

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8217

Thursday 18 September, 2014

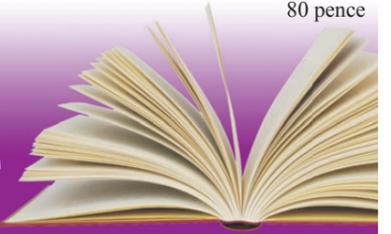
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Island centre plans tribute to aid worker

Tragic victim of jihadi fanatics had wanted to live on Luing

LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

A FATHER of two, whose brutal murder by Islamic State terrorists caused worldwide revulsion, had hoped to move his family to the island of Luing later this year.

Perth man David Haines, 44, applied to manage the building project at the Atlantic Islands Centre on the isle in early 2013.

David had worked on similar projects in Croatia and in the Balkans and the centre's management board was impressed with his ideas.

The group has looked at the timings of David's initial interview and his kidnapping and it is believed he took up the humanitarian aid job shortly after applying for the job on Luing.

The island community is now considering a memorial using one of the humanitarian aid-worker's ideas for the Atlantic Islands Centre.

Atlantic Islands Centre board mem-

ber, Zoe Fleming wrote to fellow members: 'We were horrified to realise that David Haines, the British aid worker murdered by jihadists, was the same man that we interviewed for the project development manager post in early 2013.'

'With his crew cut hairstyle and earrings, he made quite an impression on us, though we were concerned that Luing was not quite ready for him.'

'He was so creative and full of exciting ideas for Luing and the Atlantic centre.'

'His vision of lots of candle lanterns floating out to sea as a spectacle will stay with us.'

David, who was married to a Croatian woman, Dragana, had been invited to apply for the centre manager's role, a job that management board members felt he would have been ideally suited to.

The couple have a daughter Athea, four, who would have attended Luing primary school. Mr Haines also has

a daughter by another marriage, Bethany, who is aged 17.

Islanders have an enduring memory of Mr Haines as he talked about his ambitions for the island's centre as a place that would bring people together.

One of his ideas was floating 100 lanterns on the calm waters of the quarry in a light show of reconciliation.

Atlantic Islands Centre treasurer, Alistair Fleming, who interviewed Mr Haines, said: 'I was very taken by him. I hoped he would come back as our centre manager.'

'He was full of ideas about Luing and bringing the community together as part of the Atlantic Islands Centre.'

'Right now, the members of the board, and I, all feel a little helpless. To have known someone whose life has been taken in such a dreadful way.'

'We will certainly be in touch with his family to invite them to come to the centre when we open next year.'

Mr Haines' brutal, cold-blooded, murder sent shock waves throughout the world.

The humanitarian aid worker was beheaded by a man believed to have a London accent, but the authorities have been unable to establish the identity of the killer.

It is understood the murderer of Mr Haines also killed two American journalists, James Foley and Steven Sotloff.

Prime minister David Cameron said: 'David has been murdered in the most callous and brutal way imaginable by an organisation which is the embodiment of evil.'

'We will hunt down those responsible and bring them to justice, no matter how long it takes.'



LASTING MEMORY: David Haines with his wife Dragana and their baby daughter Athea

SHOWTIME: it's beauty and the beasts



OBAN lads Callum Leitch, Blair Menzies and Ross Ferguson pose with Miss Scotland, Ellie McKeating, in front of Blair's stock at last weekend's annual show and sale of Blackface lambs at Dalnally mart. For more on the show and sales, turn to Farming on page 19

Church volunteer spared jail term

COURT REPORTER
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A SALVATION Army volunteer who was found to have two movies of indecent images and 50 indecent photographs of children on computers has avoided jail.

But he has been made the subject of a sexual offences prevention order (SOPO) for the next 10 years.

Henry Caffrey MacLean, 27, from Dunbeg, appeared for sentencing at Oban sheriff court on Tuesday having previously admitted that between November 24 2003 and July 30 2013 he had in his possession indecent photos or pseudo photos of children.

The court had previously heard that an internet provider had passed police information indicating MacLean had been downloading indecent images of children.

And on November 19 2012, a laptop was seized from his home

and a forensic search discovered the two movies.

In a separate incident, police in Cleveland had been investigating a number of people who were contacting a vulnerable 14-year-old girl - one of whom was MacLean.

Prosecutor Fiscal Eoin McGinty indicated that there were 18,000 messages between MacLean and the teenage girl, many of which were of a sexual nature.

A second search warrant led to a computer being seized on July 30 2013 which was found to contain 50 images, 32 of which could be traced to being downloaded on July 18. The other 18 could not be pinned down to a particular date.

