists Anna Gregory, Lyndsay Wilson and Janet Fergusson, duetists Alison Pringle and Stella Leitch, a quartet ABBA tribute, followed by the choir and a vocal ensemble.

The evening was topped by special male guests Stuart Smith, Ken Oxland and Martyn Harvey who thrilled the audience with their dance moves and rousing singing.

Dance music mixed and delivered by one half of Cosmic Jive, Torquil Fergusson, with a raffle, quiz and singalong completed the evening.

The choir hopes to record an EP and proceeds from the evening will go a long way to cover this.

Raffle money will be donated to Pink Ladies, a local support group for those with breast cancer.

The choir thanks the Royal Hotel for its support and input to the evening.



Sequence ladies' choir held a fund raiser for the Pink Ladies cancer charity in the Royal Hotel, Oban.

NORTH UIST

Shooglenifty, the 'acid croft' band with Uist connections, is among the latest to show support for Uist Wind.

The community share offer which aims to reach at least £350,000 has now reached £260,000, 75 per cent of its target.

'North Uist Development Company (NUDC) is fortunate we are able to extend the deadline for completing the share offer,' explained NUDC chairperson Mustapha Hocine. 'So please consider making an investment. Although £350,000 is our minimum and is now in sight, the more we raise, the more profitable this project will be for our community.'

'Although much of the investment so far has come from the local community – and it is great to see that Uist is getting behind this project – you don't have to be local to invest.'

The North Uist Renewable Energy Project aims to raise £2.3 million over 22 years for development projects on the island.

KILMORE

The August winner of the Kilmore 100 Club was Mrs E McColl and September winners were A MacPherson and R Craig.

At random

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Disappointing news

I was more than disappointed to hear last week the Scottish Sealife Sanctuary at Barcaldine is to close unless a new owner can be found.

It is disheartening news on a number of levels, but principally for the people who work there.

The staff – we are told there are 11 of them – now face an uncertain time given that the current owner, Merlin Entertainment, plans to shut the attraction on October 31.

In fairness to Merlin, the company has said it will attempt to find other roles for the workers within its business. However, as the next nearest Sealife Sanctuary is at Loch Lomond Shores at Balloch, it is difficult to see how the staff could move there or elsewhere without the need to relocate lock, stock and barrel.

Then there is the blow this decision delivers to the local tourism economy. The Scottish Sealife Sanctuary is part of the overall mix of attractions that brings people to our area and will be a loss to the 'product'.

Any diminution to what we have to offer is bad for us all. Let us hope fervently a new buyer can be found and that the amenity can be kept going, in whatever form that might be.

Play park saga a disgrace

The saga over Oban Community Play Park is an absolute disgrace.

Serious questions require to be answered by those in the relevant senior positions at Argyll and Bute Council.

As we reported last week, the park remains closed after its gates were locked in March. The Easter and summer holidays have come and gone with nothing achieved by council officers. Why is this? Why has the repair of the flooring been so intractable a problem that nothing has been done nearly six months on?

Our elected councillors should have been jumping up and down and raising the roof over such a level of incompetence.

What do you think?

Write to me at mlaing@obantimes.co.uk or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB, or call 01631 568021.

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OUTDOORS

SSPCA welcomes government pledge to animal welfare

The Scottish SPCA welcomed a number of positive animal welfare announcements in the 2018/2019 Scottish Government Programme for Government on Wednesday September 5.

Scotland's animal welfare charity has been seeking a number of changes in the law in regards to animals, including an increase in the maximum sentencing for animal cruelty, licensing of animal sanctuaries and tackling the illegal puppy trade.

Scottish SPCA chief superintendent Mike Flynn said: 'It's fantastic that the Scottish Government has announced that they will be taking steps to improve animal welfare in many instances beyond the UK.'

'Given our proven commitment to animal welfare the society looks forward to tak-

ing part in the proposed Animal Welfare Commission.'

Scottish SPCA chief executive Kirsteen Campbell said: 'We are extremely pleased to see the commitment from the Scottish Government to allow animals seized by organisations to be rehomed much more quickly and efficiently.'

'Currently many animals remain in our care for a long period of time, until a court case has been heard. First and foremost these commitments will, in time, alleviate our temporary refuge situation which is a real challenge both from an animal welfare and a financial perspective.'

'The illegal puppy trade is a priority for the society and our #SayNoToPuppyDealers

campaign has highlighted this issue to the public and MSPs. We welcome the Scottish Government's commitment to reform licensing and breeding laws.'

'We are pleased to see that a range of actions have been proposed to ensure young people have the support they need at the earliest stage. Sadly we are seeing first-hand the effects that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can have on how children interact with animals that they encounter.'

'The Scottish SPCA's ground-breaking Animal Guardians programme is that first step in really trying to tackle the link between animal cruelty and violent crime.'

'With the added link between animal cruelty and domestic violence we are pleased that

domestic violence will continue to be a key multi-agency issue that will be tackled across Scotland over the coming year.'

'Having been concerned at rising numbers of wildlife casualties, we are delighted to see commitments regarding protecting life and habitats below water and above land, including tackling the issue of fishing litter and lost gear.'

'We also commend steps to improve Scotland's international reputation for high quality meat production by updating Farm Animal Welfare Codes and introducing compulsory CCTV of slaughter in abattoirs.'

'We look forward to working with our partners, Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament to progress these positive commitments to animal welfare in Scotland.'

Nominations sought for environmental awards

Volunteers from communities across Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park will be honoured at The Community Partnership's Gathering awards ceremony on Saturday October 27, at The Three Villages Hall, Arrochar. The awards aim to recognise contributions made by local people raising environmental awareness, promoting environmental conservation or making their community more sustainable.

The Gathering, A Green Revolution – building sustainable communities now, is set to be an informative day-time event open to community development trusts, community councils, community interest groups and village hall management groups from around Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

Within the context of global climate change the event will feature a packed programme exploring what communities

in the national park could look like in the future, and visualising what a 'green community' could look like. This event holds a potential in changing some of the challenges that rural communities in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs face; marine litter and pollution, declining populations, changes in the landscape, scarcity of resources, a growing global food crisis as well as reducing CO₂ emissions.

Event speakers and participants include Professor Sarah Skerratt, rural society and policy director of policy engagement at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) and author of Recharging Rural – Creating sustainable communities to 2030 and beyond; Zero Waste Scotland; Nourish Scotland; Arrochar Hydro Scheme; Energy 4 All; GDodge Architects and many more.

The event will also address the impact of scarcity of resources looking at how community is the key to circular economy

and how local projects can help develop new resourceful initiatives and promote sustainable choices.

Nominations are now being sought for the Community Environmental Award aimed at community initiatives or groups, and Young Environmentalist of the Year for individuals under 25, and is open to anyone who lives within or in a gateway community to the national park.

Details and nomination forms can

be found by visiting The Community Partnership website, www.thecommunitypartnership.org.uk, and the deadline for nominations is October 15.

The Community Partnership is run by its members and its mission is to support the sustainable development of the communities in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park enabling innovative grass roots partnerships and provide a representative voice on community views.



Winners from last year's awards.

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The young female wildcat with rabbit. Photograph: Steve Piper / Wildcat Haven

Orphan kittens in Wildcat Haven feature in National Geographic

Two orphaned Scottish wildcat kittens rescued by conservation group Wildcat Haven in July have starred in a photoshoot for National Geographic's Photo Ark project, by world-renowned wildlife photographer Joel Sartore.

The kittens, which are closely monitored with remote motion-sensor cameras, have delighted half a million people with their antics.

The latest video shows them tucking into their first rabbit from inside the enclosure which includes multiple den sites, natural woodland, a small stream, dead wood piles, open meadow patches and some commercial forestry.

The story was reported worldwide and caught the attention of the renowned American wildlife photographer Joel Sartore, who has spent the last 12 years documenting some of the world's most endangered wildlife for his Photo Ark project with National

Geographic. Sartore explains: 'I first heard about Scottish wildcats 20 years ago running some photography workshops in Scotland, and even then everyone said they were impossible to shoot. Now there's only about 35 left so Wildcat Haven have two of the rarest felines in the world in their care and they will soon release them back to the wild.'

'It was an incredible opportunity to come in and see this cat up close and tell the world about it.'

'The facilities here at the Highland Titles Nature Reserve are first rate, those little kittens have more than an acre to roam around in and that's going to prepare them well for returning to the wild.'

The Photo Ark project has a unique stylistic approach, capturing studio-quality portraits of wildlife rather than traditional in-the-wild natural history images. For their shoot the kittens spent a

few minutes in a small tent erected inside their enclosure, with a hole cut in it for the camera lens to reach through, and studio lighting arranged outside of the tent.

Sartore comments: 'The Photo Ark at its heart is an effort to educate people and to get them to care about the extinction crisis. We could lose half of all species on this planet by 2100, and it's folly to think we can doom half of everything else to extinction and not have it affect humanity; it's going to affect us profoundly.'

The kittens have continued to settle in comfortably at the rehabilitation and rescue centre and footage of them includes them chasing and playing with each other, even in their water bowl – watch the latest video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9nZrFyUj5M.

Their next step, when fully mature, will be a return to complete freedom back in the wild where they belong.

This week's walks

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

Saturday September 15: Arisaig to Borrodale House

Start from the Post Office at Arisaig where limited parking is available. Walk south and take the minor road at the bend, cross the bridge over the canal and take the track E, which follows it to Mains Farm.

The track turns S to the junction at Glen Cottage. Turn left and follow the track E for 300m to a junctionEX. Turn right and follow the track S up to a low pass at 60m alt.

Look for the cup-marked stone at M6686384468. Continue S down to the shore at Camas Ghaoideil.

An easy scramble up a rocky outcrop leads to a small bothy perched above a precipice at the E end of the beach, NM670839. Follow the coast E for about 2Km to the road end at NM684843 on the tidal inlet of Saideal Druim an DaraichEX.

Cross the estuary and pick up a path that leads E to Prince Charlie's Cave at NM6906384432. Continue E for 200m, then turn S across a stream on a footbridge and climb up to the Dun at Rubha Aird Ghamhsail.

Return to re-cross the footbridge then follow the track N to Borrodale House. Turn E to reach the A830 at NM697850. Transport required.

Return trains from Beasdale (request stop) to Fort William at 16.27 and 18.37. Grade: L; Distance: 10km; Climb: 270m; Map(s): LR40, EX398

Meet at: Fort William Stn NN105741 for 08.30 dep to Arisaig, Fort William WM NN113742 at 09.30. Start of walk at 10.30 Leader: Ronnie Forbes 01866 822 611 or 07525 782929.

Thursday September 20: Beinn Bhreac, Barcaldine

Start from the B845 road at the forest entrance NM980382, where limited parking is available.

Walk S up the road for approx 200m, cross the burn and pick up an ATV track which heads up the SW flank of Beinn Bhreac. When the route flattens off, aim for the ring contour at NM989388, just S of a small lochan. Follow the vague ridge

NNE to gain the summit Beinn Bhreac, 708m.

Descend NNE, gently at first then more steeply into the wide corrie at the head of Gleann Dubh, E of the forest boundary. Cross the Abhainn Teithil, then the deer fence to locate a rough track that follows the river downstream to the head of the forest track at NN000424. Follow this W then S to re-cross the Abhainn Teithil.

Turn W at the next junction and continue W for 2km to the junction at NM971421. Turn N over the river and immediately W on a path that follows the river down to the CP at Sutherland's Grove. Transport required

Grade: M; Distance: 10km; Height to climb: 566m; Map(s): LR49, EX376

Meet at: North Ballachulish Sch NN053603 at 0925, Longsdale CP Oban NM862307 at 09.0. Start of walk at 1000. Leader: Toril Frantzen 07788 264007.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

Sunday September 16: Map 41, NN187622 Kinlochleven

Follow the path from the edge of the car park marked for Loch Eilde Mor. The path climbs steeply through trees and crosses the moor until it eventually reaches a vehicle track.

Turn left here briefly before turning right to continue in the original direction on another stalkers' path. The path crosses a stream and climbs around the southern flank of Sgurr Eilde Beag. Continue on the stalkers' path, passing beneath the steep east face and crossing the north flank of Sgurr Eilde Beag before heading up to the ridge in a wide zig-zag.

Turn right up the broad ridge to the minor summit at 1062m. From here you can see the ridge running out to Binnein Mor to the north. Follow it north to reach the Binnein Mor summit.

Return south to the 1,062m minor summit. This time, follow the narrowing ridge southwest down to a bealach and then reascend to Na Gruagaichean.

From here follow the easier south ridge then descend southwest down rough, pathless ground to return to the track. Turn right before a path cutting down on the left leads back down to the woods around the Grey Mare's Tail, and Kinlochleven.

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Happiness is a holiday park home

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When we were children we all wished we could be on our holidays every day.

Now we are all grown-up that wish can almost come true – if we invest in a holiday home.

If the words ‘holiday’ and ‘home’ make you groan and think it is all just too much of a responsibility, then add the word ‘park’ and it suddenly becomes far more easy and doable.

Tucked away across Argyll and the islands, and into Lochaber and the Highlands, are some truly splendid holiday home parks – as varied as the needs and wants of their owners.

But they all have the same ideal: an easy to buy, maintain, and affordable solution for holidays.

Think about it: suddenly you can pop off for a break at the drop of a hat. All across Scotland, from Thursday night through to Friday afternoon and evening, people are packing their cars and heading for a weekend break or longer.

Yes, it is nice to relax at home, but getting right away for the nine-to-five at the office, factory or school makes a break so much more; a real restorative. You would be surprised how many people who live here in the West Highlands actually have holiday homes somewhere in the area themselves.

We really are lucky in this region. Take your pick: the upper reaches of the Clyde estuary, Loch Lomond, the Cowal and

Kintyre peninsulas, Mid Argyll’s hidden gems, all of Lorn and Oban to explore; the mountains and lochs of Lochaber and masses of islands to explore, each with their own unique character. All are ideal locations for, or can be reached in a day from, your holiday park.

Perhaps you are more of a coast person and you arrive at your holiday home with the boot full of diving gear or a kayak lashed to the roof; or a fisherman with a wee boat in tow.

Or you turn inland as a cyclist with bikes on a rack, or a mountaineer with some fierce looking axes and ropes in the boot. Perhaps you just want some peace and quiet and bring a soothing amount of books, magazines and your paint box.

Holiday park homes are great for all the family and especially children who, in these days of car-choked roads, can actually get out and play.

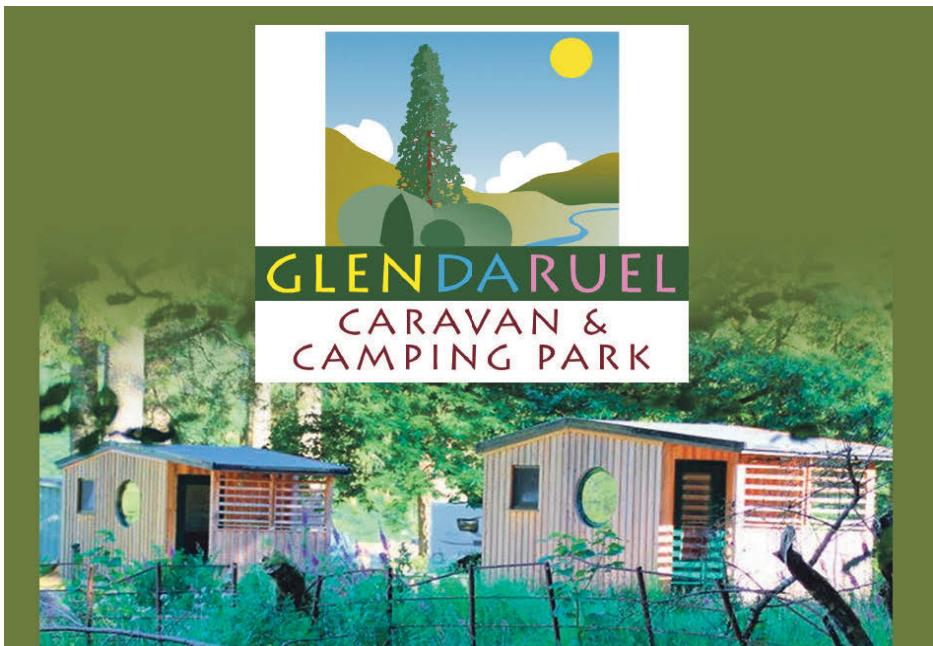
Today’s holiday homes are full of the comforts of home, with washing machines, fridge-freezers (which can be kept stocked so you can arrive on a whim) and essential communications such as satellite TV and wifi hot spots.

And best of all they have a design quality and build which means they are energy efficient and cosy all-year-round. So the holidays can include Christmas and Hogmanay. What kid, big or wee, would not approve?



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Glendaruel Caravan and Camping Park



The second generation of the Craig family is now welcoming the children and grandchildren of their first customers to Glendaruel Caravan and Camping Park.

Annie's parents Quin and Anne began the family business in 1976 in the grounds of Glendaruel House, one of the lost mansions of Argyll.

The house's legacy is a 22-acre landscape full of beautiful mature trees and wildlife, forming the backdrop to the park which caters for 35 owner occupied Caravan Holiday Homes, as well as visiting caravans, motor homes and campers. The park layout keeps cars away from living areas, giving parents the confidence to let children play safely.

'People have always liked the ambience of the place it has a very peaceful atmosphere,' said Annie.

Glendaruel is right in the heart of the Cowal Peninsula amidst the beautiful landscapes and seascapes of Argyll's 'secret coast' and in these tranquil surroundings it is hard to believe you are only two hours from Glasgow and an even shorter journey from the Inverclyde area.

'Once people find this area you can guarantee they come back,' said Annie.

The park has a new hub building, including a laundry and other facilities and unique wooden bothies, designed by Annie in con-

junction with RA Scott Passive House Design and Construction, which are a big hit with outdoor enthusiasts and cyclists all drawn by the Cowal Way, Cowal Loop Cycle Route and the Five Ferries Challenge. The park also has a wifi hotspot.

And being at the centre of the peninsula, Glendaruel is perfectly placed for ferries to Bute and Tarbert to explore the Kintyre Peninsula, Benmore Botanic Garden, an outing to Dunoon or further afield to Inveraray. The Craig family welcomes people to come and try before they buy one of their holiday homes for hire, to experience the magic of Glendaruel first hand.

"We were looking for a park with peace and quiet, we have found lots of that here" – E Simpson

"We had visited Glendaruel Caravan Park many times and stayed with friends who had a caravan holiday home on the park. We ended up buying our own and have continued to enjoy the experience – always a pleasant drive from Glasgow and always appreciated the west highland scenery when we arrived on site. Cattle grazing and great views of the hills, this is a quiet and well managed park" – K Gibson

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caravan and camping pitches are spacious and are either hard standing with electric hook-ups or grass without. Most overlook the loch, as do the delightful glamping pods and luxurious self-catering lodges.

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Resipole Farm is a family-run business, and we've been welcoming visitors and holiday-makers for almost 50 years, so we understand exactly what you're looking for from your holiday. We pride ourselves on going the extra mile to ensure you find your experience with us unforgettable, and when we're set in such spectacular surroundings, we know you're going to love your stay with us.

Outstanding scenery is to be enjoyed by all at Resipole Farm Holiday Park near Loch Sunart, a stunning location for camping, glamping, caravanning and self-catering in the wild West Highlands. The Resipole recipe is to offer everything that guests could want for a relaxed and enjoyable holiday. Both the

Your holiday home at Machrihanish Holiday Park – warning: you may never want to leave



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Looking west over Machrihanish Bay, Islay, and the Paps of Jura, our park is famous for stunning ocean sunsets, fantastic views and miles of local golden sands.

Nearby Campbeltown's A-listed buildings, including the newly-refurbished Art Nouveau Picture House, and Campbeltown Loch will keep you snapping. Nature photographers will love spotting wildlife — and the occasional Paul McCartney — on the Mull of Kintyre.

TEE UP A DIFFERENT SHOT

The opening tee shot at Machrihanish Golf Club, a world top-100 championship course laid out by Old Tom Morris, is regarded as the best there is. And David McLay Kidd's Machrihanish Dunes recreates the ancient game for a round like no other.

Memberships start at just £245 a year — we offer great discounts on green fees at both.

TIME FOR TEA

The Old Clubhouse pub offers excellent food and drink, while the Ugadale Hotel boasts an inviting restaurant and bar, and a luxurious spa. You can also dine in Macrihanish golf club if you've played on the course. There's no shortage of places to eat and drink on the peninsula, from Campbeltown's world-famous distilleries to the bars, restaurants and cafes offering fine local cuisine.

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Appin farmer's 'silent killer' video

The dangers of working with slurry gases has been highlighted in a video recorded by an Argyll farmer, who believes his investment in a gas monitor has saved his life on more than one occasion.

With many farmers currently working with slurry, this is a stark reminder of the dangers of extremely poisonous hydrogen sulphide, known as 'the silent killer'.

Mixing slurry can be a particularly dangerous job as the gas is released very quickly, and in large quantities, as soon as the mixing starts. The first 30 minutes are the most dangerous, so it is important for farmers to leave the shed as soon as the mixing starts – and to stay out for at least 30 minutes.

Even a low concentration of hydrogen sulphide can knock out the sense of smell so it is not even known it is there. At higher concentrations it is rapidly harder to breathe and it is easy to become confused – and at certain concentrations, just one breath can kill. Although a gas monitor should never be used as a substitute for working safely, it can help to provide reassurance.

NFU Scotland member David Colthart of Achnacone Farm, Appin, has shared his video following the launch of a safety drive this week by the Farm Safety Partnership Scotland (FSPS).

David bought the gas monitor as an ex-hire seven years ago after his neighbour died



To view the video with David Colthart visit www.facebook.com/nfuscotland/videos/ occasion

from exposure to hydrogen sulphide. He says that for just a few hundred pounds this has been a lifesaver for him on more than one occasion and he urges others to make that investment as it could prevent their death or injury.

In the video, following the mixing of slurry underground, as David approaches the machine and shed while still outside, the warning sounds when half the deadly level of gas has been reached, which is a warning to get out. The second beeping gives a warning of the deadly level as he gets closer. This is a stark reminder of the dangers of slurry gases not just within the shed but on the periphery.

David said: 'We are told time and again of how dangerous slurry gases can be, but many still don't take heed. It

is frustrating when time after time you read about death of cattle, and even worse farmers and the devastating effect on families, when a couple of hundred pounds spent would help protect them.'

I've spoken to the company that services my detector and the dealer can count on one hand how many farmers over the years have enquired about them. He said it is the price that puts them off. Can you really put a price on a life? This has been worth every single penny spent and I would urge others to make the investment.

'There are different ones on the market, from basic ones to technical devices, with varying prices, it is worth having a look and seeing what suits your needs. It could save your life, like it has mine.'

Around the markets

United Auctions held its annual show and sale of Blackface wedder lambs, sponsored by the Blackface Sheep Breeders' Association, also a sale of all classes cross bred lambs and feeding sheep at Dalmailly Auction Mart on September 8.

A catalogued entry of 8,002 lambs and sheep sold to a packed ringside of buyers.

William Dunlop, Elmscleugh, judged the various classes of Blackface lambs and his awards are as follows: 1 and champion pen taking the James Weir Memorial Trophy - Achnaba - £58. 2 Tullochan - £51 and 3 Tayvallich Estate - £45.50. As in line with other centres, lambs were weighing 2k to 3k lighter on the year, nevertheless, most sellers were receiving £2 to £5 per head more on the year. Overall lambs sold to average £39.98 per head or 149.2 per kilo (+ £3.48 per head or 15.7 pence per kilo) whilst the Blackface section averaged £37.35 per head or 128.6 per kilo. Principal lots and prices:

Top prices per head - BF:
£62.00 - Invernayle: £59.50
- Mill Park: £58.50 - Ormsary Farmers: £58.00 - Achnaba: £53.00 - Invernayle: £52.50 - Lephinkill: £52.00 - Clachan Farms (Kilniver): £51.00 - Tullochcan: £50.50 - Corrylorn: £50.00 - Dall: £49.50 - Ormsary Farmers: £47.50 - Invernayle: £47.50 - Machrins Farm: £47.50 - Littleport: £47.00 - Drumachar: £46.50 - Kilaran Farmers: £46.00 - Luss Estates: £46.00 - Callasaig: £45.50 - Castles Estate: £45.50 - Tayvallich Estate: £45.00 - Inchgarth Farm:

SUFFx:
£62.00 - Drumachar Farm: £56.50 - Glenrock Farm.

TEXx:

£70.00 - Inchgarth Farm: £65.50 - Lephinkill Farm: £61.00 - 99 Upper Bove, Barra: £60.00 - Keppoch Farm: £58.50 - Barbreck Farm, Lochgilphead: £58.50 - Stonefield: £58.00 - Glenshero: £58.00 - Inchgarth: £57.50 - Craigmore: £57.00 - Ardchatten: £57.00 - Keppoch.

CHEV:

£73.50 and £62.00 - Brackenridge: £58.50 - Caddleton Farms: £56.00 - Gorten.

CROSS:

£57.00 - Stroneskar: £53.00 - Stonefield.

Ewes:

TEXx:

£59.00 - Craigmore.

CHEV:

£43.00 - 4 Glenaros.

BF:

£42.50 - Castles Estate: £40.00 - Kilchoan.

Top prices per kilo:

Lambs:

BF:

179p - Inchgarth: 171p - Achnaba: 167p - Ormsary Farmers: 166p

- Littleport: 165p - Tullochcan: 165p - Littleport: 163p - Ormsary Farmers: 160p - Kilaran Farmers:



Fulton Ronald of Saulmore Farm receiving the Reid and Robertson shield, a division of Carrs Billington, for best pen of Blackface wedder lambs from Karen Love and Alan King. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

160p - Ormsary Farmers:

159p - Corrylorn: 158p - Ederline Estate: 157p - Bragleenmore: 157p - Clachan Farms (Kilniver): Castles Estate: 157p - Tigh Airigh: 157p -

Machrins Farm: 155p - Invernahyle: 155p - Inchgarth: 154p - Keilar: 154p - Lephinkill: 154p - Corrylorn: 152p - Garrogie Estates: 151p - Dericampus: 151p - Scallasraig: 151p - Mill Park.

SUFFx:

174p - Ardchatten: 168p - Glenrock.

TEXx:

190p - Inchgarth Farm: 190p - Barbreck Farm (Lochgilphead): 188p -

Inchgarth Farm: 186p - Lephinkill Farm: 185p - Stonefield Farms: 185p - 99 Upper Bove, Barra: 184p -

Keppoch Farm: 183p - Keilbeg: 183p - Stonefield Farms: 182p - Drumachar Farm: 181p - Learigie Farm: 181p - Barbreck (Lochgilphead): 181p - Kilchoan.

CHEV:

193p - Blackmount: 189p -

Kilchoan: 186p - Maam: 184p -

Inchgarth: 184p - Caddleton Farms: 184p - Kilchoan.

CHARx:

£46.50 - Creagnich.

CHEV:

£59.00 and £58.00 - Barguillean:

£58.00 - 7 Rhulios, Barra: £56.00 - Cuan Croft.

CROSS:

£52.50 - Bonawe H F: £50.00 -

Achnacone.

MULE:

£54.00 - Fiart.

Ewes:

TEXx:

£90.00 & £53.00 - 123 Craigston,

Barra.

CHEV:

£52.00 - Shenavallie: £44.50 -

Cuan Croft, Dervaig: £43.00 - 7 Rhulios, Barra.

BF:

£40.00 - Mid Farm: £35.00 -

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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

When shinty and art collide

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



The worlds of art, specifically printmaking, and shinty have come together for a project that celebrates the culture and heritage of one of Scotland's oldest sports.

The Throw Up 2018 project commissioned four artists to work with designated shinty clubs during 2017 and into the 2018 season. A selection of the final work will be exhibited for the first time at the Camanachd Cup final in Oban on Saturday, September 15.

The artists involved have created a series of artworks inspired by the contemporary



culture and heritage of the iconic, indigenous sport.

Over the past 12 months they have spent time getting to know the people involved in the clubs, from players to vol-

unteers and fans, and through them find out more about the sport, the club and its history.

Each artist has worked using a number of disciplines including; photography, linocut,

John McNaught, left, Deirdre Nelson, and Steven Mackenzie, vice president of the Camanachd Association.

screen printing, photogravure and knitting as a legacy to the clubs involved.

Artist Tom Smith from Lateral North has been working with Beauly shinty club to develop an interactive artwork to showcase three stories at a local, national and international level, highlighting the significance of shinty within the community.

Perhaps the saddest story explores Beauly's team during the First World War. Regarded as perhaps the com-

munity's greatest-ever team, Beauly shinty club won the Camanachd and Mactavish Cups in 1913, the first club to do that double.

The team was captained by Alastair Paterson and his brother Donald played alongside him. Shortly after that great victory both brothers would leave for war and never return. The community and club were devastated by the loss, with 13 men from the village's Ferry Road alone never returning home.

Artist Roddy Buchanan was interested by the interaction of the players on the field and his work on Fort William Shinty Club captures

the moments when players lock in battle.

Deirdre Nelson, who looked at Newtonmore Camanachd, works with textiles, including projects based in Fair Isle and Shapinsay. Deirdre focused on the community and the numbers involved at maintaining the club, both on and off the field. One of her findings was that there were more bakers than first team players, which she has documented in screen print.

The project is organised by Highland Print Studio and funded by Highland Culture Strategic Board's 'Highland Culture: Take Pride, Take Part' programme.

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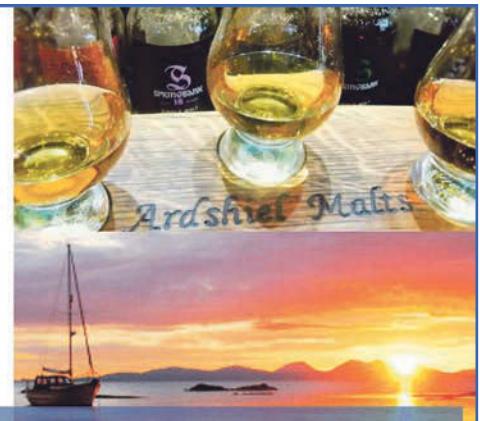
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Fara to play Céol Cholasa

All female Scottish outfit Fara, nominated for 2017's BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards' Horizon Award, will play Céol Cholasa this weekend.

Bringing together four leading musicians at the forefront of today's Scottish folk scene, Fara's line-up includes Jennifer Austin, Kristan Harvey, Jeana Leslie and Catriona Price.

With three fiddles and a piano, this fearsome quartet produce a fiery sound rooted in the music of Orkney.

Showcasing music from their upcoming album, Times from Times Fall, the group have a host of new material – including a mixture of self-penned and traditional Orkney tunes as well as stunning vocals, the young women's combined musicality and friendship produce an exhilarating and individual sound.

Fara will play Céol Cholasa tomorrow, Friday September 14, and Saturday, September 15. This year's line-up also includes The Young'uns, Tide Lines, Jarlath Henderson Band, Hamish Napier and Innes Watson, Caitlin McNeill Ceilidh Band, Whyte, Cara, and Hecla.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

Review: The Pipe Slang

Musical collaboration between the pipes and the fiddle is hardly unfamiliar to us on the west coast of Scotland, yet there is something distinctly fresh about The Pipe Slang, the debut album of duo Jamie MacDonald and Christian Gamauf.

Perhaps this is due to the contrast of their respective upbringings: Jamie on the Hebridean island of Tiree, and Christian in the village of Loipersbach in rural Austria.

Their meeting is actually a remarkable story. Christian first heard traditional Scottish music through a local pipe band in Austria and later spent time in Cape Breton Island to develop his love of the genre.

Jamie has been born and brought up in a fine Gaelic tradition over on Tiree and I have always admired the pride and passion with which he champions his native music.



Sophie Stephenson, Christian Gamauf, and Jamie MacDonald. Step dancer, Sophie, is one of the guests on The Pipe Slang.

The pair met while living and studying on Uist and began playing together at local concerts and events in the Western Isles. After travelling to Asturias (Northern Spain) on a musical and cultural exchange project, along with performances at Ceòl on the Croft, Celtic Connections, and Celtic Colours, the duo started working on this –

their debut album.

The result is a colourful album packed full of different musical influences all tied together beautifully by playing that is tight and together yet naturally lively and energetic. The choice of tunes reflect their eclectic influences.

The album begins with a Pipe Major Donald MacLeod tune and then takes us on

a journey to Asturia, Cape Breton, and Tiree. The island is represented in both tune and song. Jamie's twin sister Anna gives a great rendition of Mo Nighean Donn à Cornaig, accompanying herself on the clarsach.

Also guesting on the album are Jack McRobbie on guitar, Cape Bretoner Adam Young on piano, Anna-Wendy Stevenson on viola, and step-dancer Sophie Stephenson.

For anyone looking for a very interesting and well chosen blend of tunes and songs, it is well worth getting a hold of The Pipe Slang.

Comunn an Taobh-an-Iar

The Comunn an Taobh-an-Iar is starting its new session on Thursday September 13 with a ceilidh in the Ellangowan Social Club, Milngavie. The night will be chaired by Peter MacDonald and opened with a set on the pipes by Kenneth Macfarlane.

The artistes for the evening

are Mairi MacGillivray, Mary MacMillan, Colin Fisher, and Calum Angus MacDonald; with an instrumentalist still to be arranged. Kirsteen Grant is the accompanist.

There will be tea, coffee, fruit juice and biscuits in the interval, as well as a raffle. Admission is £8 at the door and the night begins at 7.30pm.

What's On

Friday September 14: Clydebank and District Highland Association ceiliadh in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, at 7.30pm.

Wednesday September 19: Ceol's Craic Club Film (screening of 'Agus a-no-chd...the entertainers!') in the Community Central Hall, 292-316 Maryhill Road, 7.15pm with a Gaelic conversation group at 6.30pm.

Saturday September 22: Oidhche Americana (Americana Night) in Webster's Theatre on Great Western Road at 7.15pm starring Iain Mackay, Willie Campbell, and Bensider.



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2 Lucky readers to win
2 Sets of Tickets!
The Jimmy Shand Story -
Brandon McPhee Band



The Show is a celebration of the life and music of the late Sir Jimmy Shand, prolific composer and renowned band leader, an international star and legend of Scottish Dance Music whose tunes continue to feature in the repertoire of most traditional accordionists and Dance Bands. On stage, the music is provided by the Brandon McPhee Scottish Band. Brandon the Senior Scottish Accordion Champion and winner of many awards, including the highly coveted "Jimmy Shand Shield", has become well known across Britain and Ireland with many appearances on stage, radio and TV. In this Show, he looks back at the life and music of his idol, playing many of his favourite tunes, complemented by visual images and stories narrated live by acclaimed stage film and TV actor Dave Anderson (Gregory's Girl, City Lights etc.). Brandon also seizes the opportunity with both hands (and how!) to demonstrate the continuing relevance and versatility of the famous Hohner Shand Morino button accordion as only he can. Combine the music of the Old Master with the brilliance of the young maestro and you have the recipe for something very special.

Two lucky readers will receive two tickets for a night of entertainment with the Brandon McPhee Band at The Jimmy Shand Story.

All you need to do is answer the following question:

What is the name of the famous button accordion Brandon will be playing on the night?

The Jimmy Shand Story - Brandon McPhee Band

Answer

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Terms and conditions: You can fill in the answer slip above and hand it in to The Oban Times, Lochavullin Estate, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Or email your answer to adverts@obantimes.co.uk. Competition deadline Friday 21st September. Editors Decision is final. No Cash Alternative. The Winner will be notified by telephone and email. Tickets should be collected from The Corran Halls Box Office on the night of the event and the winner must bring some form of photo ID. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/disposed immediately upon the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.





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Rural roots inspires singing shepherd's new album

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Mull fencing contractor and songwriter Iain Thomson has just released a new album inspired by his Argyll roots – and day job.

No Borders with 11 self-penned songs, including one called Winter Wind Blows prompted by his main income as a fencer, is a collaboration with his long-time friend and multi-instrumentalist Marc Duff, co-founder of Celtic band Capercaillie.

The pair performed on tour at Benderloch Palladium – the Victory hall's wee hall – last month giving a packed audience a sneak preview of the album featuring guest musicians Gordon Maclean and John Saiche on bass, accordionist John Somerville and backing vocalist Hannah Fisher, who also played fiddle.

Winter Winds Blow will strike a chord with anyone



who has worked as a fencer, or knows someone who is.

The song captures the beauty of the land and wildlife that surrounds fencers and the thoughts that go through the head when working solo a lot, getting the job done in often challenging and harsh

conditions.

Title track No Borders is about what drives folk from distant shores to jump on a boat, run by money-driven people with no regard for human life, to seek a better life, said Iain.

'They have no idea what

awaits them at the other side of the ocean but they feel it must be better and safer than what they are leaving behind,' he added, comparing the dilemma that faces refugees today as being very similar to the plight of the people during the Highland clear-

Iain Thomson has recorded his new album with friend Marc Duff, a co-founder of Celtic band Capercaillie.

ances when they boarded the ships, with few possessions, to emigrate.

The Glendale Martyrs remembers the crofters in Skye who refused to pay rents, fighting on many occasions with sticks and stones when the factors tried to administer force and arrest.

The rebellious crofters' main leader was John Macpherson of Glendale and publicity from their resistance led to much support for the crofters' cause, eventually leading to the crofting act that gave crofters security of tenure.

Iain, whose acclaimed album Field of Dreams was released in 2010, is emigrating from Mull to Sweden to start a new life and a new language, which he is sure will inspire more new songs

and perhaps another CD. He first moved to Mull in 1986 to run a large hill farm and became known as the Singing Shepherd after producing two successful tapes of his own songs.

In 1996 he left the island, spending seven restless years driving trucks and playing in bars, but found himself drawn back to Mull to start up a fencing and sheep shearing business.

His friend Marc Duff, who produced No Borders and is a master of the bodhran, bouzouki, wind synthesiser and now the uilleann pipes, has performed and recorded with an eclectic array of artists, including Billy Bragg, Def Shepherd, Fish, Iain Morrison, Dick Gaughan and Wolfstone. He has also played as a soloist with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra performing music for the BBC series A History of Scotland.



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WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

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THURSDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

- Oban Health Walk**
Oban Congregational Church Hall
10am - 11.30am
- Oban Walking Tours**
Oban, i-centre. 2.00pm - 3.30pm
- Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY
- FRIDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER**
Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading
Glencruitten Church Hall. All Day
- Two By Mull Theatre**
Corran Halls. 7.30pm
- Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**
Ewan Henderson & Norrie McNaughton
Free entry. Open till 2am
- Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban**
From 9pm. Free Entry

SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

- Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading**
Glencruitten Church Hall. All Day
- Oban Walking Tours**
Oban, i-centre. 10am - 11.30am. 2.00pm - 3.30pm
- Parkrun**
Ganavan Sands, Oban. 9.30am
- Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**
Crooked Reel. Free entry. Open till 2am
- Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban**
From 9pm. Free Entry
- SUNDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER**
Motorfest 2018
Station Square, Oban. 11.00am - 4.00pm
- Hill Walk**
Kinlochleven. All Day
- Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**
QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm. £1 per person, max of 6 per team. Win £20 bar voucher

MONDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

- Slimming World**
Union Street/Argyll Street, Lochgilphead
5.30pm & 7.30pm
- Tel;** Rhona 07880 878906
- Oban Walking Tours**
Oban, i-centre
- Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**
10am - 11.30am. 2.00pm - 3.30pm
- Under the Skin Camera Club**
The Rockfield Centre
6.30pm - 7.30pm
- Slimming World**
Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban
9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
- Tel;** Gillian 07796 040803
- Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban**
Lorne Pub Quiz. Starting at 9pm
£25 bar voucher prize and free pizza at half time

Events may charge. Please visit www.obanwhatson.co.uk for more details.

To list your event, please call **01631 568000**

WHAT'S ON AT Your local Cinema this week

See www.obanphoenix.com for more details



FRIDAY 14

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----|
| 13:45 & 20:30 | BLACKKKLANSMAN | 15 |
| 16:15 | LUIS AND THE ALIENS | U |
| 18:15 | THE CHILDREN ACT | 12A |
| 18:45 | CHRISTOPHER ROBIN | PG |
| 21:00 | THE SPY WHO DUMPED ME | 15 |

MONDAY 17

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----|
| 13:45 & 18:15 | THE CHILDREN ACT | 12A |
| 16:00 | CHRISTOPHER ROBIN | PG |
| 16:15 & 18:15 | LUIS AND THE ALIENS | U |
| 20:15 | THE SPY WHO DUMPED ME | 15 |
| 20:45 | BLACKKKLANSMAN | 15 |

TUESDAY 18

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|-----|
| 13:45 & 18:15 | SPY WHO DUMPED ME | 15 |
| 16:00 | CHRISTOPHER ROBIN | PG |
| 16:15 & 18:15 | LUIS AND THE ALIENS | U |
| 20:15 | THE CHILDREN ACT | 12A |
| 20:45 | BLACKKKLANSMAN | 15 |

WEDNESDAY 19

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----|
| 13:45 & 16:00 | CHRISTOPHER ROBIN | PG |
| 16:15 & 18:15 | LUIS AND THE ALIENS | U |
| 18:15 | THE CHILDREN ACT | 12A |
| 20:15 | THE SPY WHO DUMPED ME | 15 |
| 20:45 | BLACKKKLANSMAN | 15 |
-
- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----|
| 13:45 | THE MEG | 12A |
| 16:00 | CHRISTOPHER ROBIN | PG |
| 16:15 & 18:15 | LUIS AND THE ALIENS | U |
| 18:15 | THE SPY WHO DUMPED ME | 15 |
| 20:15 | THE CHILDREN ACT | 12A |
| 20:45 | BLACKKKLANSMAN | 15 |

THURSDAY 20

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----|
| 13:45 | THE MEG | 12A |
| 16:00 | CHRISTOPHER ROBIN | PG |
| 16:15 & 18:15 | LUIS AND THE ALIENS | U |
| 18:15 | THE SPY WHO DUMPED ME | 15 |
| 20:15 | THE CHILDREN ACT | 12A |
| 20:45 | BLACKKKLANSMAN | 15 |

SUNDAY 16

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----|
| 12:00 | INCREDIBLES 2 | PG |
| 12:15 | CHRISTOPHER ROBIN | PG |
| 14:30 | THE MEG | 12A |
| 14:45 & 17:00 | LUIS AND THE ALIENS | U |
| 16:45 | THE SPY WHO DUMPED ME | 15 |
| 19:00 | THE CHILDREN ACT | 12A |
| 19:30 | BLACKKKLANSMAN | 15 |



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True story of given festival

by Kathie Griffiths

kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

inspired Stevenson to write the book, filled with amazing real-life characters such as Cluny MacPherson, Rob Roy's wild sons and, of course, the legendary Alan Breck, accused of the mysterious Appin Murder.

Author Lachie Munro will be bringing his new book The Scenery of Dreams – the true story of Robert Louis Stevenson's Kidnapped – to Bookends Festival at the Victory Hall on Saturday September 29 at 7pm. His book traces what

was An Eagle In A Hen-House: Selected Political Speeches & Writings of R. B. Cunningham Graham.

He currently lives in London with his wife Lesley, who is the managing editor of Hansard in The House of Lords, an institution that he says he would like to abolish 'as soon as the mortgage is paid off.'

Bookends founder Joy Cameron said: 'He is an entertaining guy with a huge interest in bringing Highland

Kooks sell-out gig leaves Oban hungry for more – a lot more

The Kooks smashed it in Oban at the weekend, writes Kathie Griffiths.

After a four-year break, the band from Brighton played the Corran Halls with their new album in tow and an awesome support band, Vista Kicks, all the way from California.

Oban's big venue hall was packed and as the temperature soared so did the crowd's enthusiasm.

The pop rockers lived up to expectations, lucky for them, as the hungry crowd howled for more.

Lead singer Luke Pritchard thanked fans for their love and support as he introduced the band's fifth album, Let's Go Sunshine.

Hit song She Moves In Her own Way and the band's new



material got the crowd moving in their own way; they were roaring to hear Naive.

'You're loud,' quipped the frontman whose slip 'n' slide movements on stage were Mick Jagger-esque in detail. Last year they were supporting the Rolling Stones in European stadiums and on their sold-out UK arena tour.

With Let's Go Sunshine making it into the top 10 album chart, Saturday was

the four-piece group's first time in Oban and hopefully not the last. Luke, 33, said they would like to play Scotland more. Oban was the only Scottish gig of this five-date tour, with the other four taking place in Belfast, London, Middlesbrough and Brexhill-on-Sea.

New York is to follow, tickets for the Netherlands, Germany and France are on sale for 2019.

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Kidnapped launch

history and culture alive instead of it being smothered in tartan and shortbread courtesy of the good old Victorians.'

Lachie trained as an interior designer in Glasgow before moving to London where he worked for BBC Television before setting up his own design company working for major retailers. He has also worked extensively in Eastern Europe and is a visiting lecturer in The British Higher School of Art and Design in

Moscow. During a five-year period when he returned to Scotland to live in Bridge of Allan, he went back to university and has a first-class honours degrees in history and in political philosophy. He is currently completing a PhD in history and literature at Glasgow University.

Other events during the festival, which starts on Saturday September 22, include Wurdplay, a writers' open mic at the Victory Hall hosted by Jamie Livingstone

at 7.30pm, entry is by donation.

Oban Phoenix Cinema is also getting involved in the festival and will be showing The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society on Monday September 24. Go to obanphoenix.com or call 01631 562905 for screening and price details.

A whole week of fringe events are planned from Monday October 1 to Friday October 5. To find out more go to bookends.scot

Incredibles 2 (PG)

In "Incredibles 2," Helen (voice of Holly Hunter) is called on to lead a campaign to bring Supers back, while Bob (voice of Craig T. Nelson) navigates the day-to-day heroics of "normal" life at home with Violet (voice of Sarah Vowell), Dash (voice of Huck Milner) and baby Jack-Jack—whose superpowers are about to be discovered. Their mission is derailed, however, when a new villain emerges with a brilliant and dangerous plot that threatens everything. But the Parrs don't shy away from a challenge, especially with Frozone (voice of Samuel L. Jackson) by their side. That's what makes this family so Incredible.

Oban Times
LEISURE TIMES
Oban Times
LEISURE TIMES

Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Jura Thur 13 Sept
Port Ellen Fri 14 - Sun 16 Sept
Gigha Mon 17 Sept
Tarbert Loch Fyne Tue 18 - Wed 19 Sept

Incredibles 2 (PG) 125 mins
13/09 at 5.30pm, 14/09 at 5.30pm, 15/09 at 2pm, 17/09 at 5.30pm,
18/09 at 5.30pm

Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again (PG) 114 mins
13/09 at 8.30pm, 14/09 at 8.30pm, 15/09 at 5.30pm, 16/09
at 2pm, 17/09 at 8.30pm, 18/09 at 8.30pm, 19/09 at 5.30pm

Mission: Impossible - Fallout (12A) 147 mins
15/09 at 8.30pm, 19/09 at 8.30pm

Films We Love: Monsieur Hulot's Holiday (U) 89 mins
(£5/E3) French with English Subtitles "*In every scene Tati delights and surprises*" Screen Machine team 16/09 at 5.30pm

Mary Shelley (12A) 120 mins
"intelligent, probing well-acted biopic with a strong feminist slant" Independent 16/09 at 8.30pm

Before *Mamma Mia* we will screen a free photo presentation of work called *Brian Griffin: POP* which has been produced in collaboration with Street Level Photoworks Glasgow. Please arrive promptly to be sure of catching it.

Book at: www.screenmachine.co.uk. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults. £5.50 concs.



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M' ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 13 AN T-SULTAIN THURSDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Vets : Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 Highland Midwives: Mna-than-Glùine (rpt)
21.00 Benny (rpt)
22.00 Belladrum 2017: Sister Sledge (rpt)
22.30 ÚR | NEW: Ameireaga air Film
23.15 Piobairean Bhoirnis (rpt)
23.30 Fèis Chiùil Thiriodh (rpt)

DIHAOINE 14 AN T-SULTAIN FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.35 Machair (rpt)
19.00 An Là – News
19.25 Cuirm@Celtic – The Great Gathering (rpt)
19.50 Taghadh bho Na Trads (rpt)
20.20 Ar Duain (rpt)
20.45 Tàtu Rioghail Dhùin Èideann 2018 (rpt)
22.25 Hinterland S3 (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 15 AN T-SULTAIN SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.00 ÚR | NEW: Scottish Premiership – St Johnstone v Aberdeen
20.00 Machair (rpt)
20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 18 AN T-SULTAIN TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 ÚR | NEW: Fuine S5
20.30 Ceann an Righ (rpt)
21.00 ÚR | NEW: Bannan S5
21.30 ÚR | NEW: Piobairean Lionacleit ann an NY
22.30 Dùibhlannan Data (rpt)
23.30 Taghadh bho Na Trads (rpt)

20.00 An Là – News

- 20.30 ÚR | NEW: Dreach Ùr

- 21.00 Tarraing nan Tonn (rpt)

- 22.00 ÚR | NEW: Func

- 22.30 Bannan S5 (rpt)

- 23.00 ÚR | NEW: Fo Ghlas

- 23.50 Dhan Uisge (Gaylet Pot) (rpt)

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agus nan Eilean

King Creosote holds court

King Creosote left the Kingdom of Fife to undertake a royal visit in Argyll last week, writes Oban FM presenter Campbell Cameron.

Taking up residence at the Corran Halls the 'King' played a sell-out concert to appreciative subjects. The tour continued overseas to Mull for two nights at An Tobar and then one night at Iona Hall.

Kenny Anderson is a witty, charming, talented and likeable individual who composes great tunes and writes fine lyrics too. His work rate is legendary, with more than 40 albums of creative genius released over the years. The latest is Astronaut meets Appleman.

He has lately found himself under the spell of Mull and his recent recordings have been under the direction of Gordon MacLean at the An Tobar studios. And it was with MacLean, his son Sorren and Hannah Fisher offering the 'Mulleach' influence that Creosote performed at the Argyll gigs.

All are consummate musicians and, like Kenny himself, deserve greater exposure than



King Creosote in full swing last week at the Corran Halls.

they currently enjoy. In Oban, Hannah provided fantastic soaring fiddle play that raised the band to new heights. Father and son Maclean, on bass and lead guitars respectively, played with understated elegance that augmented the skill of Creosote's drummer and keys men, Andy and Des.

Hannah relished the freedom to raise her game higher than has been seen before and her violin would rest easy in any symphony orchestra if she took the notion to play there.

Sorren has a skill on guitar that was rarely let loose, save a couple of solos, but the king himself complimented all on their ability to create his mu-

sic with little or no direction from himself. Devotion of power to the subjects does indeed work well.

As the conclusion of this powerful two-set performance neared, a new subject was introduced to the court in the form of Benderloch-based piper Kate MacPherson.

Kate joined the band for the penultimate and final numbers, raising the roof with her delightfully powerful anthemic piping. Kate is a product of the Angus MacColl-trained Oban High School Pipe Band, and is gaining a following of admirers. Her future is now assured by royal appointment of King Creosote himself.

Illuminating The Darkest Dawn

The Hebridean Book Festival, Faclan, returns to Lewis from October 31 to November 3, including the launch of The Darkest Dawn, a new book marking the 100th anniversary of the Iolaire tragedy, in which more than 200 men from Lewis and Harris lost their lives only a few metres from shore when the yacht carrying them home from the First World War was hit by a fierce storm, writes Sandy Neil.

The launch of The Darkest Dawn – the most definitive and comprehensive book to date about the tragedy – is one of a series of special events at An Lanntair throughout winter 2018 to mark the anniversary of an event that had a profound impact on the islands.

Faclan is one of the flagship cultural events at An Lanntair in Stornoway, and its uniquely dramatic location draws audiences and top-level authors from across the UK.

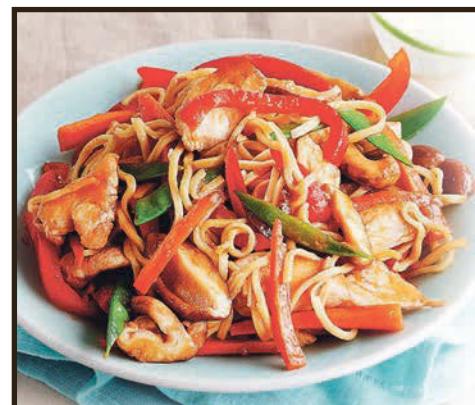
Faclan 2018's line-up of authors – many of them reflecting on this year's festival theme of Fear – includes Peter May and Malcolm Mackay, both discussing Hebridean Noir; Sir Christopher Frayling on the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (following a screening of the classic 1931 film); Finlay Macleod on the true history of a semi-mythical 19th century bogeyman who stalked the moors of Lewis and Harris; and Louise Welsh, who will reflect on the role of fear in her work. In a very different approach to fear, Kathryn Mannix will explore the various taboos around death.

Other highlights include a Saturday night appearance by leading spoken word performer Hollie McNish, a screening of vampire classic Nosferatu with a live piano score by Peter Urpeth, a voyage into the underworld with composer Jessica Danz; and

a tribute to the late Gaelic writer, playwright and storyteller Chrisella Ross.

In addition to the packed programme of author and musical events, there will be daytime film screenings throughout the festival, also focusing on the theme of Fear – Psycho, Village of the Damned, The Cabinet of Dr Caligari, Rosemary's Baby, Schalcken the Painter, The Babadook, and classic ghost story Whistle and I'll Come to You, which this year marks its 50th anniversary.

This year's programme will also include a new Faclan Fringe – full details to be announced in the coming weeks – which is supported by LEADER funding and is part of a brand new programme of winter festivals that will continue at An Lanntair until July 2020. There will also be a programme of events for schools, Faclan Òga, running throughout the festival.



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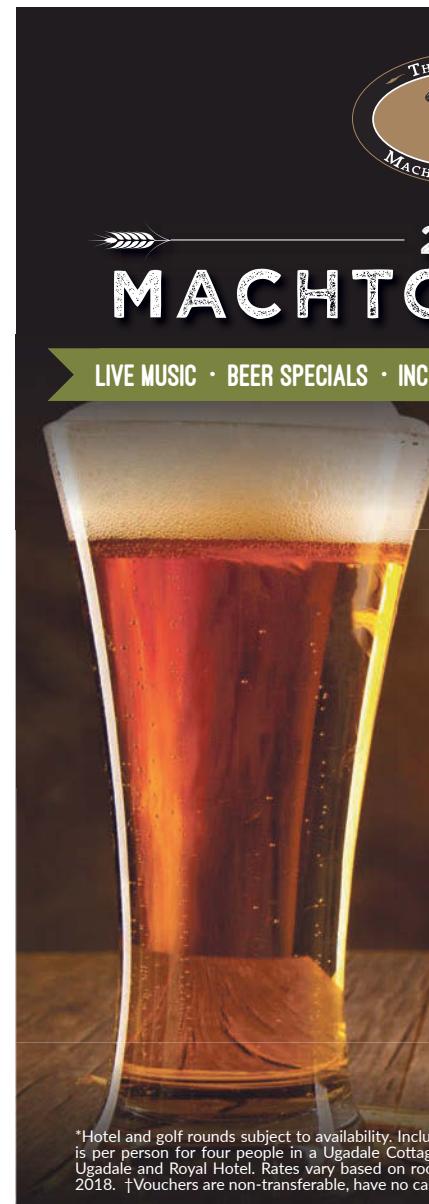
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Oban High School Pipe Band to play at We'll Walk This Road Together charity gig

The acclaimed Oban High School Pipe Band is set to play at a charity concert this month, writes David McPhee.

The band will perform at We'll Walk This Road Together in the Corran Halls on September 22 along side Manran, Skerryvore and Skipinnish.

The event is being organised by DMI Cancer Trust and will raise money for Pancreatic Cancer Scotland.

Making the announcement,

DMI posted online: 'We are absolutely delighted to share the news that the very VERY talented Oban High School Pipe Band will have the opportunity to perform and entertain you at the DMI Charity Gig.'

'Tickets still available exclusively from the Corran Halls, Oban.'

The post continued: 'This is the finale concert of the DMI Charity which was set up in 2012 in memory of family

members and friends who sadly lost their battle to this awful disease.'

'Over £60,000 has been raised and donated to date, split between Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie Nurses.'

'This year all proceeds will be donated to Pancreatic Cancer Scotland.'

'Please show your support and come along to the concert and make it a night to remember.'

Oban High School Pipe Band performed at Oban Live this year with Skerryvore and entertained the crowd with their LED drumsticks.

The We'll Walk This Road Together charity concert will start at 7.30pm on Saturday September 22.

GETINTOUCH
email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk
telephone 01631 568000

Islay Book Festival

Islay Book Festival celebrates its 11th year from September 27-30 in its most ambitious festival to date.

Nineteen authors will offer a range of events for adults and children of all ages in an exciting programme that includes storytelling, poetry, island fiction, a tartan cat, and much more. The Scottish Book Trust will also be filming the festival.

The star-studded line-up includes Bernard MacLaverty, who will discuss how his serious writing started - in a bungalow in Bowmore.

Crime writer Lin Anderson will showcase her latest thriller with soil forensics expert Lorna Dawson. Reflections on the 100th anniversary of the First World War, and its impact on Islay and Jura, will be headed up by prolific author-historian Trevor Royle and award-winning filmmaker Les Wilson.

Gaelic children's author and illustrator Catriona Black will be there. Her exhibition, Forradh: Sly Cooking, is currently on display at Islay's Gaelic College.

Ian Stephen, Malachy Tallack, Donald S Murray and Janis Mackay are among the other well-known authors making their way to this year's festival.

Bernard MacLaverty. Photograph: Robert Burns



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MONDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down

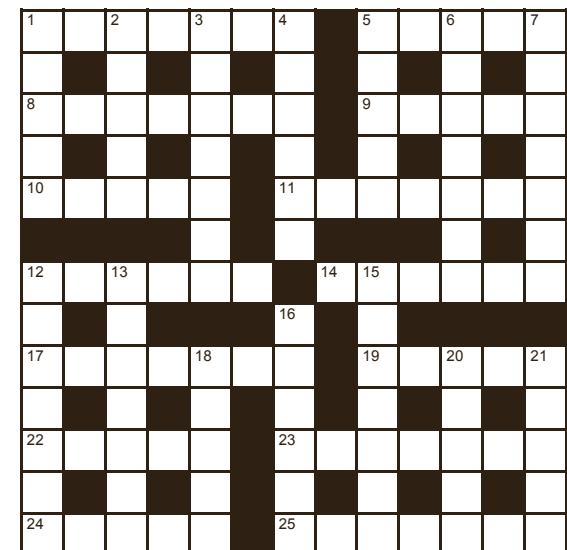
TUESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings's Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2

WEDNESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon MacIntyre

THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen

SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breege, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Ken's Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwhistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

Crossword



Across

- 1 Train carriage with no sides (7)
- 5 Cover for a tricky situation (5)
- 8 Copies (7)
- 9 Karl, a German chemist and nobel prize winner (5)
- 10 Communication using waves (5)
- 11 Temporary (7)
- 12 Podgy (6)
- 14 Opening (4-2)
- 17 French castle (7)
- 19 Part of the hip bone (5)
- 22 Bury (5)
- 23 Still (7)
- 24 Excitable (5)
- 25 Puzzle (7)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Down

- 1 Repairman (5)
- 2 Sharp (5)
- 3 A jesters hat (7)
- 4 Country (6)
- 5 Monastery head (5)
- 6 Covered for mishaps (7)
- 7 Does not have characteristics of man (7)
- 12 Not factual (7)
- 13 One who goes with changes (7)
- 15 Give authority to (7)
- 16 Keep something quiet (4,2)
- 18 Premature (5)
- 20 Oblique (5)
- 21 An owl without ear tufts (5)

West Coast PROPERTIES

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The right housing at the right time

The housing ladder, as a descriptor of the property market, may have had its day. Lifestyle choices, together with social and demographic change are establishing a much more complex pattern of ownership and housing need.

Recent studies by the NHBC Foundation have provided new insight on the varying housing needs people have throughout their life time, giving pointers on who we should build for, and the types of homes we should build for them.

Housing design will increasingly need to focus on the over-55s. On current projections, 2019 will be the first year when people in the 55 to 74 age group outnumber those aged 18 to 34. With a two million increase expected in this age group in the next couple of decades, it will be important for homes to meet the varying requirements of this growing sector, many of whom are seeking lifestyle changes, but remain active and independent.

The most rapid population increase is expected among the over-75s. This age group is anticipated to expand by 3.5 million over the next 20 years to reach 8.9 million by 2037. More innovation will be needed when designing homes for these people, in particular to provide them with adaptable, comfortable living spaces and communal facilities. A futurology study carried out by the NHBC Foundation gives special consideration to the types of homes that might evolve to support the over-75s.