Mr McGinty explained that because of that, the offences were dated back to the manufacture of the computer's hard-drive in November 2003.

Defence lawyer David Watt told the court on Tuesday that the

images were at the lowest level of the Copine scale - used to rate the severity of such images.

He said: 'Mr MacLean comes from a supportive family and a representative of the Salvation Army is here to support Mr MacLean.'

Handing a letter to the court from the Salvation Army, Mr Watt said MacLean volunteered at the Salvation Army, dealing with adults and elderly adults and had 'shown himself to be a very responsible, helpful and friendly person'.

The downloading of the two films of images coincided with the date of his grandfather's funeral, when he had been very depressed, added Mr Watt.

Sheriff Douglas Small said that as the images were at the lowest end of the scale he would not be sending the accused to prison.

Maclean, who is due to start an audio engineering college course,

was put on probation and the sex offenders register for 18 months and told to carry out 300 hours' unpaid work in the community.

Mr McGinty called for the SOPO to be imposed based on MacLean's contact with the 14-year-old girl and a previous sexual offences conviction from 2004.

The SOPO prevents MacLean from being near any child under 16 without adult supervision, being in a children's play area or school grounds and places strict conditions on ownership of any computers or mobile devices and access to the internet and social media.

The court ordered forfeiture of the seized computers.



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Woman, 89, stranded in hospital

A FRAIL 89-year-old Mull woman was stranded in a Paisley hospital after her patient transport left without her, writes Louise Lee.

Now her irate daughter is calling on major hospitals to rethink Friday afternoon appointments to prevent a similar fate happening to other elderly and infirm patients.

Caroline Berry's mother Carol Darroch, who lives in Salen, took months to arrange two appointments in Paisley's Royal Alexandra hospital (RAH) on the same day.

Arriving at the RAH on Thursday evening, Mrs Darroch's pacemaker was checked early on Friday morning. She then had an appointment at the cataract clinic, but the clinic was running late.

Caroline said: 'When patient transport turned up to take mum home, she wasn't ready to go. So they left without her.'

'As it was Friday afternoon, this meant that she was stuck in hospital over the weekend. She spent four nights in hospital before she actually got back home.'

Caroline had told her mum not to take many personal belongings with her as she was only staying in hospital for one night.

She said she was lucky that her daughter Rebecca lives in Glasgow and was able to bring clothes and food to her grandmother.

Caroline said: 'If it wasn't for Rebecca then my mum would have had no food or clean things to wear.'

'My mum says the staff were exceptional and went out of their way to help.'

'I certainly got a phone call at 6.20pm on Friday night to explain the situation, but there was nothing that I could do.'

Caroline wants major hospitals to think about the timings of appointments for people who are using patient transport.

She said: 'For some old people getting stuck in hospital would be very confusing. If appointments were made mid-week, it would mean if someone does get stuck they can get home the following day.'

A spokesman for Scottish Ambulance Service, which provides patient transport, said: 'No booking

was made for this patient's return journey.'

'We tried to accommodate her at the last minute, but it proved very difficult.'

'We took her up the road on the first journey on Monday and I believe she is now safely home.'

Patients transport is booked by NHS highland staff.

A spokeswoman for NHS Highland said: 'While every effort is made in Argyll and Bute to provide suitable clinic times for island patients where possible, we have no control over the appointment system at Greater Glasgow and Clyde.'

'Patients can contact them directly if the appointment doesn't suit but it is outwith our control.'

Yes we can

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Travel trauma of dialysis treatment is killing people, says Jim's wife

Wilma's wish
argyll4dialysis

The Oban Times campaign

'A machine in Oban and staff to deal with the consequences of this illness would be a life-saver' - Pauline O'Neil, Benderloch

FAMILIES are torn apart by the consequences of transporting very ill patients up and down the road to dialysis in Glasgow.

That is the view of Pauline O'Neil, whose husband, Jim, has now been on treatment for his kidney function for 13 years.

A former legal secretary in Oban Pauline was forced to give up her work in order to support her husband. Living in Benderloch with this life limiting condition has tested their willpower and strength.

Over the many years, Pauline says, there have been easier times in coping with the condition for the couple.

At one time, instead of the unrelenting travelling for treatment, Jim was put up in a hotel near to the hospital for the week and was home - in relatively good condition - for the weekend.

In spite of tireless efforts from Pauline to get officials to listen to

the plight of those people who do not have a huge private income to travel up and down the road and privately pay for accommodation in the city, she feels her remonstrations have fallen on deaf ears.

A meeting with Nicola Sturgeon MSP, when she was still health secretary, left Pauline feeling helpless.