The remaining home-buyer age groups, those aged 18 to 34 looking to invest in property for the first time and the 35-to-54-year-olds in family homes, are predicted to remain fairly static into the future. Millennials looking for starter homes will increase by approximately 200,000 by 2037, and the 34 to 54 age group is set to decrease over the same period by 100,000. Homes suitable for first time buyers and families will still be needed, however, these must meet the priorities that are most important to them. Buyers are becoming increasingly discriminating, seeking low maintenance and energy efficiency and not preoccupied solely with location.



At a glance – the changing home-buyer age groups over the next 20 years

- 3.5 million – expected population increase in the 75+ age group
- 2.1 million – expected population increase in the 55-74 age group
- 200,000 – expected population increase in the 18-34 age group
- 100,000 – expected population decrease in the 35-54 age group

Steve Wood, NHBC chief executive said: 'The shifts in the UK's population impacts on the homes we live in now, and the homes we need to build for the future. Our population is aging at its fastest ever rate so housing design will increasingly have to focus on the needs of the over-55s.'

The facts about UK households come from the forthcoming NHBC Foundation publication, '40 facts: homes, housing and house building today'.

Mr Wood added: 'We have gathered together some interesting facts about UK housing and house building to give you a picture of the homes we live in today.'

'As our population changes so does the need for a broader range of products and tenures.'

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After a great summer - get set to 'lay-up' your boat for the winter



Winterising is essential to good engine maintenance and both inboard and outboard engines need this done. An oil change is standard. New oil prevents internal corrosion and protects the engine standing over the winter. Yard or independent engineers will do this for you if you lack time or confidence to carry out yourself.

It has been one of the best summers we can remember for being on the water, albeit at times in the brilliant sunshine there was not a lot of wind for the sailors.

However, as autumn begins, it's time once again to plan for winter lay-up as the 2018 season comes to a close. Most boat owners have already booked space in their boat yard of preference or other storage space for the winter. If this hasn't been done it's important to do so now since many yards are already at capacity.

Yards offer choices in winter lay-up with options of mast removal and stowage, winter work requirements and undercover needs where available. Be prepared to work to the yard time-line, particularly for haul-out timings. If the hull can be pressure washed immediately on lifting out this will remove most of the fouling and giving a better preparation surface for next year so check this is offered.

To maintain your craft in a good, seaworthy condition, maintenance is essential so a planned programme of winter lay-up work will make sure all is good for the next season. If not carrying out this work yourself, or getting the boat yard to undertake, book in with the relevant independent marine services to make sure work is done.

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Depending on whether your craft is sail or motor, some key areas need considered in your laying up work plan -

- Keel, hull, topsides, deck, cockpit
 - Frost damage prevention
 - Interior
 - Sails
 - Rigging
 - Engine/batteries/blectrics
 - Safety equipment

A lot of owners are fully competent to carry out most winter lay-up tasks themselves.

It's always helpful to compile a basic check list to work though and have a list of equipment needed to carry out the tasks.

Keel/hull/topsides/deck/cockpit:

Pressure washing removes a lot of fouling/eroding anti-fouling on lift-out. This gives a good preparatory surface for new anti-fouling in the spring. Remember to remove speed, transducer impellers before lift-out so there will be no damage from hoist strops. With the boat ashore it's time to look for any damage to hull, keel, skeg or rudder and try to get repairs carried out whilst the weather and temperature conditions remain high. Check keelbolts, any play in the rudder/cutlass bearings and the prop-shaft.

Although our rainfall is abundant, it's a good idea to wash down the whole boat and apply a protective wax on the topsides. Not only does this protect from winter dirt but it makes polishing a lot easier in the spring. The cockpit should be cleaned thoroughly since it will invariably be the dirtiest being the most used. If any paint or woodwork here and on deck needs touched up, it's as well to do now if conditions allow. Many people then cover their boat which can also keep the vessel in good condition.

However, make sure covers are well

secured and allow for ventilation and look out for any chafing at regular intervals. Some yards will shrink wrap but allow an area of access so you can continue to work inside.

Ensure the 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 the cockpit. Regular inspection over the winter is important in case cockpit drains get blocked by leaves/debris and water builds up.

Water systems and prevention of freezing damage:

Last year was a very cold winter for the west coast so prevention of freezing damage is essential. Anything that holds or carries water - ie pipes and tanks, pumps and strainers must be fully drained. Flush water systems through with a water sanitizer first. Flush heads through, drain and lubricate disconnecting hoses to allow them to 'breathe'. Pump dry if necessary. 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. If in any doubt as to how to do these safely, get the yard or an independent operator to help.

Interior:

With boats increasing in size and sophistication the interior is increasingly used and needs to be kept clean and pristine. Installing a de-humidifier and heater will keep the interior warm and dry. Some owners choose to remove as much equipment as possible and take home and store. This has the benefit of seeing if equipment needs cleaned or replaced. Clear plastic stack boxes are good to allow inspection of contents which should all be cleaned before packing – boxes can be easily brought back to the boat in the spring. Berth cushions and soft furnishings in particular are

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preparatory surface for new
anti-fouling in the spring.**



suspect to mould over the winter and will benefit from a freshen up and storage at home. Some owners like to stay on the boat during the winter so need to keep the interior fitted out.

Lockers, bilges, cookers and toilets should all be washed down – some people advise a weak bleach mixture to prevent mould. There are a number of good items available for this purpose from your chandler. Always ventilate the boat well and do any touch up work inside when weather permits. List any items required for the 2019 season or you will forget.

Check gas systems on board are up to standard with a qualified gas engineer. Now is a good time to check fire extinguishers and replace as necessary to keep up to safety specifications.

Sails:

Check over all your sails and seek advice from your local sail loft on any that look suspect. Sail cleaning is offered and even storage but if taking home make sure they are kept in a dark, warm, well-ventilated area away from rodents.

And, if you need new sails have a chat with your local sailmaker and get your order in quickly. There's often a discount period at this time of year.

Rigging:

It's essential to keep an eye on wear in both standing and running rigging and deck gear overall and replace as required. Check sheaves, swages, split-pins and spreader mounts for any corrosion and replace if suspect. 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. If the mast is stored off the boat it's easier to check masthead instrumentation and that rigging blocks are running freely. Grease to prevent water ingress. It's always a good idea to remove anchors and chain to look for any damage or wear – these can be stored 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:

Winterising is essential to good engine maintenance and both inboard and outboard engines need this done. An oil change is standard. New oil prevents internal corrosion and protects the engine standing over the winter. Yard or independent engineers will do this for you if you lack time or confidence to carry out yourself.

The outboard should be flushed through with fresh cooling water and antifreeze/water mix. Remove the impeller and plug the air and exhaust outlet with an oil soaked rag. Fill fuel tanks 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 a moisture repellent like 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:

Given the importance of all safety gear, it's imperative to overhaul everything. Inspect lifejackets, harnesses and safety gear replacing anything that looks suspect. It's advisable to store lifejackets partially inflated over the winter – that way any leaks can be detected and the outer covering won't deteriorate. Check jacket bottles for corrosion and replace as required – kits are available from chandlers. See your flares are in date and replace for next season if required. Store flare packs in a dry area and dispose of old flares through official collection depots. Life rafts should be removed and serviced by an authorised centre on their due date. Clean and repair dinghy tenders, storing partially inflated.

Seasoned boat owners will go through all the above as routine but for those new to the sector it is re-assuring to know there is plenty of help and advice on hand from a range of sources – boat-yard operators, service engineers, boat builders, chandlers and sail-makers. If there is anything you're unsure about these are the experts so don't hesitate to ask if you need to.

And once your boat is laid up safely with all maintenance in hand, you can relax and make plans for the boating season in 2019 and hope the weather will be as good as this year.



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ALL-NEW SUBARU XV RECEIVES COMMENDATION AT 2018 WHAT CAR? AWARDS

- The all-new Subaru XV highly commended in the Safety category
- All-new XV received maximum five-star overall rating in the Euro NCAP safety test
- Awarded accolade due to integrated EyeSight driver assistance safety technology
- All-new XV now available in UK dealerships

Birmingham, 26 January 2018 – Subaru UK is pleased to announce that the all-new Subaru XV has been selected as one of the safest cars in the UK, having been highly commended in the Safety category at the 2018 annual What Car? Awards.

The combination of Subaru's bespoke EyeSight safety technology

and the recent 2017 Best In Class accolade from Euro NCAP, aided in the commendation for the all-new XV which went on sale in the UK earlier this year.

EyeSight technology uses cameras to detect the car's surroundings, highlighting any potential threats, issues or impending collisions, aiding

in a safer drive on and off road. The all-new XV is also praised for its passenger and child safety credentials, topping the findings as the safest car for child occupancy in the 2017 results.

Torbjörn Lillrud, Automotive Development Director Subaru UK, said: "We are delighted the all-new



XV has been Highly Commended by What Car?, Our customers buy our cars because of their safety credentials and EyeSight technology is a part of that reason too. We're delighted that the XV has got off to such a good start. Test drive the new 68 plate today from S&S Services 01292 880080.

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(BETTER where it MATTERS)

Model shown is a Subaru XV 2.0i SE Lineartronic with optional special paint finish £550 and optional fitted front and side resin under guards £705. OTR price £27,765.00

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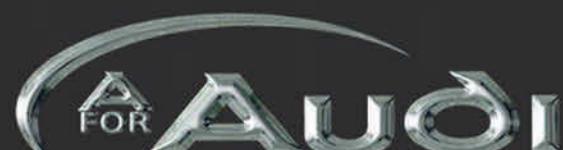
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Financial Controller Steinsvik UK Ltd

Steinsvik UK Ltd are looking for a UK company accountant to join our growing team based in Fort William.



We are looking for a qualified accountant with experience of working in management accounting environment within a group structure capable of working independently but alongside the finance team in Norway.

You will be responsible for all management accounting financial reporting, and analysis including reporting to the parent company in Norway. You will report the company cash flow and financial position to the UK General Manager and oversee the work taken by the Office Managers. As the company continues to expand you will be expected to enhance internal controls and systems. You will preferably have experience in the use of Microsoft Dynamics Navision software.

Steinsvik UK Ltd is a subsidiary of the Steinsvik group, the headquarters of which are based in Norway with departments worldwide.

Please send applications, attaching a CV, by email to Innes Weir. General Manager, Steinsvik UK, innes.weir@steinsvik.no

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For more information, please contact Sarah Campbell on 01546 605800 or email sarah.campbell@acha.co.uk.

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 28th September 2018.
Interviews will be held on Friday 26th October 2018.

Positive & enthusiastic female personal assistants wanted for young disabled adult with chronic health conditions.

Assisting with social activities & personal care to maintain an independent life. Previous care experience is not necessary but good understanding of social model of disability would be useful. Own car essential. Part time hours. Starting at £8.75 an hour.

For further information and to apply please call Becs on 07766925388

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QUARRY SUPERVISOR

You will be responsible for the safe and efficient management of the quarry.

You will need to demonstrate a strong commitment to Health, Safety and Environmental management and possess the necessary competence and leadership skills to promote a positive team based culture.

Previous experience in a similar role is essential.

The ideal candidate will have a sound working knowledge of quarry operations, as well as general maintenance activities. A flexible approach to work and good communication skills are also essential for this role and you would ideally hold or be working towards a SHE NVQ Level 3.

You must also hold a current UK driving licence and would ideally be available to commence employment at the earliest opportunity.

Please visit www.leiths-group.co.uk to download an application form and return to recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk

Leiths Group are an Equal Opportunities Employer

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Simmers & Co

Chartered Accountants

Accounts Assistant

We require an individual with a pleasant and professional manner experienced in accounts preparation to join our accounts production department. The role involves full preparation of accounts for a varied portfolio of clients. It is anticipated that the successful candidate will be experienced in a similar role. Being qualified or part qualified as AAT, ACCA or similar would be advantageous. Salary offered will depend on level of experience and qualifications.

Please send CV and a covering letter by 21 September 2018 to: The Staff Partner at Albany Chambers, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AL or by e mail to mail@simmers.co.uk www.simmers.co.uk

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To apply, contact General Manager Linda Brown:
01852 200 257 or linda.brown@melfortvillage.co.uk

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As part of our commitment to talent development we are now recruiting for a Water Treatment Modern Apprentice based in the Argyll Mainland South Area.

Working at Scottish Water

We take employee engagement very seriously – and we're proud of our inclusive and collaborative work environment where we respect people's differences. We are passionate about creating opportunities for young people are proud to have the Investors in Young People Gold Standard accreditation, demonstrating our commitment to providing rewarding opportunities for young people.

Join our team and you'll enjoy a host of benefits, including 37 days' holiday a year, a defined benefit pension scheme, discounted healthcare, access to childcare vouchers plus a variety of flexible working arrangements and family-friendly policies.

What will you be doing?

During this 4 year programme, you'll be learning everything you need to know about how we treat water to ensure that we provide our customers with high quality and safe drinking water, protecting public health and the environment in the process. That means most of your days will be spent outdoors, on our operational sites – working as part of an expert and experienced team who will support you to develop your skills and knowledge and achieve a nationally recognised qualification. This is your chance to learn as you earn, working with industry-leading teams to help deliver services that are essential to the daily lives of the people of Scotland.

Who are we looking for?

We're looking for people who are self-motivated, team players who enjoy being outdoors. You should be practical, well organised and a good problem solver with a positive attitude and the ability to work on your own initiative. You'll have five National 4 or 5 Qualifications (English, Maths and Science are advantageous but not essential) and a full UK driving licence as you'll typically be working across a number of our sites.

If you're interested in starting your career in the water industry as an apprentice, we'd love to hear from you!

Apply through the link below by 20th September.

Further Information

To apply for this role go to www.scottishwater.co.uk/careers

If you'd like more information about our apprentice programmes contact us at swrecruitment@scottishwater.co.uk

Please note: We have a standard procedure for everyone looking to join us. If you are invited to interview, you will be required to show evidence of your eligibility to work in the UK. If you are offered an apprenticeship with us you'll need to successfully complete our pre-employment screening process, including Disclosure Scotland and reference checking (you can find out more about this on our website). We can't accept direct applications or emailed CVs, please apply online.

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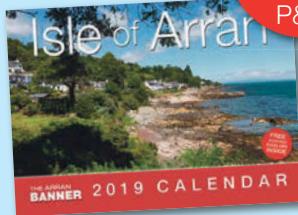
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MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 EXISTING FINFISH FARM, FISHNISH BAY, SOUND OF MULL

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Sea Farms Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of an existing finfish farm at:

Cost	£500,000	
Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Fishnish Bay, Sound of Mull Moorings Area	56° 31.205'N 56° 30.983'N 56° 30.842'N 56° 31.064'N	05° 50.243'W 05° 49.867'W 05° 50.140'W 05° 50.515'W
Boat Moorings	56° 30.870'N 56° 30.870'N	05° 50.160'W 05° 50.270'W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Craignure Post Office & Stores, Craignure, Isle of Mull, Argyll, PA65 6AY.

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: 06757 and Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.

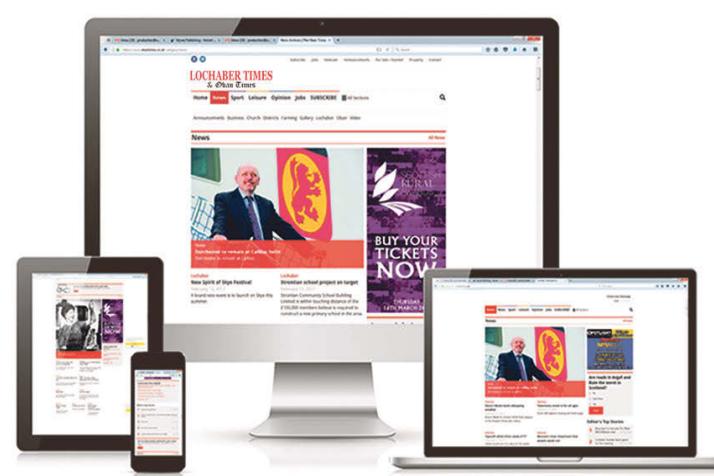
Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.


ACHA
 argyll community housing association
Annual General Meeting
 To be held on
 Thursday 20th September 2018
 commencing at 2.00pm
 in the Inveraray Inn, Inveraray
 All members are invited to attend


SCOTTISH LAND COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING
 Thursday 20 September 2018, 7pm
 Caol Community Centre, Caol, Fort William
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Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law.

In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

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by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear.

In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

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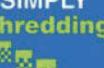
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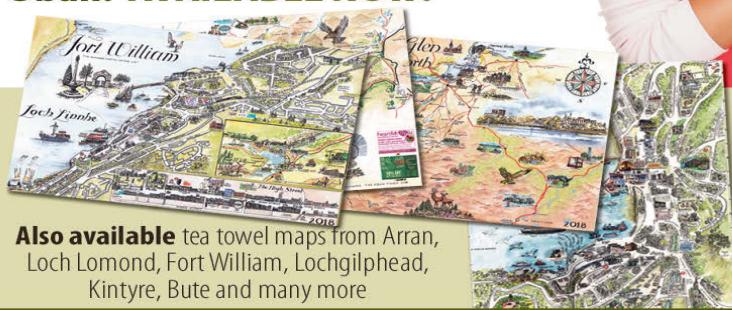
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MIRRORED SLIDE ROBE 5 mirrored doors. Perfect condition. Approx. size: 2 x 7'4" x 3'; 2 x 3'11" x 2'; 1 triangular 3 high x 3' wide, £10 Telephone 01838 200489.

REPLACEMENT CHIMNEY POTS for older houses, ornate Victorian/Edwardian pots in various sizes and colours, £40 Telephone 01631 564578².

VARIOUS WORKTOPS 2 grey granite like finish 2' x 6'6"; 2' x 6'3" and shorter pieces. One black finish 2' x 5'6", £10 Telephone 01838 200489.

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BEDSIDE TABLES 2 x matching, rectangular with single drawer. Wood with white top. Buyer collects. email: mail@fionaw.co.uk, £20 Telephone 01852 200227.

BEDSIDE TABLES two white bedside tables, £20 Telephone 01583 431122.

BOOK SHELF solid wood with four shelves, (early 20th C), 130cm (W) x 30cm (D) x 160cm (H), £20 Telephone 01852 200227.

CHEST OF DRAWERS solid oak, 120cm (W) x 54cm (D) x 1-2cm (H), 3 long drawers, 2 short drawers. Buyer collects. email: mail@fionaw.co.uk, £99.99 Telephone 01852 200227.

COFFEE TABLE (rectangular with shelf underneath) and 2 matching square side tables, pale wood effect. Buyer collects. email: mail@fionaw.co.uk, £10 Telephone 01852 300320.

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SMALL COMPUTER TABLE, £25 Telephone 01583 431122.

TABLE AND CHAIRS pine round table and four chairs, £45 Telephone 01583 431122.

WARDROBE Ikea Pax with double mirror doors and oak effect frame. 100cm (W) x 58cm (D) x 236cm (H). Hanging rail and 2 shelves. Contact Krisp Print on 01586 554975.

Buyer collects. email: mail@fionaw.co.uk, £60 Telephone 01852 200227.

WARDROBE Ikea Pax oak effect frame and door. 50cm (W) x 58cm (D) x 236cm (H).

4 x pull out basket drawers and 4 x shelves. Buyer collects. email: mail@fionaw.co.uk, £30 Telephone 01852 200227.

WARDROBE Ikea Pax oak effect frame and doors. 100cm (W) x 58cm (D) x 236cm (H). Hanging rail and 4 x shelves. Buyer collects. email: mail@fionaw.co.uk, £50 Tel 01852 200227.

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GARDEN FURNITURE black metal square glass topped table and two matching chairs, £30 ono Telephone 07900 862835/01546 603654².

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BIRTHS

DELANEY - Ben and Karen Delaney (née Paterson) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Beth Mary Delaney. Born on Wednesday September 5, 2018 at 12.14 a.m., weighing 7lb 11oz and measuring 20.5 inches. Beth is the first grandchild of Michael and Karen Delaney, Tirlundy, and John and Zena Paterson, Oban.

DICKIE - To Ally and Gayle (née Munro) on July 30, 2018, a son, Alexander James, first grandson for Alistair, Fiona, Calum and Susan.

ENGAGEMENTS

OXLAND - VENTURINI SANTA LUCCIA - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Richard, son of Ken and Lynda of Oban and Manuela, daughter of Fernanda and Adolfo of São Paulo, Brazil.

DEATHS

WARNOCK - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban on September 2, 2018, aged 79 years, Thomas Warnock, husband of Catherine, father to Fiona, Euan and Graeme (deceased), grandfather, great-grandfather and brother. The funeral will take place at Cardross Crematorium, Main Road, Cardross on Friday, September 14 at 2.15pm. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu of flowers for the National Trust for Scotland.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMPBELL - Marion, John, Fiona, Lee, Lewis and all the family of the late Kenny Campbell would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their kindness and support following their recent sad and unexpected bereavement. The family are overwhelmed by the number of phone calls, visits and sympathy cards they received. Special thanks to Fort William Police, Paramedics and all that helped Kenny at the roadside. Thanks also to Dr John Wallace for his support, also Deacon Thomas Wynne for his comforting service. Thanks to John and Linnie for their compassionate funeral arrangements and also Caol Community Centre. Finally thank you to all who attended the church and graveside, also to friends and family who so fondly remembered Kenny on the day. Amount collected was £1,090.36 and this will be split between Fort William F.C. Youth Development and Neonatal Unit, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow.

CLARK - Mary. The family of the late Mary Clark of Kilninian, Torloisk, Isle of Mull, wishes to express its thanks to all relatives and friends from near and far and to all neighbours for their attendance at Mary's funeral service at Salen and Ulva Parish Church, Salen, Isle of Mull on September 5, 2018. Thanks are also given for letters, cards and other kind messages of sympathy. Sincere thanks to

Rev J Beaton, Free Church of Scotland, Oban for conducting the service and also to Rev J Paton, Church of Scotland, Salen, Isle of Mull for his assistance and support. Thanks also to Mr W McClymont of Mull Funeral Services, for his invaluable help at this difficult time, and to Claire and Gerry of the Salen Hotel for their hospitality and efficient catering following the funeral service. A collection was made at the funeral service for Argyll Animal Aid for which the sum of £300 was raised. Many thanks again to all who attended the service and very kindly made a donation. The family also wishes to give its sincere and heartfelt thanks to the staff of the Mull and Iona Community Hospital at Craignure, Isle of Mull for the exceptional and compassionate care and attention given to Mary during her final months.

HUNTER - Norma, Michelle, Alistair and Margaret would like to sincerely thank all family and friends for their cards, flowers and support following the sad loss of Norman. Special thanks to the doctors and district nurses in Mallaig and Ballachulish and also the doctors of NHS 24. Heartfelt thanks to Mrs Karen Calder of the Fishermen's Mission for the uplifting, comforting service and support. Sincere thanks to the Marine Hotel for the catering and to the staff of John McLellan Funeral Directors. Finally, thank you to everyone who attended the graveside service. A total of £500 was collected for the Fishermen's Mission.

MACMILLAN - Carol, Fiona and David would like to thank all their family and friends most sincerely for their support and kindness following the death of their dear father, Donald. Special thanks to the nurses and doctors of Ward B, Oban hospital for the great kindness and exceptional care given to our lovely Dad during his short illness and to the district nurses from Oban surgery who attended so kindly to our dad at home. Thanks very much also to Catriona, Owen and all the staff at Hamish Hoey and Son Ltd for looking after us with great compassion and guiding us so well, and to Moreen Gracie for the beautiful floral arrangement. Grateful thanks to Donald MacKinnon for his comforting service and to all who attended at the church and graveside. £251.66 was kindly donated for the British Heart Foundation and the Stroke Association.

MACQUARIE - 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.

McCOWAN - In memory of my dear husband John, who passed away September 12, 2016. 'Thinking back as we often do, we treasure the memories we have of you. Forever loved and missed.'

- Jan, Alison, Lesley and families.

MEMORIAMS

RAVEN - In loving memory of our mum and nana, who passed away on September 13, 1971. The hands of time keep turning, the years have slipped away, but memories last forever and never go away.

- Marleen, Allan and family.

MACCUISH - In loving memory of our darling son Bobby who left us on September 17, 2006. Always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.

Till we meet again Son.

- Mum and Dad.

MACCUISH - Bobby not a day goes by that we don't think of you, our world is a lonelier place without you.

- David, Tia, Claire and Daniel.

MACCUISH - Bobby. Always in our hearts. You'll never walk alone.

- Love Peter, Julie and family.

MACDONALD - Treasured memories of our beloved parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, Katie Maggie, who passed away on September 13, 2017, aged 89 years and Angus, who passed away on June 11, 1993, aged 67 years. No longer in our lives to share but in our hearts you are always there.

- Inserted by the family of 4 Torlum, Benbecula.

MACDOUGALL - Remembering with all our love William Rose, died September 13, 1970 and Peteressa (née Currie) died September 7, 2003.

- Inserted by their family, Duncan, Mary, Margaret and grandchildren Scott and Jenny.

MACLEAN - In living memory of my dearest husband Norman MacLean who passed away one year ago, August 31, 2017. I cannot bring the old days back, your smile I cannot see I can only treasure the memories of days that used to be Happy times when we were together hold memories that will last forever

Today and tomorrow, my whole life through I will always love and cherish you. Sorely missed, with loving memories

- Your loving wife Peigi MacLean.

MACQUARIE - 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.

McCOWAN - In memory of my dear husband John, who passed away September 12, 2016.

'Thinking back as we often do, we treasure the memories we have of you. Forever loved and missed.'

- Jan, Alison, Lesley and families.

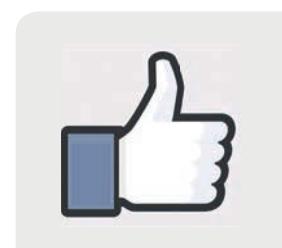
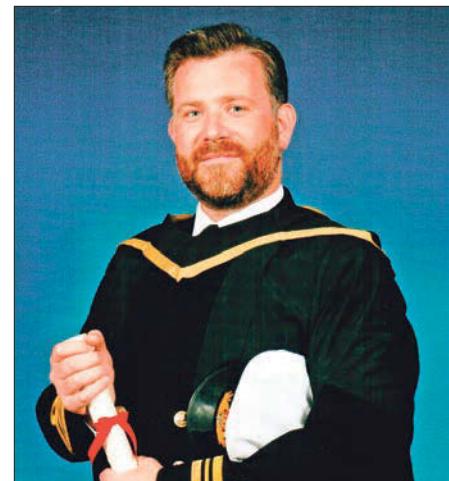
McLUCKIE - In memory of our pal Paul, who left us on September 13, 2016. Gone but not forgotten.

- The Tano family, Oban.

ROSS - In loving memory of a much loved wife, mum and nanny Marion, who died September 15, 2003. Years have gone since you were here But in our eyes there is still a tear In our hearts you will always stay We love and miss you every day.

- Loving husband Rusty and family.

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LIEUTENANT COMMANDER SHAMUS MACFARLANE MACLEAN

Royal Navy Graduated with an MSc in Strategic Planning from Edinburgh Business School, Heriot-Watt University. Shamus is the son of Keith and Heather MacLean, Isle of Seil and the grandson of the late Jean and Ferguson MacLean, Tigh and Truish, Clachan Seil, and Margaret and the late Harry Peake, Cheshire. Shamus is a former pupil of Easdale Primary School, Seil and Oban High School.

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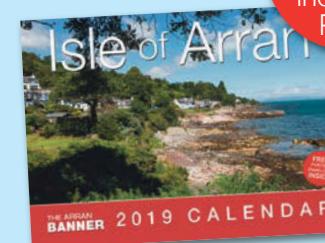
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Mary's Meals adds more than 100,000 hungry children to feeding programme



Dalmally-based charity Mary's Meals is now reaching 1,361,586 of the world's poorest children in 17 countries with life-changing daily meals.

In the past six months, thanks to the continued generosity of supporters from around the world, the school feeding charity has welcomed an additional 104,308 children – in 199 new schools and education centres – to its global feeding programme. The figure includes vulnerable children in prisons in

Madagascar, little ones attending nursery in the deserts of northern Kenya, and pupils at five additional schools in war-torn South Sudan.

Mary's Meals works with impoverished communities to set up school feeding programmes, enabling children – who may otherwise be forced to work, beg or scavenge for food – to attend school and receive a nutritious meal that helps them concentrate on their studies.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow,

founder and global chief executive of Mary's Meals, said: 'It is wonderful that more than 1.3 million children are now receiving Mary's Meals every day at school. All over the world we see that people are sharing what they have so that children might eat. I feel humbled each day by people's goodness – especially by the tens of thousands of unpaid local volunteers who cook and serve these meals.'

For the first time Mary's Meals has started serving meals in

Madagascar, where children as young as eight face malnutrition and appalling conditions in overcrowded prisons. Mary's Meals has partnered with Grandir Dignement – an organisation that provides education and vocational training – to feed vulnerable children attending classes in four prisons in the Antsiranana and Antananarivo regions.

Since March this year, the number of children receiving Mary's Meals in South Sudan, Haiti and Kenya has increased following expansions to the charity's feeding programmes.

Magnus added: 'To have reached so many more children in six months is astonishing. And these are children living in some of the most difficult situations on earth, situations that might even seem hopeless.'

'But we know from experience that these meals do not only meet the immediate need of the hungry child, they also enable them to grow up, well-nourished and well-educated, to become the young men and women who will lift their communities out of poverty one day. Our vision, that every child in this world receives at least one good meal every day in their place of education, burns more brightly than ever.'

Mary's Meals began feeding just 200 children in Malawi in 2002. Today, the charity provides life-changing meals to more than 1.3 million children in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the Caribbean.

Research shows that in schools where children receive Mary's Meals, enrolment increases, attendance improves, drop-out rates fall, and children are happier, healthier and do better

in class.
To find out more or to donate, please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk.

How it works:

Mary's Meals is a simple idea that works. The charity provides one daily meal in a place of learning in order to attract chronically poor children into the classroom, where they receive an education that can, in the future, be their ladder out of poverty.

The Mary's Meals campaign was born in 2002 when Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow visited Malawi during a famine and met a mother dying from AIDS. When Magnus asked her eldest son, Edward, what his dreams were in life, he replied simply: 'I want to have enough food to eat and to go to school one day.'

Mary's Meals feeds 1,361,586 children every school day, across five continents, in 17 countries: Malawi, Liberia, Zambia, Haiti, Kenya, India, South Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Benin, Lebanon, Syria, Myanmar, Thailand, Ecuador, Madagascar and Romania.

In Romania, Mary's Meals works with the Rhema Foundation to serve nutritious meals to young adults in a place of education and residential care. The Rhema Foundation provides all-round care for HIV-positive young people who were abandoned in hospital in Bucharest in the 1990s.

In South Sudan, where years of violent conflict has caused a food crisis affecting more than six million people, Mary's Meals works closely with its local partner, the Diocese of Rumbek, to deliver life-saving school meals to desperately hungry children.

In Kerala, Mary's Meals is working with its long-standing partner in India to deliver aid to people affected by the recent, devastating floods. Mary's Meals launched the Kerala Floods Emergency Appeal following news of the disaster and, as part of an initial response, is providing essential food supplies to 13,000 of the worst affected families.

Earlier this year, Mary's Meals began feeding a further 6,019 children at 27 schools in Haiti, through a new partnership with Summits Education. The charity has also grown its feeding programme in Kenya and is now serving nutritious daily meals to more than 3,500 additional pre-school children at 30 nurseries in the drought-prone Turkana region of the country.

The average global cost to feed a child with Mary's Meals for a whole school year is just £13.90.

Independently verified research from Malawi, Liberia and Zambia shows that in schools where children receive Mary's Meals, hunger is reduced, enrolment increases, attendance improves, drop-out rates fall, absences dwindle, concentration in lessons is heightened, attainment levels increase, parents are less anxious, and children are happier.

Mary's Meals is committed to spending at least 93 per cent of donations directly on its charitable activities. This is only possible because much of the charity's work is done by an army of dedicated volunteers – including more than 80,000 in Malawi alone.

Please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk to find out more about the work of Mary's Meals.

Bishop urges students to get to know 'Gospel celebrities' during annual Vocations Week

During its annual Vocations Week (September 9-16) the Catholic Church in Scotland is encouraging secondary school students to consider the lives of six very different people who responded to God's call in their lives.

The church has produced material entitled Six Calls which encourages students to learn more about figures as diverse as Pope Benedict, Mother Theresa and Chiara Badano, an Italian teenager on the path to sainthood.

'As our young people return to school a year older their thoughts turn to what lies ahead of them as adults, in terms of careers and relationships and lifestyles.'

'In thinking of these things they are easily mesmerised by a secular culture that promises them the dream job, the ideal partner and the celebrity circuit. The media presents them with role models to follow who are living the dream and who seem to have it all.'

'Into this mix it is good that our Church plants

lives. We hope to show that the saints were not superhuman but people who simply responded generously and sincerely to God's call.'

Bishop John Keenan, president of priests for Scotland, said: 'Vocations Awareness week in autumn, introduced a generation ago, is now part and parcel of our church's tradition and annual cycle in Scotland.'

'This year we are asking our young people to get to know the saints, the men and women of our times who lived their lives for love of God and humanity. These Gospel celebrities range from popes to school kids, include men and women, and travel across all continents of the world.'

'I am sure our young people will find in them better role models who inspire them to opt for the way of real freedom and happiness, in wanting nothing from life before wanting the adventure of faith, hope and love.'

THOUGHT for the week

My salvation and my honour depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

Psalm 62:7

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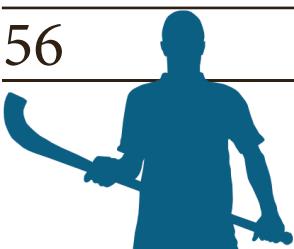
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SHINTY NEWS

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Camanahcd Cup final

Lochside Rovers lifted the Bullough Cup, the Newtonmore second team took the Strathdearn Cup to complete the treble, Newtonmore moved a big step closer to the Marine Harvest Premiership title, Kilmallie are Marine Harvest National Division champions and the Lovat second team were crowned Marine Harvest North Division 2 champions following the shinty action on Saturday 8 September 2018.

Bullough Cup – final

Lochside Rovers 5

Kyles Athletic 2

Lochside Rovers scored four goals in the opening 16 minutes as they defeated the Kyles Athletic second team 5-2 to lift the Bullough Cup at Strachurmore.

The pitch at Strachurmore was in tremendous condition and the short grass allowed for some good play. A good-sized crowd gathered for the final with Euan McMurdo and Jock Turner from the Camanachd Association in attendance.

Niall MacFarlane's switch from the wing to the forward line paid immediate dividends when he gave Lochside a five-minute lead.

Daniel Sloss added two more goals on 12 and 14 minutes, one of which was the goal of the game. It was a well-worked move as Iain MacMillan and Michael MacQueen combined to play the ball up the line on the left where Lewis Buchanan ran out and he squared the ball to the on-rushing Daniel Sloss who won a 50-50 challenge with a defender, hammering the ball into the net in the process.

When Lewis Buchanan added a fourth on 16 minutes, Lochside already had one hand on the trophy.

Such was Lochside's dominance that it was fully 35 minutes in before Kyles launched their first serious attack.

Referee Graham Fisher awarded Lochside a penalty just three



The Lochside Rovers squad celebrate after winning the Bullough Cup. Photo: Paul Paterson

minutes after the restart for a push on Lewis Buchanan. However, Buchanan sent the spot-hit the wrong side of the post.

Buchanan atoned for his miss on 55 minutes when he scored from 15 yards to make it 5-0.

Lochside lost centre Michael MacQueen, who had a great battle with Rupert Williamson, with a shoulder injury so Daniel Sloss dropped back to the middle of the park.

Lochside brought substitutes Scott Robertson, Keith Burnett and young reserve keeper Dougie MacDonald on for the final 15 minutes.

Kyles Athletic keeper Douglas Nicolson made some good saves throughout the game.

Kyles introduced David Martin who added a physical dimension to their attack and he scored on 90 minutes with Jack Whyte making it 5-2 a couple of minutes into stoppage time.

Keeper Gavin Stobart and full back Gary McKerracher were solid when needed for Lochside whilst Michael MacQueen and Daniel Sloss also played really well as did Ross Campbell who deserved a goal for

his over-all performance.

Jock Turner presented the Bullough Cup to a delighted Lochside captain Craig Easton.

Lochside Rovers have now won the league, the Sutherland and the Bullough over the last couple of seasons and they are still very much in this year's title race.

Strathdearn Cup – final

Fort William 0
Newtonmore 4

The Newtonmore seconds completed the 'treble' as they added the Strathdearn Cup to the Marine Harvest North Division 1 title and the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup won earlier in the season after beating the Fort William seconds 4-0 at the Bught Park.

The Newtonmore seconds, who were without the suspended Cameron McNiven for this 3pm throw up, went in front on 16 minutes through prolific scorer Calum Stewart.

Referee Steven MacLachlan awarded 'More a penalty on 27 minutes and Paul MacArthur scored from the spot.

Calum Stewart got his second on the hour and a second from Paul MacArthur on 67 minutes made it 4-0 to round off an historic day.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Newtonmore 2
Kinlochshiel 0

Newtonmore are a win away from clinching the Marine Harvest Premiership title after they beat 2017 winners Kinlochshiel 2-0 in their noon throw up at the Eilan.

There was a minute's silence ahead of throw following the passing of Dougie Gill, brother of Kinlochshiel manager Johnston Gill.

Newtonmore made the stronger

to Glenurquhart and Newtonmore and away to Lochaber but they'd be helpless should Newtonmore beat Oban Camanachd.

Kyles Athletic 4

Oban Camanachd 0

Kyles Athletic stay in the title hunt after defeating Oban Camanachd 4-0 in their noon throw up at Tighnabruaich.

Kyles Athletic's opener came on four minutes when the Oban defence failed to deal with a Robbie MacLeod corner. There was a scramble inside the D and the ball was knocked in from close range by Scott MacDonald.

With just five first half minutes remaining, Gordon Whyte strode forward and sent a scorching 25-yard drive into the net.

Kyles had the ball in the net again in the first half when Sandy MacKenzie fired home only for the goal to be chalked off by referee Ross Brown as Robbie MacLeod was standing in an offside position.

Kyles made it 3-0 on 70 minutes when a Gordon Whyte corner was knocked down in the D and Colin MacDonald was first to react as he flicked the ball home from close range past Cammy Sutherland in the Camanachd goals.

The fourth goal, which the Kyles pressure merited, came on 83 minutes from the penalty spot. Garry Lord brought down Grant Irvine inside the D and referee Ross Brown awarded a penalty after consulting with the goal judge. The penalty was hit low and hard into the net by Robbie MacLeod.

This was a solid team performance from Kyles, built on a strong defensive display, with stand-in goalkeeper Innes MacDonald only having one save of note to make.

Oban Camanachd stay fourth and their final two matches are away to top of the table Newtonmore and at home to relegation-threatened Skye Camanachd.

Caberfeidh 2

Lovat 7

Lovat warmed up for this Saturday's Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final with a 7-2 victory over Caberfeidh in their 3pm throw up at Castle Leod.

When Caberfeidh keeper Ewan Pilcher saved from Duncan Davidson after seven minutes, Marc MacLachlan flicked the rebound into the net to give Lovat the lead.

A Caberfeidh free-hit was played to Craig Morrison on nine minutes and his shot was saved with his foot by Stuart MacDonald. The ball came back across to Morrison and this time he found the net with a waist-high shot to the keeper's right.

Kevin Bartlett beat Drew Howie on



Newtonmore's Craig Ritchie gets away from Kinlochshiel's Oliver Macrae during last Saturday's Premiership match at The Eilan.

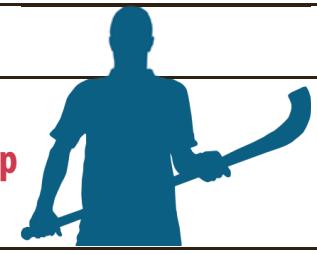
Photo: Neil Paterson

Camanachd Cup
Macaulay Cup

MacTavish Cup
Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup
Balliemore Cup

Strathdearn Cup
Bullough Cup



takes place in Oban

14 minutes but Stuart MacDonald made an excellent save with his stick.

Lovat's Graeme MacMillan stopped a clearance out of the Caberfeidh defence on 27 minutes and his shot deceived the keeper to put Lovat back in front. A couple of minutes later, another defensive clearance hit Lewis Tawse who found the ball at his feet and he hit a powerful shot into the net to make it 3-1.

Greg Matheson added a fourth on 41 minutes. Marc MacLachlan flicked the ball over his head and Matheson drove the ball high into the net from 25 yards and Lovat led 4-1 at the interval.

The first half wasn't as one-sided as the scoreline suggests with Caberfeidh winning plenty of ball possession in midfield through the impressive Ally MacLennan.

Lovat's Lorne MacKay, who had been booked during the first half, was replaced by Bailey MacKay at the break with boss Fraser Gallacher perhaps having an eye on Saturday's Scottish final. Danny Kelly went to centre where he played very well.

Lovat went on to have the better of the second half and when they did attack, Cabers found Stuart MacDonald to be a formidable obstacle with one point-blank save from Kevin Bartlett's shot from inside the D coming into the remarkable category.

Graeme MacMillan got his second on 57 minutes to make it 5-1. Marc MacLachlan got the ball at the corner flag on the right and three Caberfeidh defenders seemed to leave MacLachlan's cross to each other and MacMillan took advantage as he nipped in to touch the ball into the net.

Caberfeidh threw on all three substitutes on 62 minutes but Lovat went further in front a minute later as Marc MacLachlan got his second goal of the game. Lewis Tawse ran forward with the ball before flicking it to the left to MacLachlan who scored.

It was Lewis Tawse's turn to notch a second goal on 66 minutes as he robbed a defender on the right before powering a back-hand shot across the keeper, high into the net.

The home side claimed for a penalty when the ball seemed to hit Daniel Grieve on the hand but referee Andy MacLean waved away their pleas after consulting with the goal judge.

Lovat replaced Graeme MacMillan and Lewis Tawse with Thomas Fraser and Martin Mainland. Tawse had suffered an injury which may be a concern ahead of this week's Camanachd Cup final.

Danny Kelly then went on a long run before setting up Duncan

Davidson but Ewan Pilcher made a great save.

Caberfeidh had pushed Blair Morrison up front with Craig Morrison dropping back and the switch paid off with 10 minutes remaining as Blair Morrison scored from the left following a free-hit.

Greg Matheson was booked after reacting angrily to a late Craig Morrison challenge which caught him on the knee.

Danny Kelly and Daniel Grieve were best for Lovat. Ally MacLennan did well for Cabers before he tired and although the home defence will have better afternoons, young Connor MacGregor can be pleased with his contribution.

Lochaber 2 Kingussie 5

Kingussie came from behind to beat Lochaber 5-2 in their 3pm throw up at Spean Bridge.

Lochaber pair Martin Johnstone and Kevin Ferguson and Kingussie's Savio Genini all missed out as they served one-match suspensions for passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

Goals from Findlay MacDonald and Stuart Callison cancelled out Liam Borthwick's strike to give Lochaber a 2-1 lead.

Ruaridh Anderson made it 2-2 before Roddy Young took centre stage, grabbing a hat-trick to clinch a 5-2 win.

Lochaber's cause wasn't helped when Danny Delaney was sent off by referee Des McNulty a minute before the break.

Glenurquhart 0 Skye Camanachd 1

Skye Camanachd kept their survival hopes alive with a narrow 1-0 win over Glenurquhart at Blairbeg.

Jordan Murchison remained on the injury list whilst John Gillies opted



Skye's Iain Nicolson gets a tackle in on Glenurquhart's Eddie Tembo. Photo: Neil Paterson

to play football. U17 forward Ross Gordon was added to the squad. Iain Nicolson started at buckshee back, picking up Glen danger-man Fraser Heath.

There was a minute's silence ahead of throw up as both teams remembered former Skye Camanachd player, coach and first team manager Ally 'Mor' Morrison.

Glenurquhart made the brighter start but Skye settled and created chances to go in front but they found Glen goalie Stuart MacKintosh to be in good form.

Skye lost Will Cowie with a foot injury so Martin Pringle came on in his place. However Pringle suffered an elbow knock just five minutes later and had to be replaced by Ross Gordon.

Will Cowie came back on for the second half in place of James Pringle.

The islanders had the ball in the net through Ruairidh MacLeod early in the second half but referee Martin MacLean brought play back, awarding Skye a free-hit.

Skye got the goal they craved on 54 minutes when Ruairidh MacLeod fired a shot into the roof of the net.

The Glen came right back into it in the second half and, with Fraser Heath and Conner Golabek looking dangerous in attack, the visitors relied on keeper Iain MacLeod to make some good saves.

Skye's Kenny Campbell then suffered a knock 15 minutes from time so Daniel Morrison took over but the islanders held on to take the points.

Skye have four away matches remaining starting with this Saturday's visit to the Dell to face Kingussie.

They follow that up with matches at Lovat, Caberfeidh and Oban Camanachd.

Skye trail eighth placed Caberfeidh by four points with Cabers having two games to go; at home to Skye and away to Kinlochshiel and they have a better goal difference.

Marine Harvest National Division

Kilmallie 3 Glasgow Mid Argyll 2

Kilmallie are Marine Harvest National Division champions after they beat promotion-seeking Glasgow Mid Argyll 3-2 in their 3pm throw up at the Canal Parks.

Suspension continued to rule out Kilmallie's Michael Rodger whilst Aaron Sandison, Lewis Birrell and Jordan MacPhee remained injured so Andrew McAlister started at wing centre. Alan MacDonald joined Stephen McAlister and Daniel Stewart on the bench.



Lochside's captain and vice-captain Craig Easton and Lewis Buchanan with the Bullough Cup.

Continued on page 62

Results

Saturday September 8 Bullough Cup Final

Kyles Athletic 2 v 5 Lochside Rovers



Strathdearn Cup Final

Fort William 0 v 4 Newtonmore

Premiership

Kyles Athletic 4 v 0 Oban Cam

Newtonmore 2 v 0 Kinlochshiel

Lochaber 2 v 5 Kingussie

Caberfeidh 2 v 7 Lovat

Glenurquhart 0 v 1 Skye

National Division

Oban Celtic 7 v 2 Beauly

Inverness 0 v 1 Fort William

Kilmallie 3 v 2 Glasgow MA

Fixtures

Saturday September 15

Camanachd Cup Final

Newtonmore v Lovat

Mossfield Stadium, Oban

Throw-up - 2pm

Deek Cameron

MacMaster Cup Final - Under 14s

Beaulieu v Fort William

Mossfield Stadium, Oban

Throw-up 11am

Graham Fisher

Premiership

Kingussie v Skye

Archie Ritchie

Throw-up - 11.30am

North Division 2

Strathspey v Lochaber

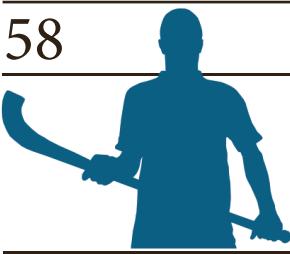
John Wood

Throw-up - Noon

Caberfeidh v Kilmallie

John Matheson

Throw-up - Noon



SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Continued from page 61

Ewen Murray was still out for GMA whilst forward Craig Anderson was unavailable.

Calum MacDougall's goal on 15 minutes came against the run of play but the youngster did well to take the ball down before shooting into the bottom corner of the net. The ball actually bounced back out with some claiming it hadn't crossed the line but referee Lachie Wood signalled for the goal.

There was no doubt about Kilmallie's second goal on 36 minutes. Robbie MacFadyen cleared out of defence to Innes Blackhall who did well to send the ball forward to Craig MacIsaac and he cut the ball across to Liam MacDonald who finished in style.

Just seconds later it was 3-0. Some good work in attack created a chance and when keeper Robert Dunnings made a save, Calum MacDougall was in the right place to flick the ball into the net for what was his second goal of the game.

GMA certainly didn't deserve to be three goals in arrears and they pulled a goal back on 55 minutes when John McNulty blasted the ball high into the net from a tight angle.

Calum McLay set up an exciting finish when he lofted a rebound into the roof of the net to make it 3-2 with 61 minutes on the clock.

GMA displayed great fitness and they continued to push, winning a lot of second ball.

Kilmallie had keeper Shane Gillies to thank for a great save in the final minute denying Garry Luke what would have been a deserved leveller.

Kilmallie boss Mark MacPherson played tribute to his side after the match. 'They are a cracking bunch of players, a credit to the club, and they deserve this,' he said.

'We had to work hard for the win as GMA were probably the better side though and they'll be wondering why they didn't take something from the game. We did better in the second half but we scored good goals at the right times and that made the difference.'

After four years as manager, this is a last season in charge for MacPherson and he is determined to go out on a high. 'Our last two games now look to be away to Inveraray on September 22 and at home to Beauly on September 29 when we should be presented with the trophy so we want to win them both. Whoever takes over just has to look at how well we did against Kyles and Newtonmore this season to see the potential here.'

'There has been some heartache along the way this season but we've achieved what I wanted us to do this season and we are back in the Premiership.'

Oban Celtic 7 Beauly 2

Oban Celtic rounded off their season with a 7-2 win over Beauly in their 3pm throw up at Ganavan.

Oban Celtic were missing key players Andy MacDonald and



The successful Newtonmore second string with the Strathdearn Cup, Sutherland Cup and League Cup.

Photo: Donald Cameron.

Daniel Madej with David MacInnes and Calum MacLean joining MacDonald on the suspension list. However, Fulton Ronald, Andy Hunt and Iain MacKchnie all returned. Ross MacMillan started at half back after his performance for the South U21 side the previous weekend.

Beauly travelled without Ryan Tillman and Andrew Morrison.

Beauly took the lead on 10 minutes when Jack MacDonald, who was well policed by Lewis McPhee, scored with a low drive.

Ally McKerracher, playing at full forward, had the ball in the net on 24 minutes but referee Ronnie Campbell brought play back for an earlier infringement, awarding Celtic a penalty which Ally McKerracher fired home.

Oban Celtic were struggling a bit up front so boss Kenny Wotherspoon decided to switch Ross MacMillan into the forward line and he again showed his quality by scoring almost instantly to give the hosts a 2-1 lead with 25 minutes played and it stayed that way till half-time.

Ross MacMillan got his second a couple of minutes after the restart to make it 3-1. A rocket-shot from Robbie Brindle shortly after got Beauly back into it, making it 3-2.

George MacMillan restored the Oban side's two-goal cushion on 54 with a tidy finish.

Ross MacMillan and Ally McKerracher were linking up really well and MacMillan on 65 minutes and another McKerracher penalty on 68 minutes made it 6-2.

Ross MacMillan finished well for his fourth goal of the day on 72 minutes to complete the 7-2 win.

Beauly boss Alan MacRae must have been impressed with how Oban Celtic's young players performed as he prepares to select his Scotland U21 squad. Celtic's Neil Carmichael had a terrific game at centre whilst Rory Bruce, Ally McKerracher and Ross MacMillan were also excellent.

With their season now complete, Oban Celtic begin the search for a new manager as Kenny Wotherspoon steps down. The team have taken great strides over his three years in charge and he said: 'This was a great way to finish the season and my last game as manager.'

There was a minute's silence ahead of throw up to mark the passing of Dougie Gill, brother of Kinlochshiel manager Johnston Gill, and Skye

The boys really turned up today and I'll definitely miss being involved in shinty on a Saturday, having either played and or managed every season since I was in primary school. I'd like to wish my successor, the players and the Oban Celtic committee all the very best for the future.'

Inverness 0 Fort William 1

Fort William maintained their promotion push with a 1-0 win over Inverness in their noon throw up at the Bught Park.

This was a good game and both sides had chances. The winning goal came on 57 minutes and it was worthy of deciding any game. The ball was played across the box where Alexander MacMillan took it from above his head and he volleyed the ball home, giving keeper Allan MacLeod no chance.

Inverness will take encouragement from running Fort William, who were without the suspended Graham Campbell, so close.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Kinlochshiel 3 Skye Camanachd 2

The Kinlochshiel seconds came from two goals down to beat the Skye Camanachd seconds 3-2 at Kirkton.

This was the teams' fourth meeting of the season; with Skye coming out on top in the three previous games.

Kinlochshiel manager Willie MacRae was able to include Colin MacDiarmid, Sandy MacDiarmid as well as 13-year-olds Archie MacRae and Callum Coghill with the latter starting on the bench.

There was a place in attack for the more experienced Scott MacLean.

Skye manager Kenny MacLeod was forced to make 11 changes from the side which beat Aberdeen University a fortnight earlier. There were debuts for youngsters Taylor Matheson and Archie MacDonald and Iain Murray returned following a knee injury.

There was a minute's silence ahead of throw up to mark the passing of Dougie Gill, brother of Kinlochshiel manager Johnston Gill, and Skye

for Skye. MacLean managed to slip the ball from the right to Finlay MacRae and he scored from inside the D with the ball going high into the net off keeper Ryan Morrison.

Iain Murray sent a shot over the junction between post and bar as Skye went for an equaliser but it wasn't to be.

The win was important for Willie MacRae's 'Shiel side as it takes them away from the relegation zone.

The game was refereed by 2018 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final match official Deek Cameron.

Aberdeen University 3 Glenurquhart 7

The Glenurquhart second string kept their survival hopes alive when they defeated Aberdeen University 7-3 at Balgownie.

Neale Reid put Glenurquhart in front on 14 minutes and Oliver Black made it 2-0 on 22 minutes.

Willie Hunter pulled a goal back on the half hour mark but Neale Reid took his count to four goals with Cairn Urquhart and Ryan Porter also scoring so despite late counters from Gregor Cushnie and Donnie MacRae, Glenurquhart won 7-3.

Aberdeen University now only hold a one point advantage over bottom side Glenurquhart. Each side has one match remaining; Aberdeen at home to Kingussie and the Glen away to Kinlochshiel.



A delighted Newtonmore skipper Stuart Mitchell holds aloft the Strathdearn Cup.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Aberdour 4 Kilmory 0

Aberdour scored two goals in each half to defeat Kilmory 4-0 at Silversands.

Kilmory's Sandy Leiper started a four-match ban but Alex Cunningham was free of suspension and he went on to have a good game in defence. David MacDougall gave Aberdour a nine-minute lead with the ball taking a deflection on the way into the net.

The hosts had chances to extend their lead before Roddy MacColl made it 2-0 on 41 minutes.

Aberdour maintained their grip of the game and Angus Thorburn added a third on the hour with Alex Mitchell rounding off the 4-0 win 8 minutes from time.

Taynuilt 2 Col Glen 2

Taynuilt and Col Glen shared the points in a 2-2 draw at the Taynuilt Sports Field. Jim Forgrieve gave Taynuilt a three-minute lead but Connor Kennedy equalised on nine minutes and it remained 1-1 until the break.

Neily McNaughton put Col Glen in front a couple of minutes into the second half but Scott Dempster made it 2-2 on 65 minutes to ensure a share of the points.

Tayforth 1 Ballachulish 4

Sixth-placed Ballachulish beat

Camanachd Cup final - preview

All eyes are on Oban as Lovat and Newtonmore meet in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final at Mossfield this Saturday.

Lovat manager Fraser Gallacher has Danny Kelly fit again but he will check on Lewis Tawse's injury sustained against Caberfeidh last weekend.

Paul John MacKintosh's Newtonmore have David MacLean back after injury but Fraser MacKintosh is out after breaking his collar bone last weekend.

The final will be broadcast live on BBC2 Scotland. Throw up is at 2pm and Deek Cameron is the match referee.

Earlier in the day, Beauly U14 and Fort William U14 clash in the MacMaster Cup Final at Mossfield. Throw up is at 11am.



Eight-time Camanachd Cup winner and CEO of title sponsor Tulloch Homes, George Fraser alongside Lovat team captain Lewis Tawse, and Andy MacKintosh, captain of Newtonmore.

Photo: Neil Paterson

Tayforth 4-1 at Levenhall Links.

Balla' were without the suspended Connor MacGregor but they went in front when Alan Clark scored after just three minutes.

Brendan Duggan levelled on 20 minutes but goals late in the half from Lewis Bryson on 34 minutes and Scott Henderson just five minutes later gave Balla' a 3-1 advantage at the break.

Duncan MacDonald sealed the 4-1 win with a goal on 54 minutes.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Caberfeidh 2

Strathglass 4

The Lovat second team are Marine Harvest North Division 2 champions after the Caberfeidh colts lost 4-2 to the Strathglass colts in their noon throw up at Castle Leod.

Ruaraidh McCreadie gave Cabers a 33-minute lead with an 18-yard shot but Colin Birnie replied a minute later, dropping back into midfield to gather the ball and he ran forward to score a good goal to make it 1-1 at the break. Colin Birnie got his second on 53 minutes, scoring after his initial shot had been saved.

Penri Jones made it 3-1 a minute later as he fired high into the net.

Kyle Grant pulled a Caberfeidh goal back on 63 minutes after the visiting defence backed off but when the ball took a lucky bounce to fall for Eddie Noble just four minutes from time, he shot low into the net to seal a 4-2 Strath win.

Kilmallie 3 Inverness 0

The Kilmallie second team scored three times during the first quarter of their match against the Inverness second team to win their noon throw up 3-0 at the Canal Parks.

Cameron Ross got the hosts off to a great start in the opening minute whilst Allan MacDonald netted on 6 minutes and again on 24 minutes make it 3-2.

There was no further scoring so Boleskine stay third in the division.

Lochaber 4 Boleskine 7

Third-placed Boleskine won their penultimate game of the season as they beat the Lochaber reserves 7-4 in their noon throw up at Spean Bridge.

Ryan Toal and a Max Campbell hat-trick counted for the home side but four-goal Ross Anderson, William MacKinnon's double and a Neil Pope goal gave Boleskine the win.

Beauly 1 Lewis Camanachd 0

The Beauly seconds were 1-0 winners against Lewis Camanachd in their 1pm throw up at Braeview Park.

The only goal of the game came on 38 minutes when Beauly's Murray MacKay sent a low drive into the net.

Beauly dominated and their veterans Steven MacKenzie, Jamie MacLennan and Gregor McCormick were the best players on the park but they were unable to add to the home side's tally.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Oban Celtic 4

Bute 1

The Oban Celtic seconds beat the Bute seconds 4-1 in their noon throw up at Ganavan.

Oban Celtic's Craig MacMillan started a five-match suspension following his red card in the team's last outing; a 2-1 defeat against Strachur on Saturday July 7.

James Craig put Bute ahead on 39 minutes but Scott Burnett, Kenny Wotherspoon and David Martin turned the match Celtic's way.

Kenny Wotherspoon got his second to make it 4-1 and give the Oban Celtic second string their second win of the season.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2500

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 noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

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.

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.

Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes.

Winners names and hometowns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvern Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity'.



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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Tel No.

Please tape your £1 coin here (only if posting)

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



Congratulations to T Campbell, Oban who won last week's special near miss prize of £2500

*winner has been notified

OT

YOUTH RUGBY

Impressive start to the season for Oban Lorne youth teams

Oban Lorne's U16 and U18 sides kicked off their West Regional League Campaigns last weekend as they both welcomed Strathaven RFC to Glencruitten.

The U18s fielded a strong squad on Saturday aided by players from Lochaber RFC to take an impressive 26-0 win. Unfortunately the game was abandoned 15 minutes early due to an injury to a Strathaven player who was taken to A&E. Everyone at Oban Lorne wishes the player a speedy recovery.

On Sunday the U16s also welcomed Strathaven for their league opener. Oban ran out 45-31 winners in a very entertaining and open game of rugby.

Impressive for Oban were backs Blair MacFarlane and Ellis Hunter along with forwards Kensi Gray and Oran Charlton. The team also boasted three players from Isle of Mull RFC who all started in the fixture.

This weekend both teams make the long trip south to Castle Douglas as they take on Stewartry RFC. This is the first of a few long away trips with Ardrossan and Newton Stewart RFC also taking part in the West League.

SHINTY

Marine Harvest awards

The Camanachd Association, in partnership with Marine Harvest, is pleased to announce that nominations for the 2018 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/2018>

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 1 at 5pm. The winners will be announced at the Marine Harvest Awards Ceremony, which will take place in Inverness on Friday October 19, the evening before the Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling International.

GOLF

Oban Camanachd golf day

Oban Camanachd are holding their annual golf day on Sunday at Glencruitten Golf Club. As The Oban Times went to press there were still two places left in the line-up. Anyone interested in playing should contact any club member or send a message to the club's Facebook page. Entry fee is £20 per player.

The competition gets underway with a shotgun start at 11am.

There are prizes for the team winners, longest drive, shortest drive and nearest the pins.

OBAN SAINTS YOUTH FOOTBALL

Results and fixtures

LAST Sunday's results: Friendly - Saints Under 13s 1 v Saints Under 14s 2; Under 16s 4 v Cambuslang 1. Scoring for Saints were Connor Moore (2), Ellis Hunter and Ross Campbell.