'A machine in Oban,' says Pauline 'and staff to deal with the consequences of this illness would be a life-saver - not only for those on dialysis but for everyone who is a friend or family of a patient, as well. 'People can travel that road every day of their life, and they can say - 'It is not that bad,' but travelling it when you are ill, on dialysis, or in the middle of treatment is a different matter.

'That road is killing people - if it is not killing them physically, it is killing them mentally.

FACTS ON DIALYSIS

Most people have two kidneys, about four inches long, found at the back of the body near the lower ribs. A healthy kidney is a filtering system for blood in the body - vital for life.

KIDNEY OR RENAL FAILURE CAUSES

DIABETES

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

KIDNEY DISEASE

OBSTRUCTION

- A renal (kidney dialysis) patient from Argyll will typically travel for up to 36 hours a week to receive treatment
- spend 12 hours a week on a dialysis machine
- spend six hours a week waiting for transport
- take 24 hours to recover from treatment
- spend three days a week going to and from appointments
- be unable to take up a full time job

Guidelines from The Renal Association state a unit should be:

- less than 30 minutes from home
- within 25 miles of a person's home

There are currently 16 travelling dialysis patients in Argyll.

There are other patients who have dialysis at home. This method means being on a machine all night - most nights. It does not work for everyone.

Health experts are predicting a boom in dialysis patients because of an increase in obesity and diabetes-related conditions.



'Can you imagine how it is for them? The not knowing. There is no rest whatsoever for someone on dialysis if they live in Argyll. 'Every two days up and down that road - and it is a two-and-a-half hour journey. As a wife, you never know if your husband is coming home or whether there will be complications and he will be held in hospital.

'And there is little support for anyone. Life is absolutely upside down, what with not knowing how it will be, where the transport is going to come from - or whether they will get up and down the road. Or if there will be a complication and no one gets home. Life is chaotic and very lonely. 'It seems like the support for people with every other condition is there

but not for those on dialysis. 'We have been living with this for 13 years and it is hard going on everyone. 'At the moment I feel like we are always being moved on to another person, another hospital, another solution. 'It is time my husband was cared for in this community.'

MULL lines



WILD WATCHERS: John Clare, RSPB community information and tourism officer, and Rachel French, Mull Eagle Watch ranger

Eagle project is pure gold

THE Mull Eagle Watch partnership project is flying high after being awarded a gold rating by UK-wide Green Tourism Business Scheme.

The gold star rating is the highest possible within the scheme and acknowledges the excellent efforts to boost the positive environmental, conservation and community aspects of the project.

Mull Eagle Watch is one of the best places in Europe to enjoy the spectacular sight of the white-tailed eagles. It is estimated that the magnificent birds of prey bring in more than £5 million to the island's economy through tourism.

Speaking on behalf of Mull Eagle Watch, Rachel French said: 'This is another fantastic feather in our cap and we are thrilled to be awarded gold. This is such good news not only for the partnership but also for the whole of Mull. The project is a first class example of how green tourism and the National Forest Estate can be such a benefit to a more remote rural economy.'

Mull Eagle Watch, a partnership run by Forestry Commission Scotland, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland, Police Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Mull and Iona Community Trust, is also a five-star VisitScotland attraction.

Dave Sexton of RSPB Scotland added: 'Following on from VisitScotland's five star rating for the Mull Eagle Hide as an 'exceptional wildlife experience', this new Gold award from Green Tourism Business Scheme is the icing on the cake for the rangers who have put in so much work to make the hide the best there is and a tourist attraction Mull and Scotland can be proud of.'

The Green Tourism Business Scheme is the UK's national certification scheme for sustainable tourism. Businesses are assessed to bronze, silver and gold status against a number of eco-friendly criteria, including energy and water use, waste management and biodiversity.

For more information on Mull Eagle Watch log on to <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/visit/mull-eagle-watch>.

Commemoration marches on Corran Halls

OBAN commemorates the beginning of the great 1914-1918 war on Saturday with a parade from the North Pier to the Corran Halls where there will be a drumhead service.

In last week's *Oban Times* organisers explained their own reasons why they felt it was important to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of World War One - one of which was to pass on to the next generation the need to remember those who died on all sides.

And it is the younger generation who will be providing the representations from many of the organisations taking part in Saturday's parade.

The muster starts with the combined pipe bands of Oban Pipe Band and Oban High School Pipe Band gathering at the Shore Street practise hall, from where at 1pm they will march along George Street to the North Pier to meet up with the main parade.