This Sunday's fixtures: Scottish Cup - Under 13s v Rutherglen Burgh; League Cup - Under 14s v Celtic Juniors; Scottish Cup - Under 16s v Everton BC.

Good away win for Oban Lorne

Paisley	22
Oban Lorne	32
Tennent's West Division 2	

Oban Lorne travelled to Paisley on Saturday to play the side who finished third in the division last year, narrowly missing out on promotion, and being hotly tipped to win the league this season.

A strong Oban team showed only a couple of changes from the team who were successful against Cumbernauld the previous week with Lorne Sinclair coming in at hooker and David Cameron taking his place on the wing. There was also a start on the wing for Oban High School PE teacher Callum Murray.

Paisley kicked off and won a penalty almost straight from the kick-off with Oban knocking the ball on and player playing the ball in front. The Paisley kicker dispatched the kick with ease – an early warning for Oban.

Oban responded by racing up the other end and after some fast and accurate rucking created space for vice captain Stephen Povey to cross the line for Oban's first try of the afternoon after just

six minutes of play. Almost straight from the kick-off Oban were to double their try tally for the afternoon after some good attacking play by the backs took Oban back into the Paisley 22. Back row player Matt Walker was on hand to cross the try line next to the posts. Finlay Carmichael converted to increase the Oban lead to 12 points to three after 10 minutes.

Oban were causing Paisley a number of problems with the speed of their attacking play. The Oban pack were out-working their much heavier opponents and creating good quick ruck ball for the backs to use with outside centre Iwan Roberts and fullback Craig Wright using their pace to stress the defence.

Finlay Carmichael was to extend the Oban lead with another well-struck penalty kick after Paisley were caught offside at the ruck. Oban 15-Paisley 3.

Craig Wright was next on the scoreboard with another scything run down the wing outpacing Paisley to score behind the posts. Finlay Carmichael stepped up to slot the conversion to put Oban 22 to points to three ahead.

This brought an end to the scoring in the first half and the message at half time was to keep the work rate high and keep the ball in hand to keep challenging the defence.

Paisley made a couple of positional changes at half time which really challenged the Oban defence and allowed them to get a period of ascendancy. The Oban midfield struggled to adapt to this change and this allowed Paisley to claw back a couple of tries to bring them back into contention in the game: Paisley 17-Oban 22.

Oban rang the changes to try and freshen up the team bringing on Stanley Lister, Kyle Graham and Daniel Speirs. This seemed to have the desired effect with Oban managing to get back in control of the game.

Finlay Carmichael managed to give Oban a bit of breathing space with another well-struck penalty kick: Oban 25-Paisley 17.

With Oban raising the pace of the game again as their fitness started to show, they managed to return to the fast-paced game that had served them so well in the first half.

The bonus point try was

RUGBY

finally achieved after another scintillating attack involving both backs and forwards with the ball out to the wing for David Cameron to slide in at the corner for his first senior try. This was again converted by Carmichael to move Oban on to 32 points.

There was still time for Paisley to score another try as they capitalised on an Oban mistake in their 22 to cross for their third try of the afternoon and bring the final score to Paisley 22-Oban 32.

There were lots of positives again for the Oban coach to take from this game although the defensive lapses will need to be addressed in training.

This week Oban travel to Helensburgh for an Argyll derby where they would look to continue their good run of form. Helensburgh are no strangers having also dropped down from West 1 last season with Oban winning both home and away last season.

Oban Lorne's next home game is the Tennents West Shield semi-final at home to Dalziel on Saturday September 29.



The teams who took part in the Mid Argyll Dalriada.

Mid Argyll host mini rugby festival

Mid Argyll RFC hosted the second Argyll and Bute Dalriada Mini Rugby Festival of the season at the Ropework Park in Lochgilphead on Saturday.

Teams from Oban Lorne, Etive Vikings, Lochaber along with hosts Mid Argyll attended the event with games being played at P4/5 and P6/7 age level.

Teams were looking to build on a good start to the season after the previous weekend's festival at Isle of Mull RFC.

Scores from Mid Argyll's Dalriada were; P4/5 - Oban Lorne 6-8 Etive Vikings, Etive Vikings 6-4 Mid Argyll, Mid Argyll 7-4 Oban Lorne;

P6/7 - Etive Vikings 7-2 Lochaber, Mid Argyll 1-2 Oban Lorne, Oban Lorne 7-3 Lochaber, Etive Vikings 5-0 Mid Argyll, Oban Lorne 1-4 Etive Vikings, Mid Argyll 6-6 Lochaber.

Development

All teams put on a fantastic display of open and entertaining rugby that was enhanced by the introduction of Scottish Rugby's Age Grade Law Trials that clubs around the country will be using this season to improve the quality and increase the development of young players in the game.

As usual Mid Argyll put on a great show with some fantastic hospitality. The next Dalriada festival for mini

MINI RUGBY

rugby clubs is hosted by Etive Vikings RFC in Taynuilt on Sunday September 30.

Along with the mini festival, Mid Argyll also hosted Islay, Lochaber and Oban Lorne for 10-aside games at U14 age level. Mid Argyll won all three of their fixtures running in 28 tries in the process.

For more information on mini, youth and girls' rugby events in the area please contact your local club or Rugby Development Officer Allan Wright at allan.wright@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Runners-up were Team Murphy – James Muir, Phillip Murphy, Steven Murphy and Neil Carmichael – pictured with Marianne MacEachan and her daughter Ann. Photos: Kevin McGlynn

John MacEachan Memorial Trophy

The first John MacEachan Memorial Trophy golf day took place at Glencruitten Golf Club last Saturday when 38 teams of four took part in two shotgun starts.

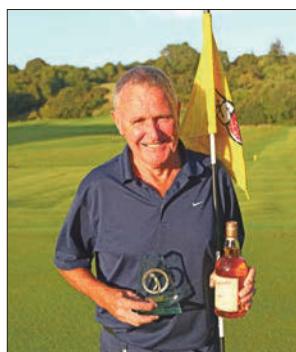
John, who died in February, was a former captain of the club and an enthusiastic golfer. In his younger days John played shinty for Oban Celtic, football for Oban Saints and rugby for Oban Lorne and was instrumental in getting the rugby clubhouse built.

Winners of the competition were Willie MacAdam, Duncan Forgrieve, James Scott Snr and Donnie MacGill with Phillip Murphy, Steven Murphy, James Muir and Neil Carmichael runners-up.

Additional prizewinners were John Plunkett, nearest the pin at the 15th, the longest drive was won by Gavin Owens and hitting the longest drive sign in three shots was 'Pele' MacCallum.

A prize of £1,000 was on offer for a hole in one at the fifth but unfortunately this wasn't won.

As well as Oban teams, a number of Argyll teams took part including the Kintyre Tractormen and the Dalmally Wallies.



John Plunkett winner of nearest the pin competition with his trophy

To keep the participants refreshed there was a G on the Tee bar at the 6th.

Entertainment was provided by Tom Adams, Hector MacFadyen and Grant MacCall ably assisted by crooners Peter MacCuish Snr, Sandy Gow and Dugald MacLean.

A special thanks goes to David and Kathleen Lafferty, the main sponsors of the event, as well as local businesses and individuals who contributed to a very successful raffle. Thanks also went to Glencruitten Golf

GOLF

Club, course and bar staff and MC Neil Armour.

The MacEachan family would like to thank all the golfers and supporters who bought raffle tickets and helped to make this a very successful money-raising event. More than £5,000 was raised for local cancer charities.

An enjoyable day was had by everyone and it was announced that the John MacEachan Memorial Trophy would be an annual event.



John's Daughter Ann and his niece Mara serve up some G on the Tee for the boys teeing off on the 6th.



The pink ladies stop for a picture before teeing off at the 4th.

Martial arts

IAIN RODGER

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Oban BJJ members at the James Doolan seminar.

Kyokushinkai Karate

Club coach and chief instructor for Scotland Iain Rodger is in the process of organising a tournament for Argyll children from all the karate and kick-boxing clubs to take part in. This will be held at the Mid Argyll Sports Centre in Lochgilphead on November 3. All clubs are invited to send their junior members along to take part in this. These annual tournaments have been taking place, organised by Iain, since 2003.

The club is actively seeking new members until the end of September after which time the next intake will be January 2019.

If anyone thinks this style of karate is for them please contact Iain Rodger (6th dan) for a friendly chat on: 07584 166542 or iain@ikk.co.uk, alternatively send a message to Caledonia Kyokushin on Facebook.

Kickboxing

Beginners are always welcome at Senshi Do Kick Boxing. Junior sessions, aged 5-14, are on Wednesday at 4.30pm to 6pm and senior sessions from 6pm to 7.30pm for ages 14 and over. The club is now preparing for the junior competition in Lochgilphead on November 3.

Find the club on Facebook under Senshi Do Kickboxing or email shihanwill@gmail.com for more details. The first session is free so there's nothing to lose by trying it out.

Shukokai Karate

All the clubs are taking on new students until the end of September, and members are now starting to prepare for the competition in Lochgilphead on November 3.

Anyone looking for more details on these clubs should contact Kenny Gray (5th dan) on: kenni.gray@btinternet.com or 07884 183905.

BJJ

Oban MMA has now been in its new academy location for a year. To celebrate this milestone the club invited mixed martial arts coach James Doolan to teach at a seminar. James has coached multiple pro champions around the world and has fighters now at the pinnacle of the sport in the UFC. James took an MMA 101 seminar which looked at the basics of striking for MMA, the entry and exit from striking and setting up a take-down. The detail coming from his experience was exceptional and the 20 students in

attendance came away with lots to drill and a better understanding of setting up striking.

This seminar confirms the club going back into its MMA roots and classes will reflect this with Tuesdays and Thursdays concentrating on striking and wrestling and the other weekday classes still very much Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

If anyone would like to try out BJJ or MMA, Oban BJJ can be found on Facebook or email @ coogepots@gmail.com

Wado Kai Karate

The Park Primary School class (part of Kaishin Wado Kai) is now back open after the summer break. If anyone has a child aged seven-10 years and wants to know more about this class please contact Mike on 07709 229284 or email; m.faulkner6@btinternet.com

Kaishin Wado Kai at Dunbeg School is on a Tuesday from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. All ages are welcome at the club training sessions. Mike Faulkner said: 'We are a small and friendly club with four Black Belt trainers available to help students at any time.' For more details contact Sensei Chris Bruce (7th Dan) at crb999@btinternet.com

Knights Of The Tower – Medieval Combat Oban

Knights of the Tower is still looking to boost its members. Men and women are welcome to turn up and try out the sport of medieval combat. The club trains on Tuesday nights from 7pm until 9.30pm above Stoddart's of Oban, in the old Crofters. Go down to have a look at what the group does and have a chat with members and maybe even try it out.



Knights of the Tower is looking for members.

OT

GOLF



Robert MacIntyre. Photo: Bounce Sport

Bob finishes 11 under par in challenge tour

Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre made the cut at the Bridgestone Challenge played at Luton Hoo Hotel, Golf and Spa in Bedfordshire last week.

In the first round he carded a four under par 67 which featured six birdies and three bogeys.

In the second round he birdied four holes and had only one bogey to card a 68.

Round three saw him card a two under par 69 which featured three birdies and one bogey.

Robert finished off the tournament with another 69, with four birdies and a double bogey for a four-round total of 273, 11 under par to finish in joint 20th place.

The event was won by England's Tom Lewis with a 23 under par score of 261.

The Challenge Tour moves on to the Kazakhstan Open which will be played at the Zhailjau Golf Resort in Almaty starting on September 13.

RALLYING

Currie robbed of Scottish rally title

Mull Rally driver Alasdair Currie was robbed of his Scottish Rally Championship hopes after a mechanical failure forced him and Oban's Grant MacNiven to retire after one stage of last weekend's Galloway Hills Rally.

The Argyll pair have showed consistent and dominating speed throughout the year which left them with an advantage heading into the Castle Douglas-based

event. Currie led four separate classes after a troublesome season but the team were unforgivably robbed of their hard work when the suspension collapsed on the Ford Fiesta ST whilst driving to the start line of Stage 2.

'Grant and I are both devastated. The nature of the mechanical failure is extremely obscene as there was a lot of work put into the car before the event. We tried our hardest to make a repair but unfortunately we ran out of time.'

The Scottish Rally Championship is made up of six events and the best five scores count to the competitors' overall points table. Currie and MacNiven suffered from three retirements, but nevertheless won the three events they finished.



Alasdair Currie and Grant MacNiven in action.

Saints pull the trigger on North Glasgow Colts

North Glasgow Colts	1
Oban Saints	5
SAFL Premier Division	

Oban Saints made it three league wins from three in an ultimately comfortable win against newly promoted North Glasgow Colts in Summerston last Saturday afternoon.

The margin of victory may well have been less emphatic had the hosts taken the opportunities that fell their way, however, Saints were well worthy of the win which keeps them on top of the fledgling Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division table.

The kick-off had to be delayed 30 minutes as the Saints minibus broke down between Dalmally and Inveraray on the way to the match but, thanks to Stewart Morrison, a replacement bus was organised and the squad continued on their way to Glasgow.

With regular number one Graham Douglas unavailable Saints handed a competitive debut to Ben Pollock in goal behind an unchanged back four of Jamie Graham, Steven MacLeod, captain Dene Cassells and Scott Maitland.

Willie Gemmell dropped to the bench to be replaced by Kerr Newbigging who partnered Daniel Croarkin in the holding midfield roles while Matt Rippon, Lewis Cameron and James Ford retained their places behind striker Donald Campbell, who replaced the unavailable Craig MacEwan.

Joining Willie Gemmell on the bench were Ruaridh Horne, Fraser MacFarlane and teenagers Kenneth Black and Aaron McKay.

A bizarre 20-minute decision from referee Don Flanigan almost saw the



Donald Campbell, No 9, heads wide during last Saturday's 5-1 win over North Glasgow Colts. Match report and photos: Derek Black

hosts pull a goal back. James Ford chased after a long ball from Kerr Newbigging when Colts keeper Ross Stewart, in the process of comfortably collecting the ball at the edge of his box, inexplicably lashed out, fortunately without connecting, at Ford with his right boot.

Mr Flanigan stopped play but, after having words with Stewart, allowed the keeper to re-start the game with a kick from hand which caught the Saints rearguard flat footed.

Connor Park raced away on the Colts right and squared to Allan Gilchrist who, much to the relief of the stunned Saints contingent on the sidelines, sliced his effort from eight yards wide of target.

As the rain abated Saints continued to enjoy the upper hand and Jamie Graham fired a shot from the right just over the crossbar before Donald Campbell had a delicate chip over the keeper ruled out for offside.

A William McGowan foul on Lewis Cameron gave Donald Campbell an opportunity with the dead ball from 28 yards which cannoned off the wall and behind for a

corner kick. Lewis Cameron's delivery from the left landed perfectly on the head of Donald Campbell at the back post who will be disappointed not to have hit the target from three yards' range.

For the second time in a 10-minute spell, Colts striker Allan Gilchrist sliced wide of target from a good position when set up by Connor Park.

From Ben Pollock's goal-kick Saints then cheaply conceded possession along the back four and were relieved to see Jordan Simpson's snap shot hit the side netting.

As the hosts enjoyed their best spell of the first half Steven MacLeod beat Connor Park to turn a long ball up the Colts right out for a throw-in.

The extremely narrow pitch made it easy for Josh Kelly to throw the ball deep into Saints box where Ben Pollock marked his competitive Saints debut with a fine reaction save to deny Scott Pestell from six yards.

Kerr Newbigging, making his first start of the season, had a long range effort comfortably saved in the 41st minute before sending Matt Rippon through the inside



Ben Pollock makes a fine save from Scott Pestell.



James Ford, not in the picture, sees his shot nestle in the back of the net to give Saints a 2-0 lead.

right channel with a well weighted pass 60 seconds later. Rippon raced into the box where he was felled by a sliding challenge from behind by Peter Keeney. Mr Flanigan had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot from where Lewis Cameron, despite Ross Stewart getting a hand to the ball, put Saints three goals up.

The hosts had another chance to pull one back just before the interval but Saints' skipper Dene Cassells put Allan Gilchrist under just enough pressure to ensure his back post header from a Jordan Simpson free-kick flew high and wide of target.



Kerr Newbigging

Having passed up all of their first half opportunities it took the hosts just 60 seconds to capitalise on their first second half opening. A slack pass from Lewis Cameron meant for Scott Maitland was picked up and played to Paul Harrison who beat Jamie Graham on the Colts left and found Allan Gilchrist in the middle who swivelled on the six-yard line and tucked the ball into the bottom corner beyond Ben Pollock's left hand.

Kerr Newbigging, who had a good game for Saints, was harshly penalised for an innocuous looking challenge on Colts skipper David Cooper on the halfway line in the 48th minute. To add insult to injury Newbigging also had his name taken by referee Flanigan for continuing his

protestations of innocence too long.

The woodwork came to Saints' rescue in the 50th minute from a swift counter attack on the left. Central defender Derek Ayres made a vital interception to block a Lewis Cameron shot on the Colts 18-yard line from where William McGowan was able to send the ball long up the Colts left. Paul Harrison got in behind once again and, with Ben Pollock well out of his goal, smacked a shot off the inside of the far post which Dene Cassells was relieved to be able to thump clear.

After a shaky start to the second half Saints regained their composure and restored their three-goal advantage with another well placed James Ford finish in the 55th minute. After a good move on the left Donald Campbell worked the ball along the 18-yard line to Matt Rippon who saw his net bound shot saved by the legs of Ross Stewart.

The Colts defence could only clear as far as Lewis Cameron who picked out James Ford on the penalty spot for his second goal of the afternoon.

Scott Pestell became the third name in Mr Flanigan's notebook for a late studs up challenge on Scott Maitland on the halfway line in the 59th minute.

Ross Stewart made a sensational save diving high to his left to tip a Donald Campbell shot from 18 yards on to the top of his crossbar in the 68th minute.

Donald Campbell tried his luck again from the edge of the box shooting across the keeper again but this time



Daniel Croarkin and Donald Campbell congratulate James Ford on his goal.

high and wide of target from a good Kerr Newbigging flick-on.

Saints gave Fraser MacFarlane a run out on the left for the closing 12 minutes with Matt Rippon making way. The Colts also made what would be their final change replacing goal scorer Allan Gilchrist with Christopher McGrath.

MacFarlane was quickly involved in the action linking up well with Scott Maitland to set up Donald Campbell for another off-target effort from 18 yards.

Daniel Croarkin capped another solid midfield performance with an 83rd minute goal to round off the scoring at 5-1 to Saints.

Bursting through from midfield Croarkin was felled by Jordan Simpson 30 yards from goal.

From the clever free-kick Kerr Newbigging sent Lewis Cameron wide on the right who picked out Croarkin's near post run for a four-yard tap-in ahead of a despairing late lunge from Derek Ayres.

With the points now well

FOOTBALL

and truly safe Saints took the opportunity to blood a couple of colts of their own and gave competitive debuts to teenagers Kenneth Black and Aaron McKay. Both were members of the Argyll and Bute Cup winning squad five weeks ago but the hurly-burly of the Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division is an entirely different proposition which the youngsters handled well in their short time on the park. Black replaced Scott Maitland at left back while McKay took over from James Ford on the right.

On the sound of Mr Flanigan's final whistle both sets of players set off on the short walk along Caldercuilt Road and back to the changing rooms at Glasgow Club John Paul.

This coming Saturday Saints welcome first time visitors Barrhead Arky to Glencruitten in the Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division.

The game will kick-off a 2pm.



Daniel Croarkin, No 8, slots the ball home to make the final score 5-1.



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WEATHER

Thursday

Light rain showers
Modearate breeze from the west south west
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Friday

Light rain showers
Modearate breeze from the west soth west
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Weekend Outlook

Light rain on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Modeate breeze from the south west
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday September 13, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	02.03	0.7	07.47	3.9
	14.10	0.5	19.57	3.9
Fri	02.41	0.9	08.21	3.7
	14.50	0.8	20.30	3.6
Sat	03.20	1.2	08.56	3.4
	15.31	1.2	21.05	3.3
Sun	04.04	1.5	09.37	3.2
	16.18	1.5	21.44	3.0
Mon	04.58	1.7	10.35	3.0
	17.13	1.8	22.40	2.8
Tues	06.05	2.0	12.51	2.9
	18.22	0.2	**.**	**
Wed	02.11	2.7	07.39	1.9
	14.25	3.0	20.08	2.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist

Moderate

Oban to Coll/Tiree

Moderate

Kennacraig to Islay

Moderate

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Bob finishes 11 under par in challenge tour

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AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 63

John MacEachan Memorial Trophy draws 152 entries



First winners of the John MacEachan Memorial Trophy golf competition held at Glencruitten Golf Club in Oban were Team MacAdam. Willie MacAdam and Duncan Forgrieve are presented with the trophy by John's wife Marianne and his daughter Ann. Missing from the photograph are other members of the winning team Donnie McGill and James Scott Snr. For more on the competition see page 57. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



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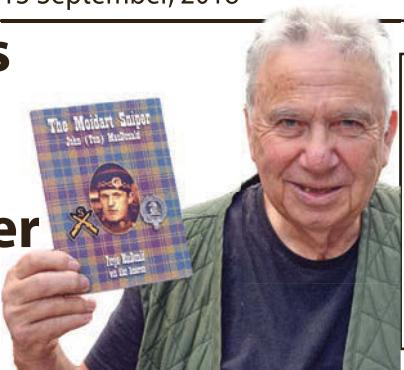
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Cash row forces Spean Bridge council to fold

Terriers top the table at Lochaber dog show

Audrey MacDonald, Arisaig, left, and Heather Turner from Roy Bridge all smiles after their success in Lochaber and District Canine Society's annual open breed show at the Nevis Centre, Fort William, on Saturday. Audrey is pictured here with her Jack Russell, Pippa, who won the Terrier group, and Heather Turner from Roybridge with champion Collie Lola – the two breeders have partnership of the dogs. Turn to page 14 for full report.



by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council has been forced into abeyance after a row over money from hydro electricity schemes saw a councillor quit in protest.

Sandy Edmond resigned from his role on Friday after a dispute flared between him and council chairman John Fotheringham.

With only five elected councillors, Mr Edmond's resignation means the body has to cease its official activities until additional councillors can be found.

Mr Edmond had taken exception to Mr Fotheringham's comments at last week's monthly meeting of the community council when the latter criticised the Achnacarry, Bunarkaig and Clunes (ABC) community group for holding onto community benefit cash

stemming from hydro electricity schemes along Loch Arkaig.

Mr Fotheringham told the meeting that as the statutory elected body for the entire area, the financial benefit payments should have come to the community council, not the ABC group.

And he expressed his frustration that, what he claimed had been a previous agreement made by a former chairman of the ABC group – that the money would be handed over to the community council for disbursement – was being ignored.

Mr Fotheringham told the meeting: 'I find it very difficult the ABC group is now not willing to pass the money to the SCIO [Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation] set up alongside the community council to handle money, particularly when we gave them £100 for a Christmas party and they are now sitting with £39,000 in their bank account.'

'I think that is, frankly, immoral.'

The community council then agreed to invite local Highland Council ward manager Dot Ferguson to act as an intermediary to resolve the matter.

But the situation has snowballed since last Tuesday's meeting, with Mr Edmond, who is also a trustee and current secretary of the ABC group, and until recently was also chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry SCIO, resigning as a community councillor.

He had contacted Mr Fotheringham to object to the latter's handling of the matter and demanded the minutes of the meeting be amended because, he alleged, Mr Fotheringham had used the word 'obscene' to describe the ABC group's behaviour and wanted that recorded.

However, Mr Fotheringham stands by his assertion he did

Continued on page two



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X marks spot for Oban mum, Tracey

Lucky reader Tracey Campbell has scooped £2,500 in our Spot The Ball – after entering just three times.

The Oban mum-of-two was all smiles when she picked up her winning cheque from editor Susan Windram.

'This really was third time lucky! My aunt and uncle always play it and when I heard a prize had to be won last week, I thought I might as well try. I couldn't believe it when I got the phone call saying I'd won.'

'My girls are very excited. I'll take the family on holiday and put the rest away for Christmas,' added Mrs Campbell, who works as a sales assistant in town.

Car industry positive about wheel factory

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Britain's car manufacturers have responded positively to the prospect of sourcing alloy wheels from Fort William, according to senior managers at Liberty British Aluminium.

The company has been in discussions with vehicle manufacturers since announcing its plans to build a 400-strong workforce, alloy wheel factory next to its aluminium smelter at Fort William.

Although construction is yet to begin, senior Liberty managers reported this week the response from the car-makers was 'very encouraging' and they are now looking forward to getting the plant built and into production.

Brian King, director of Lochaber operations at GFG Alliance, the parent company of Liberty, said: 'We've been

'They've recognised how beneficial it will be for such a major component for their manufacturing process to be made in the UK'

very encouraged by the reaction from the motor industry.

'They've recognised how beneficial it will be for such a major component for their manufacturing process to be made in the UK. At present, almost all of the eight million alloy wheels used in British-made cars come from abroad. That's going to change and Scotland will be the flag bearer for that change.'

Mr King's comments came as part of a progress report

on the development of the wheels' plant which showed clearance work on the site has begun in preparation for construction, with some of the project team preparing to move into temporary offices on site in the coming months.

A range of specialist consultants – including environmental experts – are currently helping Liberty address the requirements of conditions associated with the detailed planning permission granted by the Highland Council earlier this year.

'We're looking at the possibility of future-proofing the plant at the outset to ensure its long-term sustainability,' continued Mr King. 'That would save time and money further down the line if we need to increase capacity. We'll be discussing this with local communities and Highland Council officials

as part of our preparations to build the factory.'

He added the long-term aim would be to optimise the value of the site's assets and create more jobs by turning all of the locally-produced aluminium into alloy wheels on site. The current design allows for a factory that would use only half of the aluminium produced by the Fort William smelter, with the rest being sold to other factories around the UK.

Mr King explained the new Fort William plant was set to become 'one of the flagship plants' within Liberty's growing worldwide automotive industry footprint.

As part of the preparations for construction at Fort William, reports on transport, drainage, ground conditions, construction methods and environmental mitigation will be completed

soon, while archaeology survey work has already been completed to the satisfaction of the Highland Council Historic Environment Team and Historic Environment Scotland. Mr King added: 'We have made significant progress. The preliminary site clearance and detailed design work is allowing information to be prepared to address pre-start conditions associated with our planning permission. We've also held pre-tender discussions with prospective suppliers of the machinery that will be installed at this state-of-the-art plant.'

GFG has also been working closely with Scottish Government and local agencies for more than a year to identify required improvements to local services and infrastructure to support the factory.



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Cash row forces Spean Bridge council to fold

Continued from page one
not use the term 'obscene' – the Lochaber Times which attended the meeting noted Mr Fotheringham had used the word 'immoral' – and said he will not enter into any further correspondence on the matter with Mr Edmond.

Asked why he had resigned, Mr Edmond told the Lochaber Times it was never his intention for the community council to fold as a result but that he found it difficult to condone what he claimed was Mr Fotheringham's 'overtly aggressive manner' as chairman, something which he says had upset him on many occasions in the past.

And Mr Edmond went on to say he did not feel it proper that one person should be both chairman and secretary of a community council, as Mr Fotheringham is, because he believes such a situation does not allow for minutes of meetings to truly reflect what was said and what was decided.

But Mr Edmond added: 'I think it is regrettable the community council under John's direction has decided to target

the ABC group in an effort to take over the funding that this small community group worked hard to obtain.

'Why cannot the community council accept that benefit funding arising from very remote and localised hydro schemes, such as the Loch Arkaig schemes, should remain within that affected area, when there is no significant impact or detriment to anyone outwith the area?'

'The community council and its SCIO are likely to be in receipt of very large sums of benefit funding very soon from Stronelaig, Corrie Glas and Jahama Estates, alongside which the ABC's 20-odd thousand pounds per year will pale into complete insignificance.'

'The ABC is committed to using this funding to maximise the benefit both now and 40 years hence not just for the ABC area, but the wider community council area as well.'

Commenting on the status of the community council, Mr Fotheringham, who took on the role of council secretary when the person in the role recently stepped down to become

treasurer and no successor was forthcoming, confirmed an interim election would be announced on September 18 with nomination papers to be submitted between September 19 and October 3 to fill the five current vacancies on the community council.

'Our three co-opted members have all intimated they will stand so this unfortunate occurrence will be short lived,' he said.

'Also, fortunately, SSE has intimated it will not affect our award from the Stronelaig Wind Farm Fund.'

Asked to respond to Mr Edmond's criticism of his leadership of the community council, which was circulated among community council and Highland councillors via email, Mr Fotheringham said he and his family had found Mr Edmond's remarks 'very distressing' and that he was now considering taking legal advice.

The ABC group says its community benefit fund managers will meet later this month when the situation will be discussed.

Close look at old diving suit

Banavie Primary School pupils got a close look at the historical diving suit worn by the relay team of divers who completed the Subsea to Summit challenge last week.

Historical Diving Society members Adrian Barrak and Una Smillie visited the school on Thursday to give the children an idea of what it was like to trek to the summit of Ben Nevis dressed in a heavy 80kgs historical diving suit.

The pair also gave a short presentation on the history of the suit and Steve Ham from the Underwater Centre talked to the youngsters about the subsea industry.

The mammoth Sub Sea to Summit challenge, which started five metres below sea level in Loch Linnhe and finished on top of Ben Nevis, raised more than £5,000 for charity.



Adrian Barrak from the Historical Diving Society helps a pupil try on an old diving helmet.

Kinlochleven bus changes agreed

An agreement has been reached this week to amend the Kinlochleven to Fort William bus timetable following a backlash over the 'negative impact' of the service, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

The current timetable, introduced earlier this year after Shiel Buses were awarded the contract, removed the last bus leaving Fort William to Kinlochleven and changed the second last bus to the earlier time of 8pm. These changes left some bus users in the Kinlochleven area with no choice but to consider quitting their jobs as they could not fulfill evening shifts.

Now, following a meeting on Monday with council officials, Shiel Buses has agreed to amend the N44 Kinlochleven

service so that the last bus leaving from Fort William will return to the previous time of 8.40pm.

The bus operator has also agreed to address the 10-minute delay of buses leaving from Kinlochleven in the morning due to the school runs to Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, the Gaelic School in Caol.

It is expected that these amendments will be rolled out around the end of November.

Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Niall MacLean was pleased to see the 8.40pm service reinstated but felt the changes did not go far enough.

He said: 'Unfortunately this is too little too late for those who have already been negatively impacted by the timeta-

ble changes and I realise still leaves some issues unresolved. All of which could have been avoided with community consultation by the Highland Council administration.'

Mr MacLean previously condemned the original changes made by Highland Council, labelling them as 'unacceptable' and claiming they would 'add to economic hardship in the area'.

The SNP councillor also criticised the 'abysmal' level of consultation by the council and said some bus users he spoke to found out through a post on the bus operator's social media platform.

The Lochaber Times tried to contact Highland Council and Shiel Buses but both were unavailable for comment.

UK boundary proposals split Lochaber

Final recommendations for new UK parliamentary boundaries that could see Lochaber split in two have been published this week.

The Boundary Commission's proposals, which still need the backing of MPs and peers, would see Fort William and Ardnamurchan join Argyll and Bute to form a new constituency called Argyll, Bute and South West Highland, while Spean Bridge, Glenfinnan and Mallaig would merge with Lochalsh, Skye and Badenoch to form a new Highland Central constituency.

The changes would also mean Highland region would comprise just two constituencies – Highland Central and Highland North.

Under the proposals, the total number of UK MPs would reduce from 650 to 600, with the number of Scottish constituencies at Westminster reduced from 59 to 53.

Lochaber and Skye MSP Kate Forbes took to Twitter on Monday night saying the proposals were 'madness'. She wrote: 'Whoever drafted this map should try holding surgeries in an area the same size as some countries.'

Spean Bridge man warned to be of good behaviour

The co-owner of a guest house in Spean Bridge was back at Fort William Sheriff Court this week for sentencing.

Eddie Harris, 42, of Inverour Guest House in Spean Bridge, had previously pleaded guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner likely to place a reasonable person in a state of fear and alarm on July 25 this year.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald was told Harris had the support of his partner and had deferred sentence until September 11 for a community justice social work report.

Prior to being sentenced this week, Procurator Fiscal Robert Weir recounted the details of what had happened.

He said the incident stemmed from a disagreement between Harris and his husband over walking their dogs.

Harris's defence agent, Catriona Rowantree, said Harris and his partner were



working on their marriage.

Ordering Harris to be of good behaviour for six months, Sheriff MacDonald warned him: 'I have taken into account all the information given by your solicitor and contained in the criminal justice social work report.'

'This was an unpleasant matter but you are taking steps to deal with it. I will defer sentence for six months for you to be of good behaviour – if you are I will treat you leniently but if not I won't.'

Anti-social drivers warned by police

Motorists in Lochaber are being reminded to drive responsibly after concerns about excessive noise, speeding and careless driving in Fort William town centre.

Officers will continue to patrol the area and target offenders who pose a risk to other road users.

Constable Shaun Knox said: 'We have been engaging with young drivers in our community in relation to the anti-social use of vehicles.'

'Despite this, we continue to receive reports of incidents in the area, particularly in Fort William town centre. Drivers need to understand if this continues they will be identified and further action will be taken.'

'We would encourage drivers to think about the way they use their vehicle, ensuring they drive safely, with respect for local residents and other drivers.'

Anyone with information about incidents of anti-social driving should contact Police Scotland on 101 or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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Police aware of social media reports of Caol van man

Police in Lochaber have urged parents to report directly to them instead of posting on social media after they were made aware of reports on Facebook referring to men in a van approaching children in Caol on Monday September 10.

This information was not reported to police, although officers are now carrying out enquiries to establish the full circumstances based on what was posted on social media.

An incident was reported to police in relation to a man who briefly spoke to a group of children in the Upper Achintore area on Saturday September 8. There was no further contact between the children and this man, who is currently unidentified.

Inspector Isla Campbell said: 'I would ask any parent who has concerns about people their children have come into contact with to report it to police first, rather than posting on social media.'

Council faces 'grim' £66.7m budget gap

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Highland Council has warned there will be 'very hard decisions to make' as it starts planning how it can plug a £66.7million budget gap over the next three years.

The shortfall from 2019 to 2022 could range from £34.1m to £124.9m, depending on potential changes in the amount of revenue grant funding received from the Scottish Government and the annual staff pay award.

However, focusing on a scenario of a one per cent annual reduction in government grant funding and an annual three per cent pay award, councillors have agreed to prepare for a budget gap of £66.7m over the three years.

Budget leader Councillor

Alister Mackinnon said: 'In Scotland, local government has probably been the hardest hit of the wider public sector in terms of real terms reductions in funding. This council has seen a cut in real terms over the past five years and the outlook continues to look grim.'

Over the period from 2013 to 2019 Highland Council has already had to approve budget savings of £102.1m as well as agree council tax rises of three per cent in each of the last two years to deliver a balanced budget.

'The future is by no means certain,' continued Mr MacKinnon, 'but by assuming a budget gap of £66.7m, this allows us to prepare a plan which we can adapt as new information arises.'

'This way, by starting our

planning early, we can prioritise and accelerate proposals or defer certain options if we can.'

'Work is already well advanced in developing information to inform the budget process.'

'This involves taking a close look at services and identifying where there are opportunities for becoming more efficient and commercial and ensuring there is best value for every penny spent.'

Mr MacKinnon said it would not be easy to make savings on top of those Highland Council had already made and income generation, commercialisation and efficiencies would

become even more vital to protect essential services.

He said: 'We do not have the luxury of the significant reserves we once had to give us any wriggle room. There will be very hard decisions to make and we all need to work across the chamber to do the best we can for the people of the Highlands.'



Esme Leitch, centre, with Highland council convener Bill Lobban and council leader Margaret Davidson at her induction last month.

Esme begins youth convener role

A former Kinlochleven High School pupil has vowed to get rural empowerment and gender equality issues to the top of the Highland Council agenda after being announced as Highland youth convener.

Esme Leitch, 20, from Duror, began her new role this month and is looking forward to representing young people across the Highlands.

Eager to make a mark on council policy, Miss Leitch said she was keen to break down some of the barriers young people face throughout the region and wanted to ensure the Highlands remained an inclusive, safe and positive place to be a young person.

'I am incredibly excited for the year ahead and feel honoured to have been given this amazing opportunity,' said Ms Leitch. 'The role of youth convener is unique, but I am

ready for the challenge and believe with my professional and personal experiences, passion for the area in which I live along with the support of the great teams at High Life Highland and Highland Council I am ready to embark on an exciting 12 months.'

'I am passionate about the development of young people and empowering them to speak up, be heard and make positive social change within their communities.'

'Along with continuing the work of previous youth conveners, I will be developing and delivering my own action plan.'

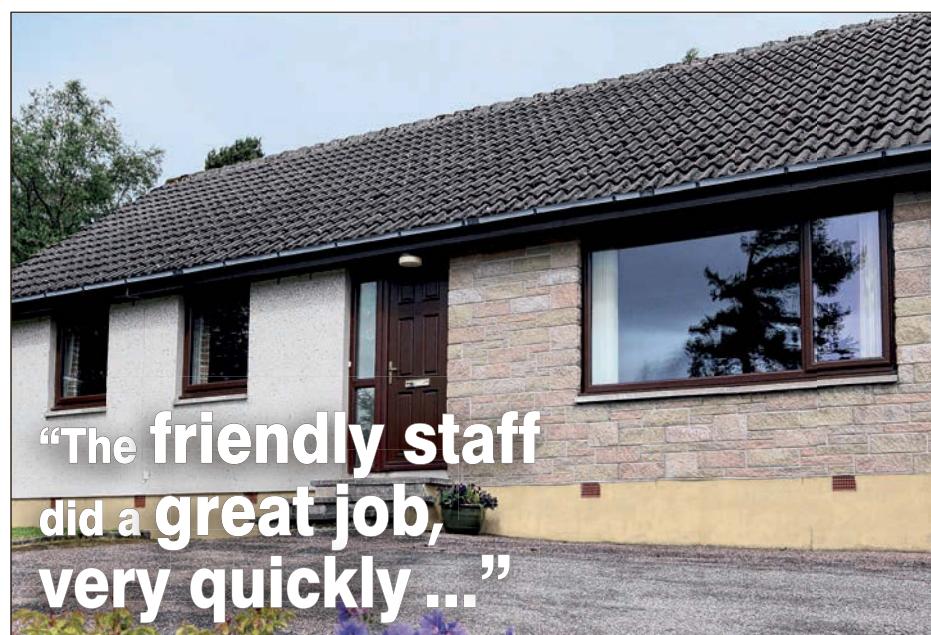
Ms Leitch is possibly best known locally for her work as a presenter with Nevis Community Radio and through her role as project manager with Kinlochlovin' Social Enterprise. As well

as participating in the Scottish Parliament and the Young Women's Movement, she plays an active part in Lochaber Youth Theatre.

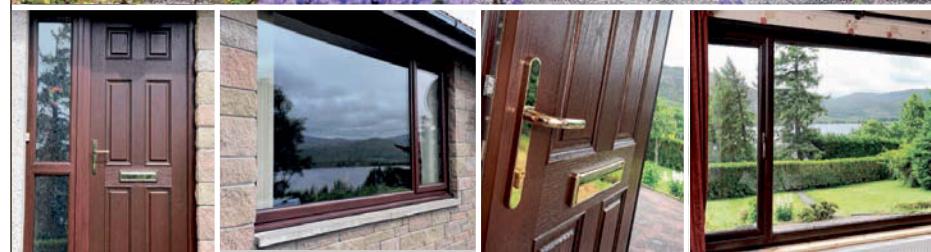
As youth convener, Ms Leitch will provide a consistent link for elected Highland Council members and senior officials and act as a sounding board for youth issues. She will attend council meetings and will have full voting rights on the education, children and adult services committee with speaking rights at all other council committees.

'I am keen to tackle some of the barriers young people face throughout Highland,' she continued.

'My priorities will be to focus on rural empowerment, gender equality and making the Highlands more inclusive for minority groups.'



"The friendly staff did a great job, very quickly ..."



"...and took all the old windows away, leaving no mess."

- Alistair Gillies, Gorthleck

Get involved with local democracy

Highland Council is encouraging community groups to participate in the Scottish Government's Local Governance Review.

Councillors say they have a keen interest in how local democracy can work better and community groups can contribute to and influence the national review.

The council will be working towards the goal of at least one per cent of the council budget to be allocated in future through this method of community choices and participatory budgeting.

Community groups and voluntary organisations can apply for Scottish Government funding to host an event involving at least five people with grants of up to £300 available. Communities can access this funding on the Scottish Government's website.

Lochaber cops armed with Taser stun guns

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk



The Taser X2.

At least a dozen police officers based in Lochaber have been equipped with Taser stun weapons.

The training of around 500 Specially Trained Officers (STOs) in the use of the Taser X2 (Conducted Energy Devices) by Police Scotland began at the end of May, with officers returning to their communities in June.

It followed an announcement by Police Scotland in December of plans to train

additional officers in the use of the Taser to improve the safety of the public and police officers, following an increase

in the number of incidents in which officers have been confronted by people with bladed weapons and an increase in assaults on officers.

At last week's meeting of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council, community police officer Sergeant Deborah McCartney had a Taser clipped to her belt.

Giving the monthly police briefing, she told those attending they would clearly see she had been issued with one of the stun devices.

Asked by one of those attending the meeting how

many officers in the Lochaber policing area had been issued with Tasers, Sergeant McCartney said it would be around '12 or 13'.

Asked if the roll-out of the Tasers had been Scotland-wide, Sergeant McCartney said that was not the case.

She added: 'Lochaber was one of the areas selected to trial it and was one of the areas it was felt needed it, unfortunately.'

Sergeant McCartney said no Lochaber officer had yet had to draw a Taser.

'But I know of one incident where it was spotted on an

officer's holster and just the sight of it proved enough on that occasion,' she said.

'I hope I will not have to use it, but I will if I have to.'

Asked if it could confirm the number of Lochaber police officers to have been issued with Tasers, a Police Scotland spokesperson told the Lochaber Times a breakdown of the numbers of STOs for each area was not being provided.

The spokesperson confirmed she was 'not aware' of any incidents in Lochaber that had involved an officer deploying a Taser.

VIEW FROM The Chamber

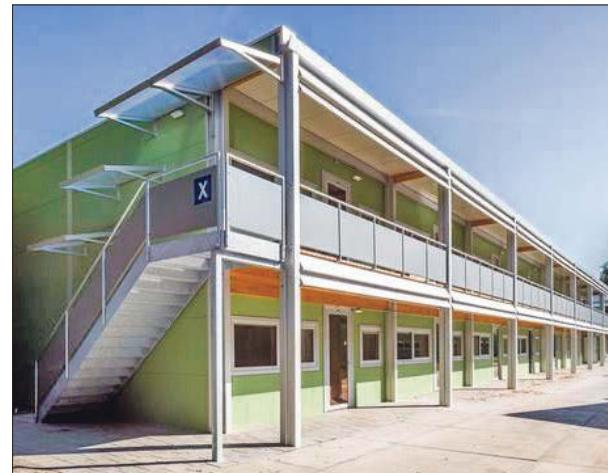
Can the business community provide the answer to Lochaber's short-term worker housing problem?

What do you get if you mix a booming economy, a thriving tourist destination, a rising student population and limited housing stock? Answer: a major housing problem.

This is the situation Lochaber currently finds itself in. But what can be done to improve things? We are all aware of the pressure on housing and, while increased demand is a great sign the area is on the up, the lack of suitable housing is in real danger of limiting business growth and jobs.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is working closely with Highlands and Islands Enterprise on housing solutions. Chamber members recently invited Kevin Stewart MSP, minister for local government, housing and planning, to join their regular Premium Members Business Forum to discuss the issues and help identify solutions. This forum is made up of major employers in the area, which together employ around 1,200 workers.

The business forum was grateful for Mr Stewart's update on the Scottish Government's plans for housing and encouraged by the commitment to increasing housing in the area. While there are significant housing developments already under way for Lochaber, most housing on Highland Council's zoned development sites will



Could this type of temporary worker accommodation provide a short-term solution?



not be ready to live in until 2020/21. Lochaber Chamber of Commerce's on-going business housing survey suggests the problem is urgent. Sixty-seven per cent said a lack of suitable housing had adversely affected their business and 50 per cent had struggled to recruit staff. Businesses need accommodation for their workforce now if they are to maintain a competitive edge and meet their growth potential.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is proposing a radical approach. Lesley Benfield, chief executive officer of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, believes local businesses working together

could be the key. 'We're asking local businesses to work together to find an innovative, short-term solution to provide flexible worker accommodation,' she said. 'One possible solution could be creating worker accommodation using high-quality modular housing that is built off-site and could be in place and ready to use in months.'

'We believe there is a lot that business can do to solve our housing problem and we're excited to work with our members and others in the local community to create a solution that works for Lochaber.'

If you run a business and you haven't already submitted your views to the Business Housing Survey, please take a few minutes to fill it out at www.lochaberchamber.co.uk or call 705 765 to complete it over the phone.

Appeal after empty kayak found at Corran

Police Scotland are appealing for information after an empty red kayak was reported in Loch Linnhe between Corran Ferry and Three Mile Water, just south of Fort William,

at 8.25am on Monday September 10. Anyone with information about who owns the kayak is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 quoting incident number PS-20180910-0581

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Fergie's book tribute to father and Lovat Scouts

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

As the Turkish shells exploded along the British lines, 22-year-old John 'Ton' MacDonald and his comrades pressed themselves further into the baked dusty earth of the hell that was the Gallipoli Peninsula's Suvla Bay and prayed.

It must have seemed like a million miles away from the green glens of Ton's native Moidart.

But it was a journey young Ton made and survived without a scratch, although many of his fellow Highlanders did not. And in a remarkable literary tribute, Ton's son, well-known Scottish accordionist, the 'Ceilidh King' himself, Fergie MacDonald, sheds new light on the bravery of one of the British Army's most elite units.

The Moidart Sniper: John (Ton) MacDonald, which Fergie has written with help from Allan Henderson, is the true story of Fergie's late father, who distinguished himself with the Lovat Scouts – firstly in the disastrous campaign against the Turks in the Dardanelles, followed by the battlefields of the Western Front.

With a foreword by Simon Fraser, the present day Lord Lovat, and printed by Inverness-based charity publishing firm For The Right Reasons, the book will be officially launched on Tuesday September 18 at The Highland Bookshop in Fort William.

It comes as the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War draws closer and when the children of those who fought and died in the Great War are themselves



John 'Ton' MacDonald enjoys a sail on Loch Shiel in his 90s.

well into their advancing years.

It took two years of meticulous research by Fergie, who celebrated his 80th birthday

last year, before the book was ready to be printed.

Months were spent sifting through letters, personal diary notes, detailed accounts by men who served with his father, plus listening to the remarkable audio recordings made by Ton.

Many of the official service records of those who served in the Lovat Scouts were destroyed along with millions of other documents during the German incendiary bombing of London in September 1940, making the task more difficult.

Raised in the Highlands by Lord Lovat, the regiment was comprised of gamekeepers, ghillies and stalkers – men who had spent their lives among the hills and glens, honing their skills in shooting, observing and moving unseen in the countryside.

Many people would be familiar with John 'Ton' MacDonald, whether seeing him delivering the mail along Loch Shiel in the 1960s or enjoying a day's fishing even when well into his 90s.

But fewer would have been aware of his exploits as one of a new breed of soldier in what would be the forerunner of today's elite special forces.

The name 'Ton' was due to young John's inability to pronounce the letter 'J' of his name, saying it as 'Ton' and it was one which stuck for the rest of his 95 years.

As a child, young Fergie's favourite toy was the sniper's Lee Enfield .303 calibre rifle that his father brought back home to Moidart after the war.

Speaking almost soley

Scouts Sharpshooters (LSS) – after so much was lost due to the destruction of the War Office repository in the Blitz.

'This being the case, I took it upon myself, with the help of my friend Allan Henderson, to document this important period of military history relating to the LSS, otherwise I feared it would have disappeared into historical oblivion and I couldn't let this happen.'

The LSS was to be the British Army's first dedicated sniper unit and many of the skills they perfected continue to influence military snipers and other special forces soldiers today.

Fergie says he is delighted with the way his tribute to his father and the soldiers of the Lovat Scouts Sharpshooters has turned out.

For The Right Reasons is a charity which aids people who want to conquer their drug or alcohol dependency and provides volunteering opportunities in its print shop.

'For The Right Reasons has made a wonderful job of printing the book. It is a wonderful organisation and I had a lot of help with other aspects such as graphics and photographs. I'm very happy with the way the book has turned out and hope people, not just in Lochaber, but outside the area enjoy reading it.'

The Moidart Sniper, by Fergie MacDonald with Allan Henderson, will be on sale in bookshops across the Highlands from Tuesday, while copies signed by the author can be bought via his website: www.fergiemacdonald.com

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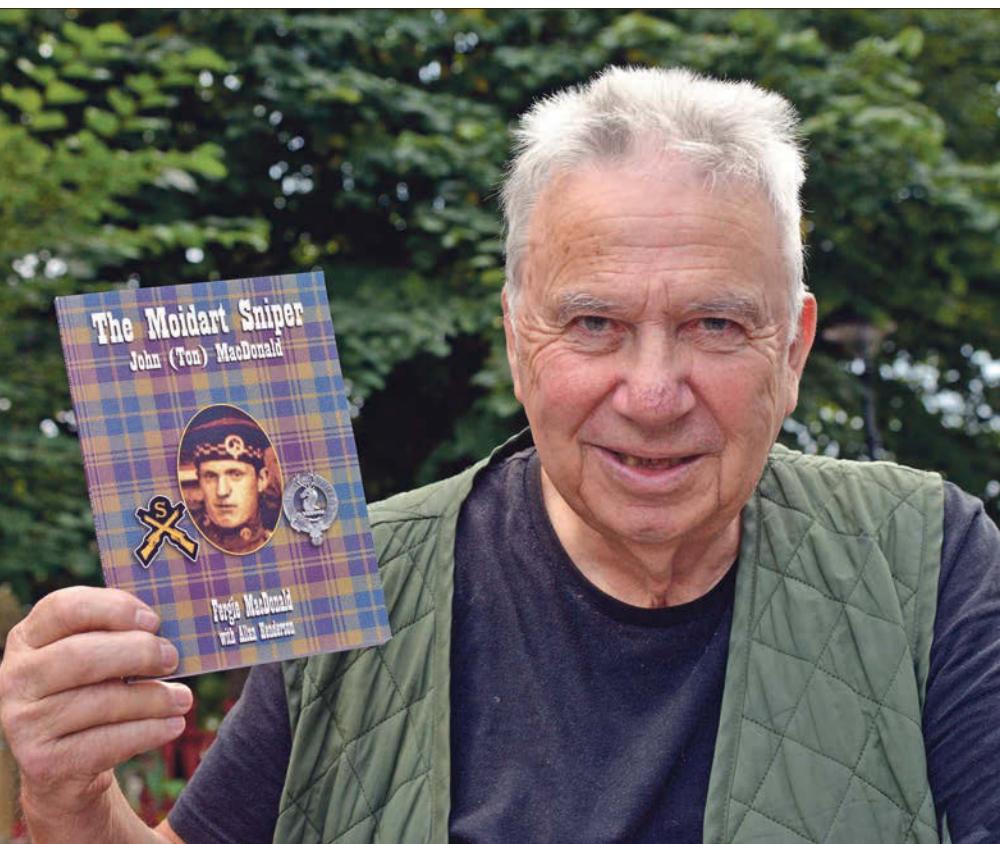
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Fergie MacDonald with his new book on his father's exploits in WWI. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos IF F37 Fergie book 02



Donald Cameron of Lochiel - Commanding Officer of the Lovat Scouts Sharpshooters 1917-18
Lochiel portrait 02

w: Moidart and Strontian Lovats at the TA annual camp in July 1914. John 'Ton' MacDonald is on the extreme left, front row. IF F37 LOVAT SCOUTS MP 1914



John 'Ton' MacDonald delivers mail by boat to Eilean Shona during his time as a postman – a role he carried out from 1921 to 1960. IF F37 Ton postman BW



MacPhail

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Flying the flag

Flags have never been a type of symbol that held any great significance or importance to me. What a particular flag represents can mean different things to different people, and under the umbrella of most can be a very wide range of connections and reasons to identify with and to support the overall entity being symbolised.

In truth, I have never felt wholly connected enough to any of the flags common to this part of the world to be comfortable in being represented by them. The Saltire, the Lion Rampant, the Union Jack, the flag of Europe and many others familiar to us all have certain aspects about what they stand for, or have come to be associated with, that I'm not wholly comfortable with.

There are, of course, many positive messages carried by these flags, and how they are perceived is very much in the eye of the beholder, so I respect those who do feel that certain flags are an appropriate

representation of their beliefs, views and identity.

However, my hitherto aversion to flag-bearing may now be nearly cured as I am very pleased that a new flag has recently been designed and unveiled to represent the Isle of Tiree. Tiree has followed in the footsteps of other islands that have added a flag to their name in recent years. This is the end result of a design competition that attracted many hundreds of entries from across the globe.

The winner was Donald Cameron from Scarinish, Tiree, whose emblem depicting 12 golden sheaves of corn placed as a sun-like clock face on a green background is a very fitting representation of a fertile island with famously long hours of sunshine, traditionally known as Tir an Æorna (The Land of Barley).

Donald's ancestors were the last family to live on Craignish to the west side of Ben Hough and were renowned for their skills as fishermen, boat builders and craftsmen. It is fitting that the design Donald has crafted will now be an impor-

tant emblem of his island. To mark the occasion, Professor Donald Meek of Caolas, Tiree, composed a poem entitled Bratach an Eilean Seo (The Flag of this Island). Space does not allow me to include the whole composition but the following stanza encapsulates an important part of what I hope the flag will come to mean.

*Bratach an eilein seo
togaibh gu cairdeil,
togaibh gu carthannach,
togaibh gu báidheil.*

*The flag of this island,
hoist it in friendship,
hoist it with kindness,
hoist it with empathy.*

I hope the more militant among our population will not now race to conquer all our neighbouring islands, flagless or not, by jamming a Tiree flagpole on their summits – Gunna, Coll, The Treshnish Islands, Iona and even Mull are now vulnerable to crusading Tirisdich out to build an empire!

To finish on a serious note, well done to all who brought this worthy project to fruition.

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Organisers Joyce Wells and daughter Sharon Wells.

Walkers step out in support of suicide prevention

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Around 60 people joined the 'Walk in Memory' on Sunday, despite rain and wind, to show their support for World Suicide Prevention Day.

Fort William residents turned out in numbers to help raise awareness of suicide – an issue that has touched

the lives of many Lochaber people in recent years – and support suicide awareness charity Chris's House.

Leaving from Caol Community Centre, the group walked along the banks of the canal to the Corpach basin before making their way back to the community centre. While on the walk, participants wrote messages on pebbles and threw them into the canal while at the weir, near the basin.

The group also threw roses into the water in memory of all the local families who have lost loved ones to suicide.

On their return to the community centre, participants were welcomed with tea and coffee, stalls and activities.

'The main thing is we raised awareness about suicide and hopefully helped at least one person from taking their own life.'

Photographs: Abrightside Photography.

Among the stallholders were Samaritans from Inverness, Hugh Asher, from mental health charity Ewen's Room and Lochaber Hope.

A huge raffle also helped to raise funds with more than 60 prizes being handed out. The walkers raised more than £2,000 which will be donated to suicide charities and local groups.

Organiser Joyce Wells said: 'It was an amazing amount we raised. Thanks to everyone who turned up and donated.'

'Huge thanks also to all the people who helped set up and organise day and for selling so many raffle tickets, everyone who donated to the raffle, Norma Gregor for the bouncy castle and Sandra

Fraser for letting us use Caol Community Centre and for providing teas and coffees.'

Liberty British Aluminium generously donated £500 to help organiser Joyce Wells start a poster campaign to raise awareness of mental health issues and spread the message of suicide prevention.

Joyce continued: 'A massive thanks to Liberty for the generous amount of £500. Also thanks to the Samaritans, Lochaber Hope and Ewen's Room for coming along with displays and leaflets.'

'The main thing is we raised awareness about suicide and hopefully helped at least one person from taking their own life.'



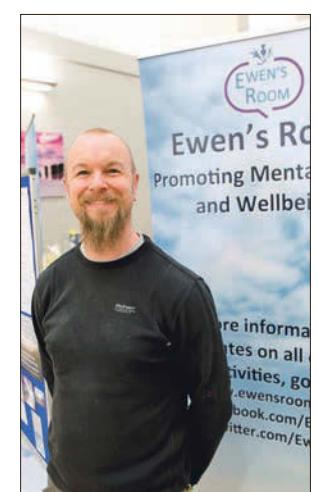
Above: Left to right: Betty Williamson, Caroline Watt, Karen Jamieson and Irene McLaughlin with the roses which were thrown into the weir in memory of loved ones lost.



Dozens of people turned out despite the rain.



Participants threw roses into the weir on the Caledonian Canal in memory of loved ones.



Hugh Asher, a volunteer co-ordinator for mental health charity Ewen's Room, gave advice and information.

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Fort William residents want mains gas

Almost 70 per cent of Lochaber residents want mains gas in the area.

Gas distribution company SGN worked with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), Highland Council and Explain Market Research to engage with more than 600 people and businesses through surveys and discussion groups.

The results of the research mean a feasibility study will be carried out by summer 2019.

The timing of the study was driven by the future opening of a new manufacturing plant, Liberty British Aluminium, in Lochaber. While no final decision has been made on whether gas will come to Fort William, the research will inform any future decisions.

The study, conducted between April and July, found 68 per cent of respondents in favour of a mains gas supply. Twenty per cent said they were against the idea and 12 per cent of respondents said they were not sure.

Some residents expressed concerns about the idea, including the level of disruption during installation work and environmental concerns.

However, many respondents identified benefits of a gas

supply to the area including reduced energy costs, greater value for money and improved reliability.

SGN's head of network distribution Andrew Gibson welcomed the initial results of the research. He said: 'We're happy the people of Fort William are broadly in favour of bringing mains gas to the area which would introduce energy choices for residents and businesses and provide an opportunity to work with partners to address fuel poverty issues. We are also developing plans to introduce green gas such as hydrogen, BioSNG and biomethane which will help in the decarbonisation of the gas network.'

SGN and its partners will now explore options to determine the most practical way of bringing gas to Fort William.

Alastair Nicolson, HIE's programme manager for Lochaber, added: 'With clarity on the level of support for a gas network in Fort William, the focus now will be on how best to achieve this. It will need careful consideration and we will continue our discussions with The Highland Council and SGN to explore options.'

What's on in Lochaber

A Bus User's Group meeting will take place on Friday September 14 at 11.30am at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall, Fort William.

Representatives of Caol-based Lochaber Sensory Care for sight and hearing support will be at Abbeyfield Care Home, Ballachulish, on Monday September 17 from 10.30am till 12.30pm to provide free help and advice to anyone with a sight or hearing loss. They will also supply NHS hearing aid batteries and re-tubing. No appointment required.

The date of part two of Lochaber Sensory Care's annual general meeting

has been changed from Saturday September 15. The meeting will now be held in the Alexandra Hotel on Saturday September 29 from 2pm until 4pm.

A craft fayre is being held at Duncansburgh Church Hall, the Parade, Fort William, on Saturday September 22 from 11am to 3pm. There will also be a pop-up cafe organised by Lochaber Rotary Club. Contact Chris on 07900 928515 for more information.

Lochaber Sports Association is hosting its annual general meeting on Wednesday September 26 at 6.30pm at Lochaber Rugby Club, Banavie.

MV Astoria cruise ship makes welcome return to Loch Linnhe

Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company welcomed cruise ship MV Astoria back to the town over the weekend.

Despite rain and clouds, passengers on board the 550-guest vessel were given a warm welcome as they explored Fort William.

The ship, which made her maiden call at Fort William



MV Astoria was anchored off Fort William on Saturday night. Photograph: alba.photos.

in May earlier this year, returned to Loch Linnhe on Saturday night (September 9) before setting sail to her

next port of call early on Sunday morning.

A Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company spokesperson said: 'A huge thank you to the volunteers who helped at the pontoons or provided entertainment.'

'It was all well received by the visitors and they had a great time in our lovely town.'



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Helping people in the Highlands

The Highland Cross is calling on registered charities or Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations that provide medical or social services for the benefit of the people of the Highlands, to apply for funding.

Previous applicants to Highland Cross, whether successful or unsuccessful, are welcome to apply.

Highland Cross can only provide capital funds and cannot support revenue or staff costs. Applications must be with Highland Cross by Sunday September 30.

For further information visit highlandcross.co.uk.

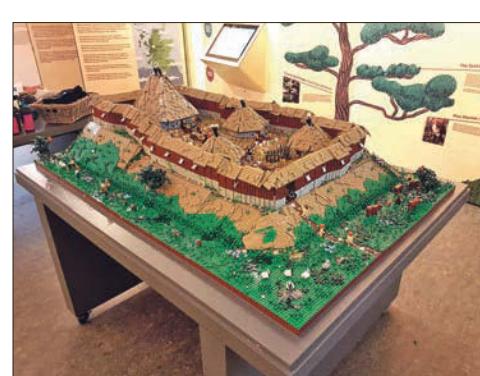
Drivers charged in safety campaign

Police charged 13 drivers for speeding during a week-long safety campaign in Skye and Lochalsh which ended on Sunday September 9.

These included a man, 55, caught driving at 70mph in a 40mph zone at Balmacara and a 45-year-old man charged for doing 55mph in a 30mph area in Broadford.



Dan Harris, who built the model, next to his creation at Ben Nevis Visitor Centre.



The 35,000-piece LEGO model is on display at Ben Nevis Visitor Centre.



What remains of Dun Deardail fort, in Glen Nevis.

Dun Deardail fort rebuilt brick by brick

An ancient hill fort in Glen Nevis, Dun Deardail, which was destroyed around 2,500 years ago has been recreated using thousands of pieces of LEGO.

Brick to the Past, a team specialising in historically-themed LEGO models, used 35,000 pieces to recreate a model of the famous hill fort that was constructed on a prominent knoll on Sgurr Chalum, a hill overlooking the River Nevis in Glen Nevis. The model, commissioned by the Nevis Landscape Partnership, is now on permanent display at the Ben Nevis Visitor Centre, overlooked by the real Dun

Deardail on one side and Ben Nevis on the other. Model builder Dan Harris began his research for the LEGO model in December last year and started building it at his home in Nethy Bridge in late January before completing it in mid-August.

Dun Deardail is thought to have been built and occupied, perhaps over several periods, between 700 BC and AD 900 and is unusual because the stones that once made up its walls have been vitrified.

Vitrification is the process by which stones are fused together at temperatures in excess of 1,000 degrees Celsius. It is uncertain why

vitrification took place, but current theories tend to see it as either an act of aggression following capture or as 'ritual closure' at the end of the site's active life, akin to the destruction of many Neolithic ritual monuments.

Nevis Landscape Partnership has been running an ambitious project to excavate the Dun Deardail and, working closely with Forestry Commission Scotland and AOC Archaeology, it aims to uncover the mysteries surrounding this ancient settlement. The project has recruited hundreds of 'citizen archaeologists' to get involved in the work.

The LEGO version of Dun Deardail

reflects what the hill fort might have looked like early in the first millennium AD.

Dan said: 'I've been visiting Glen Nevis for years to walk and climb so it's an absolute delight to have been able to build a model of one of its landmarks. It's great to be able to display at one of Scotland's most popular tourist destinations and I hope the model will encourage people to get out and explore the real hill fort.'

Funding to build the model was provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Highland Council Discretionary Fund.

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Up to £38,500 per home is currently available to owner occupiers and some registered private sector landlords in Scotland.

The loan can be used for energy efficiency improvements like insulation and replacing single glazing with double glazing, with cashback grants of up to 25% also available for a limited time.

Home renewables systems like biomass boilers and solar photovoltaic panels are covered as well as energy storage systems and connections to an approved district heating scheme powered by renewable energy.

Loans must be used to improve existing residential buildings. New buildings under construction, where the property is already owned by the intended owner occupier, are also eligible for support for renewables systems or district heating connections but not energy efficiency improvements.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Funding is on a first-come, first-served basis and is sub-



ject to availability.

Cashback grants are not available for renewable technologies like solar PV or for district heating connections.

Only Home Energy Scotland can arrange to have an application form sent to you; third parties like installers or letting agents cannot apply on your behalf.

Work must not commence on any installation until you receive a loan offer in writing.

All applications will undergo credit and affordability checks.

Successful applicants who claim funding will need to pay an administrative fee of 1.5% of the total loan value up to a maximum of £150 per application.

The complete loan terms and conditions are stated in the application form.

GET IN TOUCH NOW

If you are interested in applying or would like more information, please call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 (free from landlines and most mobiles).

Public toilets review progress welcomed

Progress on The Highland Council's public toilets review was welcomed last week by members of its ruling administration.

Councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of the council's environment development and infrastructure committee, said it was important to put the review into context and acknowledge the council was the largest provider of public conveniences in the UK. He added: 'Once the review is complete, we

will be able to confirm there is a sustainable network of toilets across the authority area. We will continue to identify further opportunities for public toilets with partners and are optimistic about making positive changes.

'We are also in discussion with The North Highland Initiative, creators of the North Coast 500, to look at how Highland Council works with partners to create a network of toilets across the route. An extremely helpful

outcome of the review has been to map all the toilets provided for locals and visitors.'

Officers from the council's amenity services have attended ward business meetings, community councils and numerous public meetings over the summer.

As a result of this engagement, a review of the original savings proposal has been undertaken and there will be further talks.

And the council says

early indicators are showing opportunities for further partnership working to deliver strategic hubs including toilets, camper van overnight parking with waste disposal services and electric car charging points.

The review is due for completion by the end of October.

With the exception of seasonal toilets that normally close on September 30, all Highland Council toilets will remain open until October 31.

Scottish Land Commission holds meeting in Caol

The Scottish Land Commission is holding an informal public meeting to give people across Lochaber the opportunity to find out more about the work of the organisation and to meet with commissioners.

The event, on Thursday

September 20, is being held at Caol Community Centre, Fort William, at 7pm.

Chairman of the Scottish Land Commission Andrew Thin said: 'This is one of a series of public meetings taking place across Scotland throughout the year from

Kelso to Aboyne, Ayr to Huntly, and we hope to meet as many people as possible.

I would encourage everyone to attend and make the most of the opportunity to meet with us to discuss the land reform agenda. It is important all voices are heard

and we work together to make the most of our land.'

The events are free and tea and coffee will be provided. For more information visit www.landcommission.gov.scot, call 03002 444452 or email info@landcommission.gov.scot.



The refurbished Nether Lochaber Church Hall in Onich.

Nether Lochaber residents mark church hall revamp

Members of Nether Lochaber Parish Church were joined by guests for a buffet lunch on Saturday September 8 to celebrate the church hall refurbishment.

A plaque to commemorate the transformation of the hall was unveiled by Rev Morag Muirhead, moderator of Lochaber Presbytery.

David Thomson, congrega-

tional treasurer, and his wife Anne were thanked for their part in ensuring the work in the hall went to plan.

Everyone present enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by members of the congregation and the afternoon was enhanced by live music by Rev Malcolm Kinnear on violin and Andrew Coke on accordion.

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Mon. 1 Oct 2018, 1000-1600hrs, Oban

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Thu. 4 Oct 2018, 1000-1500hrs, Lochgilphead

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Woman's body recovered on Skye

A woman's body has been recovered near Skye Bridge.

Although formal identification has yet to take place, the family of Zsuzsanna Kovacs has been informed following the discovery on Wednesday September 5.

A police spokesman said: 'We would like to thank everyone who shared our appeal for information and everyone who assisted with the search. Our thoughts are with Zsuzsanna's family at this very sad time.'

Police, RNLI, coastguard teams and the local mountain rescue joined forces to trace the 38-year-old woman.

Winter gritting plan agreed

Councillors have approved which roads and paths in Skye and Raasay will be gritted first during the winter. The plan includes an alteration to weekend services with some 'difficult other routes' to be agreed at ward level. Details will be published on The Highland Council's website.



Patient Jean Mackenzie with healthcare assistant Margaret-Ann MacIver, ambulatory carer Coleen MacLeod, technology enabled care and health project officer Liz Fowler and technology enabled care project manager Iain Trayner.

Appointments via video link

A new room offering hospital patients appointments via a video link has been opened at Western Isles Hospital.

The NHS Western Isles (NHSWI) Patient Centred Care Programme team is delighted with the success of NHS 'Near Me', first pioneered by NHS Highland and now a collaborative programme between NHS Highland and NHS Western Isles.

The new service has been developed to provide health care as close as possible to patients' homes by offering

appointments with consultants and other specialists via video link.

The move not only saves patients from travelling to the mainland – often spending a day or more away from home to attend a 10-to-15-minute consultation – but also frees up NHSWI resources for use in front-line care.

NHSWI medical director Dr Angus McKellar said: 'We are acutely aware we send many patients to the mainland to access health care when we should be providing this locally. This 'Near Me'

initiative helps us to deliver health care to the patient, instead of delivering the patient to healthcare. Patient feedback has been positive. The 'Near Me' initiative is the next step in this becoming mainstream and will initially include patients attending haematology clinics.'

Although NHSWI has used video conferencing for clinics in the past, a dedicated NHS 'Near Me' room has been established at Western Isles Hospital, with appointments for island haematology patients now being booked.

Point and Sandwick Trust shortlisted in social enterprise awards

Community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust has been shortlisted for three more accolades.

The trust, which operates the UK's biggest community wind farm at Beinn Ghrideag just outside Stornoway, has

been listed as a finalist in the Scottish and UK Social Enterprise Awards for operating a commercial business for social good.

The Scottish awards recognise organisations for their business excellence and contribution to society through innovation, impact and success in social enterprise.

The trust has been shortlisted for Social Enterprise of the Year and Environmental Social Enterprise of the Year.

It also made the UK short-

list for Social Enterprise of the Year.

Calum MacDonald, who developed the three-turbine project for Point and Sandwick Trust, said: 'We're a new hybrid type of company, combining commercial dis-

cipline with social and charitable purpose.' Winners will be announced at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh on Tuesday November 6.

The UK awards final will be held in Guildhall, London, on Wednesday November 28.

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



Func

Bho Dhiaraois 20mh Sultain, 10f
From Thursday 20th September, 10pm

Comadaidh ur làn geur-chainnt agus mi-mhodh
A witty, courageous new sketch show



Piobairean Lionacleit ann an NY

Diluain 17mh Sultain, 9.30f
Monday 17th September, 9.30pm

Brosnachadh à bròm: piobairean Sgoil Lionacleit a' cuimhneachadh an caraid
Tragedy inspires a pipe band to pay tribute to their friend



Bannan

Bho Diliuain 17mh Sultain, 9f
From Monday 17th September, 9pm

Sreath 5 - dràma làn amharas
Series 5 - drama full of suspicion



An t-Eilean

Bho Dhimàirt 18mh Sultain, 8.30f
From Tuesday 18th September, 8.30pm

Sreath mu choimhearsnachd san t-Eilean Sgitheanach
A series following a community in Skye



Port

Disathairne 15mh Sultain, 9f
Saturday 15th September, 9pm

Julie Fowlis is Muireann a' taisbeannadh ceòl Ceilteach
Julie Fowlis and Muireann showcase Celtic music

MABA 10

BBC ALBA X

Photo marks Sgoil an Rubha milestone

It's that time of year when new primary one school pupils are having their photographs taken by the local press.

In Point and Sandwick, it is also the moment when the children who were the first intake of primary ones at the new Sgoil an Rubha are settling into life at the Nicolson Institute.

To mark the occasion of the first Sgoil an Rubha intake going into secondary school, Point and Sandwick Trust arranged for 'time lapse' pictures to be taken of some of the children who had posed so nicely when they were in primary one in 2011.

These new pictures were taken at the end of term in June by Sandie Maciver of SandiePhotos and recreate the original ones by Leila Angus of Brighter Still, who had been commissioned on the Sgoiltean Úra new schools project by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

Donald John MacSween, general manager of Point and Sandwick Trust, said it was great to see the pictures and said the community wind farm charity had been pleased to help make a farewell party



The final farewell photograph of the primary seven class before moving up to the Nicolson Institute. Photograph: Sandie Maciver, SandiePhotos

possible for the class at the end of term by donating £250.

The donation followed previous grants to the school which helped fund a disability bike for a pupil and other resources including Lego sets for play therapy.

Point and Sandwick Trust has also given grants to Point Football Club and other

youth groups, including the Brownies.

Reflecting on the last seven years at Sgoil an Rubha, principal teacher Anne Macphail said: 'We were quite apprehensive about all coming together from Knock, Bayble and Aird.

'We were all used to our wee school but I don't think any of

us would look back. We were all so excited to get a new school. It was a very happy day.'

The pupils moving into the Nicolson were, she said, 'very aware they were the first who went through the school' adding: 'This group has been fantastic. They've been an excellent year group.'

New call for ferry action after delays

Outer Hebrides Tourism (OHT) has called on the Scottish Government to take action on the 'spiralling' costs of disruption caused by the 'continued unreliability of ferries' servicing the islands.

Earlier this summer, OHT calculated ferry disruption cost the Outer Hebrides £6m and the islands suffered disruption again last week because of CalMac ferry breakdowns and diversions.

Now OHT is calling on the Scottish Government to intervene after a third instance of cancelled and rescheduled ferries caused tourists to cancel trips and left accommodation and activities providers with late cancellations.

Chairman of OHT Ian Fordham said: 'The Outer Hebrides is a stunning place for tourists to visit but we want them to be able to get

here and home again without disruption.'

Transport Scotland said OHT proposals are being considered and work is under way to deliver further improvements to Western Isles ferry services. A spokesman said: 'More than £1 billion has been invested in ferry services across the Clyde and Hebrides since 2007, including the MV Loch Seaford and harbour upgrades at Stornoway and Ullapool.

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



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Step back in time with family group

People interested in their family history and genealogy are being invited to join Lochaber and North Argyll Family History Group.

The small, friendly group is always pleased to welcome new faces and hopes to boost its membership.

The group is not just for people with local roots but for anyone with an interest in family history, from beginners to experienced researchers, and people from across the country have attended meetings in the past.

Speakers from around Lochaber and North Argyll provide talks at each meeting, with members also regularly contributing to events.

The group is currently running a project on families who appear in the 1901 Fort William census.

A new session of meetings started on Tuesday with the annual general meeting. The group meets every second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in Fort William Library (back door entrance) from September to May.

For more information contact Mairi Weir on 07900 503737.

Lochaber dog show success

Hundreds of dogs of all shapes and sizes were paraded and judged at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Sunday September 9 when Lochaber and District Canine Society hosted its annual open breed show.

From Pomeranians and Pugs to Huskies and Rottweilers, the society was delighted to welcome nearly 300 dogs and 150 exhibitors from all over Scotland.

Show organiser Lorna Ungoed-Thomas said: 'Once again we had a very successful and enjoyable show thanks to the hard work of the committee and helpers.'

'The local Army Cadets helped throughout the day and this was much appreciated by the committee and exhibitors.'

'We also thank our sponsors including Ben Nevis Distillery, Direct Pet Supplies, Crown Vets, M&S Dental and Tesco, which provided prizes for the winners.'

The main prize winners were: Best in Show: Caroline Cassidy's Tibetan Spaniel, Champion Jazpiper Hot



Margaret Babiak from Stirling with Cheyenne.

Gossip, from South Ayrshire. Reserve Best in Show: Mr and Mrs Collinson's Borzoi, Hogsmeade Harry Potter, from Banffshire.

Best Puppy in Show: Pamela Martin's Japanese Chin, Lizamela Marchello, from Paisley.

Reserve Best Puppy: James Finlay's Briard, Gilcoru Tajsunset D'Brie, from Fife.

The most successful local exhibitors once again were Heather Turner, Roy Bridge, and Audrey MacDonald, Arisaig, with their Jack Russell Terriers awarded Best Terrier and Best Terrier Puppy.

The society looks forward to celebrating its 25th annual dog show next year on September 8 2019.



Best in Show winner Denise Coughtrie and Ava the Tibetan Spaniel.

LOCHABER IDEAS WEEK



12-16 NOVEMBER 2018

Presented by Lochaber Chamber of Commerce

In partnership with Developing the Young Workforce West Highland

Enter the Dragons' Glen and win £10,000 for your business idea!

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is proud to present the fifth annual Dragons' Glen as part of Lochaber Ideas Week 2018. This year's Dragons' Glen is sponsored by 'Twin Deer Law'. The business competition has gone from strength to strength over the half-decade it's been running and is now firmly established as one of the week's most popular events. Once again the winning contestant will be awarded a £10,000 cash investment by our business 'dragons', funded by the West Coast Communities Growth Fund administered by Foundation Scotland.

Inspired by the format of the famous TV show, Dragons' Glen is always a highlight of Lochaber Ideas Week and last year's event



Last year's winners 'Kinlochlovin' receive their £10,000 cash prize from the West Coast Communities Growth Fund.

saw our biggest audience ever come along to support their favourite business idea on the night.

The competition is open to all Lochaber residents over the age of 16 and the investment can be for some-

thing completely new or for a new way of diversifying or improving your existing business. It could be the very first time you've thought of a business idea or the 100th thing you've tried - this competition is open to everyone

in Lochaber.

We've had an amazing array of entries over the years - and four fantastic winning businesses. The very first prize was won by Oliver Millington for the Three Wise Monkeys indoor

climbing centre in 2014, the following year Clan Pods claimed the investment for their custom-built camping pods. In 2016 clothes designer Lorna Gillies wowed the dragons with her contemporary twist on traditional Scottish tartan and tweed womenswear. Last year's winner was something completely different - Kinlochlovin' social enterprise company won for their model of business enterprise training and development.

Anna McBride of Kinlochlovin' says: "Winning the Dragons Glen competition in 2017 was a real boost for Kinlochlovin' and we encourage people from all business sectors to apply."

This year's dragons Angus MacDonald, Emma Parton, Andy Meldrum and Ali

MacLeod are ready to inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs right here in the Outdoor Capital of the UK. Between them they have an enormous amount of business experience: from successful start-ups in publishing and soap-making to running a mountain resort and sourcing funding for international projects, they're savvy in assessing what's going to work and spotting business potential.

If you've got a big idea and you haven't yet entered - don't miss out, there's still time to get your application in. Please see www.lochaberchamber.co.uk to apply or call Lisa on 01397 705 765.

This year's Dragons' Glen event will take place on Wednesday 14th November at the Ben Nevis Distillery, 5 - 8pm.

Lochaber ladies raise more than £4,000 for Marie Curie

More than 100 Lochaber ladies dressed up and enjoyed a two-course lunch and music at Ben Nevis Distillery and Visitor Centre on Saturday September 8, raising £4,480 in the process.

The Marie Curie Lochaber Fundraising Group has been working tirelessly for months to raise money for the cancer charity and Saturday's event was the culmination of all their hard work.

After a tour of the distillery and a glass of Prosecco, kindly donated by Morrisons Fort William, host Kim Kennedy introduced local Marie Curie nurse Andrea Cameron who movingly explained the work Marie Curie do supporting families with end of life care.

Lunch was then served and throughout the afternoon Kim kept everyone up to date with the silent auction bids and introduced Charles Cran-Crombie, who entertained with brilliant songs.



The group held the event to raise funds for Marie Curie.

There was the chance to round the day off with a taste of the distillery's whisky.

Organiser Joan MacKintosh said: 'The group is grateful to HW Energy, Sheil Buses and Corrie Construction, which sponsored the event, and to all the staff at Ben Nevis Distillery and Visitor Centre who laid on a tasty meal in a beautiful venue.'

The group would like to thank all the companies

that contributed to the day with prizes or even just lending a hand: Abrightside Photography, Beautiful Hairdresser, Bodyshop Inverness, Boots Fort William, Boots Inverness, Caol Laundrette, Claire Innes, Cobbs, Corpach Co-op, Crabtree & Evelyn, Crofter Bar, Debenhams, DV8, Fleming & Fleming, Garrison Hotel, Glencoe Ski Resort, Golden River,

Harbro, Highland Soap Shop, House of Clanjamfrie, Iain Ferguson Alba Photos, J Allan, Joyce the Hairdresser, Lloyds Chemist, Lochaber Café, Lochaber High School, Lochy Bar, Loco Motif Bodyart, Lush, M&S Dental Care, MacColl Newsagents, McDonald Bros, McKinlay Kidd, Morrisons, Nevis Centre, Nevis Cycles, Nevisport, Off Beat Bikes, Sammy's, ScotRail, Scrub-a-Dub, Tangles, Tesco, The Tavern, Toggs, Venus Beauty Salon, Whisky Shop, Wash and Shine Valeting and to the many individuals who also donated to the day.

'Finally, a big thank you to all the ladies who turned out and made the day such a success,' added Joan.

Anyone who would like to help the Lochaber Marie Curie fundraising group with future events, should contact it at lochaberpfundraisinggroup.mariecurie@outlook.com.

Caol group honours former GP

Members of Caol in Bloom have unveiled a plaque on Friday to honour the contribution to community life of a former Lochaber doctor.

Well-respected Lochaber GP Dr Sukumar 'Su' Sen MBE died in 2015 just months after stepping down from a number of Lochaber charitable roles.

He had been involved with Caol in Bloom for 17 years prior to his death. At the time of his death, hundreds took to social media to mourn the 83-year-old's passing and to share their stories of how he had helped them and their families.

Dr Sen, who died following

a stroke, left behind a wife, Shirley, and three children.

He was born and raised in Bihar and West Bengal, the son of a steelworker and eventually graduated, aged 25, with a degree in medicine from the University of Calcutta. He came to the UK in 1958 and he and his wife lived in Lincolnshire and London before moving to Fort William in 1965.

Dr Sen was awarded his MBE in 1997 for his work in the community. He was an active member of Lochaber Rotary Club for 45 years.

He worked for 40 years as a surgeon, GP and Belford Hospital registrar.



Shirley Sen and Councillor Allan Henderson unveil the plaque. Photograph: Ian Ferguson, alba.photos

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A still from the film 'Tongue Cutters' which will be shown at this year's Hebrides International Film Festival.

Film festival spotlight on the world's oceans

Final preparations are under way for the fifth Hebrides International Film Festival from Wednesday September 19 to Saturday September 22.

The festival, supported by Creative Scotland, Highlands and Island Enterprise (HIE) and other agencies and presented in collaboration with An Lanntair brings the latest in world cinema to the islands.

Only films made in the last three years are eligible to be included in the programme, which is curated by Muriel Ann Macleod, director of the Rural Nations Community Interest Company, with the support of Paul Taylor, cinema programmer at Eden Court Theatre.

All the films being shown are within the festival's broad theme of 'islands, environmental issues and indigenous peoples' and this year there is a particular focus on the world's oceans.

One of the headline doc-

umentaries, Blue, filmed in Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines, South Pacific and United States, has been described by Greenpeace as a 'cinematic song for our oceans; beautiful, intimate and grand'.

Another film, A Plastic Ocean, was shot over four years at 20 locations across the planet and documents how wildlife and people are living among toxic refuse.

There are around 13 'shorts' on the programme including Cianalas by young Hebridean Zoe Paterson Macinnes, which is currently being well received.

The full programme is available online at www.hebfilmfestival.org.

There will also be special daytime screenings for school groups, masterclasses from film makers, environmental lectures and a beach clean.

Programmes are also being printed and will be widely distributed.

Kyle draws the crowds for great Maritime Day

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

A dry afternoon with sunny spells drew crowds to Kyle of Lochalsh RNLI's Maritime Day last Saturday, September 8.

The day's activities began at midday when Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band played a variety of tunes. Throughout the afternoon, Kyle and Portree life-boats allowed people to get up close to the two different types of vessel with the Kyle boat putting on displays, including a winching display with the UK Coastguard helicopter from Stornoway.

The crew on board coastguard tug 'Ievoli Black' allowed people on board for informative and humorous guided tours, food and drink.

The Qinetiq vessel 'Quasar' was alongside the pontoons with its underwater robotic vehicles, allowing people to have a go at controlling them.

There was also an unmanned mine-hunting vessel and a replica torpedo from the BUTEC Navy base on display.



The coastguard helicopter put on a display of winching and low flying.

Kyle Fire Brigade and Kyle Coastguard team also made a welcome return.

The local kayaking club let people try out the sport and 'Am Bata', the Plockton High School boat building scheme,

was present during the day and sold its recently completed boat.

This year saw the return of the popular tractor pulling competition, where teams of six people had to pull Kyle

RNLI's launching tractor 20 metres in the quickest time with Kyle RNLI crew retaining their title from last year.

Organisers thanked everyone who helped to make the day such a success.

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Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band entertained with a variety of tunes to open proceedings.



A colourful array of kayaks on the beach.



Am Bata's Boat, which was sold



The stalls were packed with people.



The members of Kyle RNLI crew put all they had into the tractor pull.



Kyle Fire Brigade was a popular addition to the maritime event.



Kyle pontoons were buzzing with activity.



Kyle Coastguard demonstrate their rescue skills with Stormy Stan.

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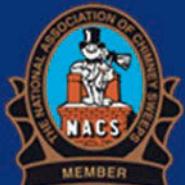
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LETTERS

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or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

The Moidart sniper

With so many events taking place around the First World War anniversary, it is fitting that the story of a young Moidart lad has been published this week.

Well-known Scottish accordionist 'Ceilidh King' Fergie MacDonald sheds new light on the bravery of one of the British Army's most elite units, narrating the true story of Fergie's late father, who distinguished himself with the Lovat Scouts – firstly in the disastrous campaign against the Turks in the Dardanelles, followed by the battlefields of the Western Front.

The book will be officially launched on Tuesday September 18 at The Highland Bookshop in Fort William, and I'm sure many people will attend the event to show their support.

The book was only possible due to the wealth of material available – Fergie spent months sifting through letters, personal diary notes, detailed accounts by men who served with his father, plus listening to the remarkable audio recordings made by his father, John 'Ton' MacDonald.

The book sounds a fascinating read and we congratulate Fergie on its publication.

On the right road

It was good to hear that Highland Council and Sheils Buses had reached an agreement about reversing some of the changes made to the N44 Kinlochleven service, reinstating the 8.40pm bus from Fort William to the village.

We appreciate council budgets are tight, but it is hard enough trying to earn a living in our rural area without issues with transport preventing people taking jobs that involve shift patterns outwith the nine to five.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed.

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

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Saddened by state of disrepair at Pennyfuir

One of the main carved stone pillars at the front of Pennyfuir cemetery has been hit again and, along with the damage to the left of two sections of plinths, it looks in a sorry state of disrepair.

This once grand facade could do with a good lick of paint. It is the first sight for visitors to witness. They must be saddened at the disrespectful state the council seems happy for the families of lost loved ones to see.

Stephen Jones,
Burnside Place, Millpark, Oban.

Taking issue with remarks over etiquette

I feel I must take issue with Chris James' (The Oban Times, September 6) remarks that the campaign manager for the Liberal Democrats had every right to be angry and abusive due to Ian Blackford's alleged breach of etiquette.

As far as I am aware etiquette is the customary code of polite behaviour in society or among members of a particular profession or group.

To suggest the campaign manager's alleged angry and aggressive manner be condoned or excused is, I would contend, totally against good manners and etiquette.

Surely any normal person would have civilly greeted Mr Blackford and pointed out that it was customary to follow the etiquette, explaining what that was, nevertheless thanking him for his good wishes and passed them on to Mr Kennedy.

Therefore I am afraid Chris James has been hoisted by his own petard on this one.

James Waugh,
18 West Laroch, Ballachulish

Scottish schools' pipe band championships

Most schools in Scotland have pipers and drummers within their pupil population. Schools in Oban and Argyllshire are probably no exception.

May I please ask your readers to seek out their pipers and encourage them to represent their school as a piping quartet, if not as a full band, at the next Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships.

The championships are organised annually by the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust. The next championships will be held at Inveralmond Community High School, Livingston, on Sunday March 10, 2019. More details are on our website www.thechampionships.co.uk

Last March, 145 schools from all over Scotland (and two from England) were represented at the championships, with a category available for all standards of playing.

Five years ago we introduced a new category: freestyle. The aim of this is to provide an op-

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YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase people's images each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here,

simply send it to editor@obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street,

opportunities for schools to showcase their other musical skills alongside those of their pipers.

The Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust (www.sspdt.org.uk) hopes that as many young pipers and drummers from your area – with other musicians too if entering the freestyle event – will participate in next year's championships.

Patrick Gascoigne,
Aberlady, East Lothian

Mental health cash welcomed

The decision by the Scottish Government last week (September 5) to put mental health at the centre of its Programme for Government is to be greatly welcomed.

The additional £250m of resourcing pledged will seek to deliver, among other things, 250 school mental health nurses and 350 coun-

sellers in schools. This announcement came on the same day that it was noted that mental health waiting times for children and young people are the worst on record.

As a coalition we have strongly supported the merits of early mental health intervention, which can have an incredibly powerful impact on the lives of children and young people, with benefits continuing into adulthood. In this context, the ability to access school-based counselling services at an early stage in a convenient location can prove truly transformational.

Unlike other parts of the UK, however, there are limited counselling services in Scotland. Indeed, Scotland is currently the only UK country with no national strategy for school-based counselling services. The provision of 350 counsellors is therefore, to be greatly welcomed.

Counselling services are guaranteed in all secondary schools in Northern Ireland and

DISTRICT NEWS

PLOCKTON

Stage six of the Jaguar E-Type 2018 Round Britain Coastal Drive will be held in Plockton later this month.

The 19-day, 4,000-mile event will start on Monday September 17 at Pendine Sands in south Wales and will be in Plockton on Saturday September 22 for the sixth stage of the tour.

Jaguar E-Type Club owners will be roaring round the coastal roads of Lochalsh as part of a huge fundraising effort in aid of Prostate Cancer UK.

The Round Britain Coastal Drive was devised in 2016 by E-type Club co-founder Philip Porter, the renowned automotive book publisher and author, after he was successfully treated for the disease.

CAOL

Highland Council says staff from its building standards department have recently inspected the former Lochaber Bar in Caol, following concerns about the exterior of the closed premises.

A council spokesperson said: 'Building standards has inspected the site and found no evidence of work being carried out but found the site perimeter to be insecure and some loose roof tiles.'

'Building standards has contacted the architect who will arrange with his client to have the tiles removed and the site made secure.'



The former Lochaber Bar in Caol.

MORVERN

Eighteen months into production, Nc'ean Distillery at Drimnin has 924 casks of organic whisky spirit maturing in its warehouses.

Perched above the Sound of Mull on the Morvern peninsula, Nc'ean

Distillery, formerly called Drimnin Distillery, began work on its first single malt last September and the finished result is expected to be ready in 2020.

The distillery has developed a botanical spirit which is available for sale and marks the first major milestone for the fledgling company.

The hot summer season brought many visitors to the distillery for tours, keeping new visitor manager Amy Stammer busy.

STRONTIAN

The first Sunart Water Festival takes place this Sunday, September 16.

The event, based in Strontian, will see activity instructors leading a day packed with paddle boarding, raft racing, kayaking and children's beach activities.

Marine biologist Mark Woombes will be running the 'try snorkelling' sessions, while Karl Bungey will be organising guided sea kayaking tours of Loch Sunart.

Highland Open Water Swim will host a one-mile swim in Strontian on Loch Sunart for adults and children. Parents do not have to swim, but must be at the event. Anyone who wants to take part must register online before the swim.

This is a great opportunity for a day out with all the family and to help raise money for Children With Cancer UK.

The main aim of the festival is to increase awareness of Loch Sunart, promote safety around the water, promote education and marine biology, and to teach activities and sports.

Contact izzy@sunartcommunity-company.co.uk to book places.

BALLACHULISH

Ballachulish Community Company (BCC) recently updated members on the possibility of the community taking control of the Abhainn Greadhain hydro scheme at Glenachulish.

The board appointed directors Kevin Smith and David Kitson to look at taking this forward. A site



Friends of Nevis trustees Claire MacLeod and Fiona McSorland present a plaque to BNHC manager Yvonne Ross outside the centre last week. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

Friends of Nevis thank centre for support

Friends of Nevis has said thank you to the Ben Nevis Highland Centre (BNHC) for its support since 2008.

Trustees Claire MacLeod and Fiona McSorland presented a plaque to BNHC manager Yvonne Ross last week in recognition of the contribution made by the centre to the work of the conservation group.

Every year, in April and November, Friends of Nevis organise a litter pick in Glen

Nevis. BNHC generously allows the litter pickers to meet in its restaurant and provides teas, coffees and biscuits while the pickers are organised into teams for rubbish collections along the riverside and glen.

The group's next litter pick will take place on Sunday November 16. To find out more about Friends of Nevis and the varied volunteer opportunities, visit friendsofnevis.co.uk or find it on Facebook.

meeting was held on May 5 with the forestry team and the company examined various possibilities including opening discussion with Scottish Water about the seemingly redundant pen-stock and water facilities and looking to incorporate this into the proposed scheme.

It has been agreed by the board funding be sought for a feasibility study, which is now under way.

Should the company move forward with this plan, they will need voluntary assistance from the community so anyone interested should email ballachulishcc@aol.com.

BCC has also been working with Ballachulish Community Association and the community council on a proposal to restore the boat sheds at the east harbour. Initial surveys have been carried out and it

is proposed funding be sought.

BCC has contacted the community empowerment and assets division of Scottish Water enquiring about the community obtaining ownership of the Scottish Water Buildings and land at Brecklet.

LOCHABER

The Housing Partnership of Highland Council, Lochaber Housing Association and the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) will hold an event to mark Scottish Housing Day on Wednesday September 19.

The aim is to raise awareness of housing options in Lochaber by highlighting the availability of local housing and where new houses are being planned. People from across Lochaber, especially young people, are welcome to drop in to the DWP Offices at Achintore Road, Fort William, any time between 10.30am and 12.30pm and 2pm to 4pm.

Information on how to apply to be included in the Highland Housing Register and low-cost home ownership will be available.

LOCHABER

West Ardnamurchan Community Development Company celebrated a successful year at its first annual general meeting in July.

The development company's activities in 2017-18 focused on the community consultation exercise held the previous year. Chairwoman Kristie Shirra shared the new vision for west Ardnamurchan which the board had adopted. She said: 'West Ardnamurchan will be a thriving community – economically, socially and environmentally – and a positive model for how a remote community can be sustainable. We will build on the strengths of West Ardnamurchan and its communities to ensure we fulfill our potential, seize new opportunities and respond proactively to changes that will affect the area over the coming years.'

For more information contact info.wacdce@gmail.com.

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Above: The weaving exercise allowed the group to discuss the achievements of women in the last century in the 100th anniversary year of the Representation of the People Act 1918.



Right: Invernevis House residents get to work on stick weaving the colours of the suffragettes onto the celebratory banner.

Invernevis House residents mark 100 years of women's suffrage

Invernevis House residents put their stick weaving skills to the test as part of a national celebration of women's achievements in the last century.

Norma Hunter and Mary Carroll visited the care home in Fort William last week as part of their Scotland-wide tour aimed at marking the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage and the Representation of the People Act 1918, which extended the vote to 8.4 million women.

The pair are putting together a banner which marks the achievements of women over the last 100 years which required the handiwork of Invernevis House residents who helped stick weave the purple, green and white colours of the suffragettes onto the border of the banner.

The stick weaving class also allowed the

group to discuss the progress of women's rights in the last 100 years and participants were asked to pick 100 women they thought were inspiring. Invernevis House was just one of many places Norma and Mary are stopping on their tour to complete the banner.

Norma said: 'Invernevis House was keen to take part and we had an amazing afternoon. The idea was well received and we had a great discussion about women in the last 100 years.'

Both Master of Arts students at the University of the Highlands and Islands, Norma and Mary are working with several arts and academic groups on the project, which culminates on November 10 in Aberdeen where their work will be displayed to the public for the first time.

Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

■ Fort William's tourism director Bruce Simpson was doubling as the Good Samaritan last Saturday morning. The previous day, at the 'tourist' office, Bruce had advised a visitor there was a Saturday bus service to Oban at 9.30am from the Transport Centre. Later on Friday, he realised the timetable had changed, with the bus now leaving from the Parade at 9.45am. So on Saturday morning, Bruce took himself to the transport centre well before half nine to explain this to the 'tourist'. But 9.30am came and went, with no sign of the intending passenger. So Bruce moved along to the Parade, but the fella didn't appear there either. Hope he got to Oban eventually. Meanwhile, Bruce was having a chequered start to his day off.

■ Quite a few interesting 'signatures' of visitors to the Lochaber Experience Exhibition. For example, 'Yuri Gagarin' 'signed in' at the Mallaig Harbour Authority stand. Shades of the days when Lochaber hotel registers were full of names like Fats Domino, Davy Crockett, Clement Attlee and Willie Woodburn, when you had to 'autograph' the book to qualify for your bona fide Sunday pint.

■ It was 'Turgid Tuesday' as far as the local press were concerned. Three of us sat in Lochaber House from 11am till 1pm and again from 2pm to 5.30pm. We made our usual notes of the proceedings, remarking there was plenty of talk but not a lot of action. At 5.30pm, we were invited by a committee chairperson to vacate the chamber 'for five minutes' so that Item 45 on the agenda - about the replacement Dorran houses - could be discussed in private.

Despite the fact no standing order protocol was observed, no resolution passed, no vote taken, we three, without explanation, had to take ourselves into press 'limboland' - the Lochaber House stairwell. Seating not provided. Why should we need to sit down, if it was only a five-minute interval? Well, the five minutes extended to an hour-and-a-half, as this particularly contentious item - and we know it was contentious - rumbled on. At the end of the debate - at 7pm - a number of the elected members picked up their papers and baled out of the chamber. 'The meeting's adjourned,' they advised the stairwell trio. Back in we went to collect our papers. The chairperson, vice chairperson and chief executive were still there. Did they smile - even

ruefully - and confirm to us the item under discussion - in camera - had overrun? Nope. Did they acknowledge it was rather a shame that we three had been in exile outside? Nope. Some councillors and officials often observe their local authority gets a bad press. Well the council gets the press it deserves. And now you can see why.

■ There was consternation in the High Street on Monday and Tuesday. At the West End, a shop manageress went to put the bin out at 5.30pm. But the wind caught the opened front door of the premises and locked her out, leaving her stranded on the pavement till the cavalry arrived. No such difficulties for a retailer nearer the East End. He got a 5am phone call from the police to tell him the front door of his shop appeared to have been open all night.

■ Still on the High Street, Iain was wending his way through it from the library where he'd spent an hour or two. He was chewing a sweet. In his pocket were two letters to post. Arriving at the Post Office Iain proceeded to mail his sweetie papers. Then he dropped his letters into one of the tercentenary commemorative green and crested litter bins which have sprung up around town. Consternation reigned. Iain rummaged about, trying to get his hand far enough down the bin to extract the letters. Meanwhile, shouts were coming up the postal chute that the Royal Mail don't frank sweetie papers, thank you. Iain gave up the struggle and decided he'd have to tell all to Lochaber House. He explained his predicament to 'enquiries' and was advised someone would be down with a key to the bin. The key duly arrived, an hour later. And the letters were extracted - and re-directed.

■ Spare a thought for another Iain - the one who was to provide safety cover for entrants in the Two Ferries Road Race. Iain duly arrived at Treslaig, ready for action. But no sign of any runners. 'They're cutting it a bit fine for the race, aren't they?' Iain observed to the 'oldest boatman'. 'It's five to two now.' Oldest boatman removed pipe from mouth and replied: 'It's yourself that's a bit early, actually. By five minutes - and a week!'

■ The telecom lads were a bit put out because they couldn't get Radios 1, 2, 3 or 4 in their vans last Friday as they sped around Lochaber attending to their customers' every requirement. So they jarred the BBC boys at Camaghael.

They were very communicative. 'The break in transmission is due to a landline being cut. A telecom landline!'

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COAST TO COAST CHALLENGE



The hugely popular 105 miles multi-sport adventure challenge through the Great Glen took place on Saturday and Sunday, September 8 and 9.

Thousands run, bike and kayak through Great Glen for Coast to Coast challenge

Almost 2,000 athletes took part in the Coast to Coast 105-mile run, bike and kayak challenge, along the Great Glen, finishing up in Ballachulish on Sunday.

Coast to Coast is a fully-supported and way-marked multi-sport adventure challenge – not a race – a wild endurance event in unforgiving terrain. The route, which includes a total ascent of 10,840 feet (3,304 metres), takes in stunning lochs, brooding glens, enchanting forests, rugged mountains and the most fantastic views imaginable. It also features many evocative landmarks and locations that are steeped in generations of history, folklore and legend. These include Cawdor Castle, Loch Ness, Fort Augustus, The Great Glen, Fort William, Glen Coe and Loch Leven.

Since it was first staged in 2007, more than 10,000 intrepid adventurers have taken on this magnificent challenge. As many as 8,000 of those participants have travelled from outwith Scotland, from as far afield as New Zealand, the USA and Europe, to experience the true beauty (and sometimes brutality) of the Highland terrain and its ever-changing weather.

FOOTBALL

SLT secure cup progress after last-minute goal

South Lochaber Thistle	2
GSC Amateurs	2

President's Cup

South Lochaber Thistle progressed to the quarter-finals of the President's Cup after a 2-2 draw with GSC was enough to see them progress from their

group. A goal from Martin Munro after three minutes gave SLT the lead but two first-half goals left them trailing 2-1 at the break.

A 90 minute strike from Andrew MacLean made sure Thistle picked up the point they needed to progress to the next round.

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Parton is crowned on home course



Mikayla Parton celebrating her victory on her home course at Nevis Range.

Fort William downhill mountain biker Mikayla Parton has been crowned Scottish Champion after she stormed to victory at the recent Scottish Downhill Association Series and the Scottish Championships at Nevis Range.

The 21-year-old Nevis Range team rider recorded two incredible race times to comfortably clinch victory in front of a home crowd on Sunday August 2, cementing her reputation as one of the brightest talents in the country.

Parton was followed closely by fellow Fort rider Louise Anna Ferguson, who finished in second place.

In the men's racing, Joe Barnes won the expert men category while Lochaber duo Lachlan Blair and Fergus Lamb finished fifth and sixth respectively in the elite men category.

Veteran Lochaber biker Alastair MacLennan took second place in the Scottish Championships over 40 category.

A downhill race at Nevis Range always has a great atmosphere and it was no different when Nevis Range played host to a double header of the fourth round of the Scottish Downhill Association Series and the Scottish Championships.

With the addition of a new natural section on the top half of the track for the race, riders were kept on their toes from the off.

This was also the first home race for Nevis Range's team rider and Fort William local Mikayla Parton since the company announced their partnership in June this year.

Parton has shown some incredible potential and talent over the last few years and this season she has begun to notch up some podium finishes after injury setbacks earlier in the year.

Feeling strong and looking fast all weekend, Parton was being tipped for a good result on her home course, however, the ever-unpredictable nature of downhill mountain bike racing means predictions are

Saints pull the trigger on North

North Glasgow Colts	1
Oban Saints	5

SAFL Premier Division

Oban Saints made it three league wins from three in an ultimately comfortable win against newly promoted North Glasgow Colts in Summerston last Saturday afternoon.

The kick-off had to be delayed 30 minutes as the Saints bus broke down between Dalmally and Inveraray on the way to the match but, thanks to Stewart Morrison, a replacement bus was organised and the squad continued

on their way to Glasgow.

There was only seven minutes on the clock when Saints took a deserved lead through co-manager Donald Campbell, who was on hand to tuck away the loose ball after Colts keeper Ross Stewart had saved from Lewis Cameron.

James Ford continued his excellent start to the season doubling the Saints advantage in the 13th minute. From a Jamie Graham cross from the right along the 18-yard line, Donald Campbell held the ball up well and fed Ford who made space for a perfectly placed finish into the bottom

corner beyond the despairing left hand of Ross Stewart.

Paul Harrison was a threat for the hosts on the left and got in behind Jamie Graham after 16 minutes. Graham got back and put Harrison under just enough pressure to allow Ben Pollock to come out to the edge of his box and gather safely.

As the rain abated Saints continued to enjoy the upper hand and Jamie Graham fired a shot from the right just over the crossbar before Donald Campbell had a delicate chip over the keeper ruled out for offside.

A William McGowan

foul on Lewis Cameron gave Donald Campbell an opportunity with the dead ball from 28 yards which cannoned off the wall and behind for a corner kick. Lewis Cameron's delivery from the left landed perfectly on the head of Campbell at the back post who will be disappointed not to have hit the target from three yards' range.

Kerr Newbigging, making his first start of the season, had a long range effort comfortably saved in the 41st minute before sending Matt Rippon through the inside right channel with a well weighted pass 60 seconds later. Rippon raced into the box where he was felled by a sliding challenge from behind by Peter Keeney. Mr Flanigan had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot from where Lewis Cameron, despite Ross Stewart getting a hand to the ball, put Saints three goals up.

Having passed up a few first half opportunities it took the hosts just 60 seconds to capitalise on their first second half opening. A slack pass from



Donald Campbell, No 9, heads wide during last Saturday's 5-1 win over North Glasgow Colts. Match report and photos: Derek Black

Scottish Champ



Parton in action at the top of the downhill course. Photos: Rae MacKenzie

only as good as the next race run.

With some unexpected showers throughout Saturday and with the addition of a new natural section on the

course, riders were being pushed to their limits. Racing started just after 11am on Sunday with riders taking on their first of two runs.

After the first run Parton

was in the lead by more than 10 seconds. For the second run she held her pace and cruised comfortably into first position again with a 10-second lead. Those impressive

race times meant that Parton finished top of the podium and was crowned the Scottish Downhill Champion.

MOUNTAIN BIKING



Daniel Croarkin and Donald Campbell congratulate James Ford on his goal.

Campbell for another off target effort from 18 yards.

Daniel Croarkin capped another solid midfield performance with an 83rd-minute goal to round off the scoring at 5-1 to Saints. Bursting through from midfield Croarkin was felled by Jordan Simpson 30 yards from goal.

From the clever free-kick Kerr Newbigging sent Lewis Cameron wide on the right who picked out Croarkin's near post run for a four-yard tap-in ahead of a despairing late lunge from Derek Ayres.

With the points now well and truly safe Saints took the opportunity to blood a couple of colts of their own and gave competitive debuts to teenagers Kenneth Black and Aaron

Glasgow Colts

Lewis Cameron meant for Scott Maitland was picked up and played to Paul Harrison, who beat Jamie Graham on the Colts left and found Allan Gilchrist in the middle who swivelled on the six-yard line and tucked the ball into the bottom corner beyond Ben Pollock's left hand.

Kerr Newbigging, who had a good game for Saints, was harshly penalised for an innocuous looking challenge on Colts Skipper David Cooper on the halfway line in the 48th minute. To add insult to injury Newbigging also had his name taken by referee Flanigan for continuing his protestations of innocence too long.

After a shaky start to the second half Saints regained their composure and restored their three-goal advantage with another well-placed James Ford finish in the 55th minute. After a good move on the left Donald Campbell worked the ball along the 18-yard line to Matt Rippon who saw his net bound shot saved by the legs of Ross Stewart.

The Colts defence could only

clear as far as Lewis Cameron who picked out James Ford on the penalty spot for his second goal of the afternoon.

Scott Pestell became the third name in Mr Flanigan's notebook for a late studs-up challenge on Scott Maitland on the halfway line in the 59th minute.

Ross Stewart made a sensational save diving high to his left to tip a Donald Campbell shot from 18 yards onto the top of his crossbar in the 68th minute.

Donald Campbell tried his luck again from the edge of the box shooting across the keeper again but this time high and wide of target from a good Kerr Newbigging flick-on.

Saints gave Fraser MacFarlane a run out on the left for the closing 12 minutes with Matt Rippon making way. The Colts also made what would be their final change replacing goal scorer Allan Gilchrist with Christopher McGrath. MacFarlane was quickly involved in the action linking up well with Scott Maitland to set up Donald

FOOTBALL

McKay. Both were members of the Argyll and Bute Cup winning squad five weeks ago but the hurly-burly of the Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division is an entirely different proposition which the youngsters handled well in their short time on the park.

Black replaced Scott Maitland at left back while McKay took over from James Ford on the right.

This coming Saturday Saints welcome first-time visitors Barrhead Arky to Glencruitten in the Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division. The game will kick-off at 2pm.

GOLF



Robert MacIntyre. Photo: Bounce Sport

Bob finishes 11 under par in challenge tour

Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre made the cut at the Bridgestone Challenge played at Luton Hoo Hotel, Golf and Spa in Bedfordshire last week.

In the first round he carded a four under par 67 which featured six birdies and three bogeys.

In the second round he birdied four holes and had only one bogey to card a 68.

Round three saw him card a two under par 69 which featured three birdies and one bogey.

Robert finished off the tournament with another 69, with four birdies and a double bogey for a four-round total of 273, 11 under par to finish in joint 20th place.

The event was won by England's Tom Lewis with a 23 under par score of 261.

The Challenge Tour moves on to the Kazakhstan Open which will be played at the Zhailau Golf Resort in Almaty starting today, Thursday September 13.

Isle of Skye results

Gents' section: Saturday September 1 and Sunday September 2, monthly medal - 1 John Allan Macleod 73(12) nett 61; 2 Donald MacPhee 86(20) 66 bih; 3 Ross Cumming 85(19) 66 bih; 4 James Colven 87(21) 66.

Monday September 3, seniors' monthly Stableford - 1 George Neill 35pts; 2 Dave Watson 30pts.

Wednesday September 5, medal - 1 Daniel Macdonald 76(8) nett 68; 2 Archie Macaskill 84(12) 72.

Ladies' section: Sunday September 2, ladies' champ #6 - 1 Jill Mackinnon 97(20) nett 77; 2 Ann Jagger 115(36) 79.

Tuesday September 4, Glamaig Stableford - 1 Ann Jagger 25pts; 2 Sandra Neill 22pts.

RALLYING

Currie robbed of Scottish rally title

Mull Rally driver, Alasdair Currie was robbed of his Scottish Rally Championship hopes after a mechanical failure forced him and Oban's Grant MacNiven to retire after one stage of last weekend's Galloway Hills Rally.

The Argyll pair have showed consistent and dominating speed throughout the year which left them with an advantage heading into the Castle Douglas-based event. Currie led four separate classes after a troublesome season but the team were unforgivably robbed of their hard work when the suspension collapsed on the Ford Fiesta ST whilst driving to the start line of Stage 2.

The Scottish Rally Championship is made up of six events and the best five scores count to the competitors' overall points table. Currie and MacNiven suffered from three retirements, but nevertheless won the three events they finished.

GOLF



Fort William Golf Club

Recent results from Fort William Golf Club

On Tuesday August 21 a 12 hole stableford was played at Fort William Golf Club with the following result: 1 Peter Laing, 28 points; 2 Davie Laing, 27 points (BIH); 3 Brian Stewart Jnr, 27 points.

On Saturday August 25 the vice captain's prize was played with the following result: 1 Jason Wallace, net 65 (77 - 12); 2 Eric Wallace, net 66 (72 - 6) BIH; 3 Brian O'Neill, net 66 (82 - 16).

On Sunday August 26 a 2 Man Texas Scramble was played with the following result: 1 Marc MacDonald and Norman MacInnes, net 55 (64 - 9); 2 Henry MacDonald and David MacPherson, net 59 (64 - 5) (BIH); 3 Steven Jamieson and Willie McCann, net 59 (63 - 4).

On Tuesday August 28 a 12 hole stableford was played with the following result: 1 Peter Stewart, 26 points; 2 Frank Sweeney, 25 points; 3 Keith Sangster, 23 points.

On Saturday September 1 the September Medal was played with the following result: Section One - 1 Brian Stewart Jnr, net 65 (77 - 12); 2 Alan Overend, net 66 (78 - 12); 3 John Stewart, net 69 (80 - 11). Section Two - 1 Paddy MacPherson, net 73 (91 - 18); 2 Willie MacDonald net 75 (92 - 17); 3 Frank Sweeney, net 78 (95 - 17).

On Tuesday September 4 a 12 hole Stableford was played with the following result: 1 Brian Stewart, 30 points; 2 Frank Sweeney, 27 points (BIH); 3 David MacPherson, 27 points.

On Saturday September 8 a White Box Stableford was played with the following result: 1 Ronald MacDonald, 39 points; 2 Brian Stewart, 38 points; 3 Brian Stewart Jnr, 37 points.

Ladies: On Sunday August 19 the captain's prize was played with the following result: 1 Ann Lovatt, net 73 (99 - 26); 2 Rosemary Macintyre, net 74 (86 - 12).

On Tuesday August 21 a 12 hole Stableford was played with the following result: 1 Ann Lovatt, 29 points; 2 Kathleen Leitch 26 points.

On Tuesday September 4 a Hidden Holes competition was played with the following result: 1 Ann Lovatt, net 48 (65 - 17); 2 Hazel Cameron, net 53 (65 - 12).

LOTTERY NUMBERS

Lochaber club lotteries

This week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 4, 9 and 17. There were no winners this week. The jackpot for the draw today (Thursday September 13) will be £400.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 5, 6 and 12. There were no winners this week. The prize for next week will be £300.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 7, 12 and 13. There were no winners this week. Next week's draw will have a prize of £1,200.

Caol Community Centre's bingo lotto numbers for this week were 2, 12 and 15. There was one winner this week, Joey, who claimed the £100 jackpot. Next week's jackpot will be £100.

Spirited Fort outclassed by four-goal Keith

Fort William	1
Keith	4

Highland League

Fort William showed strong signs of improvement on Saturday despite falling to a 4-1 defeat by Keith at Claggan Park on Saturday.

The home side had a familiar look to it with a number of welcome returns to the squad, including Scott Hunter and Stephen Lopez who started on the bench.

The Fort started strongly and had an early chance after Jordan Morrison floated a free kick into the area but the Keith keeper Greg Simpson made a great save from a Michael Ellis header to keep the match scoreless.

Despite the early pressure, Keith eventually took the lead after 35 minutes but it required a wonder strike from Ryan Keir to break the deadlock.

With the score at 1-0 at half-time, the Fort were confident of getting something from this match after enjoying good periods of possession and commanding the ball much better than in previous matches.

The Fort's hopes were dealt a blow shortly after the break,



Scott Hunter looks to start an attack down the left wing.

however, as Cammy Keith doubled his side's advantage after latching on to a cross from the right flank to tap in

at the back post.

Soon after, Keith got his second this time from the penalty spot to make it 3-0.



The Fort put in a more confident display and commanded possession much more than in previous matches.

FOOTBALL

The Fort continued to press the visitors and take the game to them but were undone again after Keith broke down the right side and, after the Fort defence failed to clear the ball, a deflected shot from Wayne Barron hit the back of the net to make it four.

The home side did manage to grab a consolation goal after Keith defender Stewart Hutcheon turned the ball into his own net.

Manager Anderson said he was pleased with his team's hard work and fighting spirit and felt that they should've gotten more from the match.

The loss leaves Fort William bottom of the league with a points deficit of -8, following the team's recent nine point deduction.

Fort William travel north to play Brora Rangers this Saturday in what will be a stern test of the Lochaber side's improvement in recent weeks.

Kilmallie win National Division



Kilmallie's Calum MacDougall nets one of his two goals against Glasgow Mid Argyll in a 3-2 win which meant the Lochaber side clinched the Marine Harvest National Division league title. Match report on the shinty pages.

Photo Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



Kilmallie's Innes Blackhall slips the ball past Glasgow Mid Argyll's Finlay MacMillan.

Fort youth teams shine on weekend of action

Fort William FC youth teams enjoyed a stellar weekend of football as youngsters from Primary 4 right up to under 17 level all getting on the pitch.

The P6s team played in round one of the Inverness Winter League qualifiers on Saturday for the first time and came away with two wins and a draw. This strong set of results ensured the team will be playing in the league every other week competing against Inverness based teams.

On a sunny Sunday morning at Inverness Caledonian Thistle's stadium

the Fort's p4/5s were playing in the ICTFC MacDonalds Festival. They took three teams up to the event and each team played brilliantly with comments from other coaches on how well they passed and moved the ball - a credit to the great work the Fort William Youth's primary team coaches are doing.

The under 13s followed on from a 12-1 win against Alness last week when they were tasked with taking on Inverness Clach at the Bught Park. After falling behind to an early goal they rolled up their sleeves and put in an incredible team

YOUTH FOOTBALL

effort, coming away with a 3-1 victory which may be their finest to date.

The under 15s continued their fine start to the season with a resounding 14-1 win at home against Dingwall.

Finally, the under 17s were also up against Dingwall at home playing after the under 15s game. The match looked to be a comfortable victory for the Fort who took a 4-1 lead. Dingwall fought back to 5-5 but with just minutes left the Fort scored and ran out 6-5 winners.



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WEATHER

Thursday

Light rain showers
Moderate breeze from the west south west
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Friday

Light rain showers
Moderate breeze from the west soth west
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Weekend Outlook

Light rain on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Moderate breeze from the south west
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday September 13, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	02.03	0.7	07.47	3.9
	14.10	0.5	19.57	3.9
Fri	02.41	0.9	08.21	3.7
	14.50	0.8	20.30	3.6
Sat	03.20	1.2	08.56	3.4
	15.31	1.2	21.05	3.3
Sun	04.04	1.5	09.37	3.2
	16.18	1.5	21.44	3.0
Mon	04.58	1.7	10.35	3.0
	17.13	1.8	22.40	2.8
Tues	06.05	2.0	12.51	2.9
	18.22	0.2	**.**	**
Wed	02.11	2.7	07.39	1.9
	14.25	3.0	20.08	2.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist

Moderate

Oban to Coll/Tiree

Moderate

Kennacraig to Islay

Moderate

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry
and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline
by North West Marine Ltd**

LOCHABER TIMES SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Parton is crowned
Scottish Champ

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AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 63

Ten out of 10 for dominant Lochaber

Lochaber	38
Isle of Mull	16
Tennent's West Division 3	

Lochaber continued their winning start to the season after a resounding victory against west coast rivals Mull on Saturday, meaning they are now the only team in West Regional Division 3 with a maximum points tally of 10 points from the opening two matches.

In what was their first home match of the season, Lochaber put in an impressive performance to exact revenge on Mull after the island side knocked them out of the regional bowl competition last month.

The home side started strongly and it wasn't long until vice captain Jonathan McCook burst through Mull's defence to score Lochaber's first try of the day, which he duly converted.

Lochaber's scrum was



Lochaber's Connor Taylor, who scored two tries, batters through the Mull defence.

working well again and they were able to dominate the visitor's scrum. However, some indiscipline let Mull get on the scoreboard with their captain, Sean Black, kicking a penalty for three points.

Lochaber rallied and were the next to score when Mull were unable to stop Conor Taylor from close range in the corner. Mull clawed back another three points from the boot to make it 12-6. Taylor then scored his second try of the game when he stretched for the line dotting down next to the posts for an easy conversion for McCook.

The physical nature of the match began to take its toll on the Mull players as several were lost to injury towards the end of the first half.

Lochaber were then able to take advantage of the overlap when some quick hands put Koni Johnson free on the right wing. Johnson, left with a lot of ground to cover, used his pace to sprint clear of the scrambling defence and ran in for a 50m try – his first for the club.

But Mull were not beaten and after a loose scrum Black received the ball at 10 metres and with some quick foot work he stepped the tackle and was free to score under the posts.

With the score at 26-11 at half-time, Lochaber came flying out the traps in the second half, keen to cement the victory. Just a few minutes after the kick-off Lochaber were in again this time with Findlay Ireland crossing the line and



Daniel Thomas and Calum Boyd stop Mull's Henry Shaw in his tracks.

NO F37 Lochaber Mull rugby 02. Photos: iain Ferguson, alba.photos

McCook converting. Soon after, winger and man-of-the-match Johnson touched down for his second try of the day after he stretched to get his fingertips on to a tricky wide pass which almost took him out of play but he readjusted his footing and ran in to score in the corner, much to the delight of the supporters on the hill above him.

Mull did manage to get their second try and once again it was their captain Sean Black at the centre of the play, this time turning creator as he set up a winger to touch down in the corner.

The game ended on the 66th minute when injuries got the better of Mull who were reduced to 11 players after a late injury.

ATHLETICS

The win puts Lochaber top of the league after two games with a maximum points tally of 10 points.

This Saturday the Banavie side host league new boys Birkmyre, who were demoted last season. Kick off is 3pm at Banavie.

Mallaig set up league play-off with Portree

FOOTBALL

Sleat and Strath	3
Mallaig	4
William Wilson League	

Mallaig's narrow victory over Sleat and Strath on Saturday has set up a one-off league title decider against Portree after both teams finish the league on equal points.

A brace from Ross Douglas helped the Lochaber side secure a vital victory over title contenders Sleat and Strath, who now finish in fourth place.

Neil Cameron also got on the score sheet but it was an own goal that proved to be the difference between the two sides in a tightly-contested match.

Following Portree's 4-1 victory over Portree Juniors, the island side will face-off against Mallaig after their respective victories left both teams on 39 points. Due to league rules, the league is not decided on goal difference and so the two prospective champions will take part in a play-off.

Looking ahead to the title decider, manager Jamie McGregor said: 'I'm very proud of all the lads no matter what. It's been a long season and the lads have been fully committed all year.'

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