This will consist of the Queen's

colours, the Royal British Legion Scotland area colours, and any other regimental colours; the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army and Royal Air Force; RBL members and veterans; and Merchant Marines.

Also taking part will be Sea Cadets, Army Cadets, Air Force Cadets; Boys Brigade; HM Coastguard, Police Scotland, Scotland Fire and Rescue; National Health Service; Royal National Lifeboat Institution; Girl Guides and Brownies and schools,

followed by the RBLs motorcyclists. At 1.30pm the parade will march off from the North Pier led by Oban Pipe Band.

Lord Lieutenant for Argyll and Bute Patrick Stewart will take the eyes-left salute in front of the Great Western Hotel, on the Esplanade.

The parade will then form a 'drumhead' rectangle in front of the Corran Halls, with a dias and seating at one end and the parade making up the other three sides.

If the weather is not kind, the whole parade will march into the Corran Halls, through the front entrance, three abreast.

The drumhead service will start at around 2.20pm with the laying of the colours followed by hymns, prayers, a minute's silence, readings and an address by the lord lieutenant, which is expected to last around 30 minutes before the colours are returned to the standard bearers and the parade is formally dismissed.

Go out and cast your vote in today's referendum

A TOTAL of 72,002 people in Argyll and Bute have registered to vote in today's Scottish independence referendum - with the result for the area expected sometime after 3am on Friday, writes Marian Miller.

Of those, 14,409 have chosen to vote by post and 835 by proxy, where they have nominated someone else to vote on their behalf.

Polling places around the country will open at 7am today (Thursday) and information on where a voter's polling place can be found will be on their polling card.

The importance of making sure that a vote counts has been emphasised by Scotland's chief counting officer for the referendum.

Mary Pitcaithly said: 'It's vital that everyone takes great care when completing their ballot paper. 'Mistakes mean that a ballot paper may not be counted. 'The safest way to ensure your vote counts is to only put one 'X' in the box beside the answer you want to choose.'

She has also warned voters that

while measures have been put in place to try and avoid queues at polling stations, with more than 4,280,000 registered voters, people may face a wait.

'People who are voting at a polling place should think about what time they are going to vote. 'Polling places are busiest during the early morning and in the evening as people vote on their way to and from work. 'If you are able to avoid these times, I would encourage you to do so to ensure everyone can vote without having to queue for any length of time.'

The polling stations will close at 10pm and then a massive logistics operations swings into action across Scotland.

In Argyll and Bute alone, the ballot boxes will be brought from across the area by land, air and sea to the joint school campus at Lochliphead where the count will take place through the night before an early morning declaration.

The local result is expected to be announced, following confirmation of the turnout figures, sometime between 3am and 6am tomorrow (Friday).

New Sunday train service set to roll out in November

TRAVELLERS to and from Oban are to benefit from an extended Sunday rail timetable from November, creating a new all-year round service in the middle of the day, writes Steven Rae.

From November 2, for the first time, ScotRail will run a second Sunday service between Glasgow and Oban throughout the autumn, winter and spring.

The train will leave Oban for Glasgow at 12.11pm, arriving at 3.28pm, and in the opposite direction will depart Glasgow at 12.20pm, arriving in Oban at 3.27pm.

This latest announcement follows ScotRail's move earlier this year to double the number of trains serving Oban from three to six between

Monday and Saturday.

Delivered in partnership with Highlands and Islands transport partnership HITRANS and Argyll and Bute council, the increased frequency has been well received by local groups and individuals from the area since it was introduced in May.

Fraser McDonald, secretary of Friends of the West Highland Lines, said: 'We are very pleased that ScotRail have been able to include these services in this year's winter timetable.

'The 12.11pm from Oban will not only allow travellers an earlier arrival in the central belt but will win back to rail those whose destinations are further south.'



SHARP DRESSERS: Tobermory pupils show off the new uniform

Lesson in sartorial class

A SCHOOL uniform has been introduced at Tobermory secondary school - complementing the uniform of pupils in the primary school.

From August all students are now wearing the blue and black uniform with a specially designed school tie.

The uniform is based on the old traditional colours of navy and light blue. While the new attractive black blazers with blue braiding are not compulsory, there is a prefect version that is worn at the school - and a number of other students are also wearing them for everyday use.

Craig Biddick, head teacher, said: 'While it is recognised there is not a link between academic performance and uniform, the change does represent an opportunity to promote a strong school ethos and a sense of pride in belonging to a learning community and working together.

'We are thrilled with how the students are wearing the uniform and even students who originally had doubts are embracing the new uniform and wearing it with pride.

'The school is trying lots of innovative things in learning and having a new uniform is another way of saying we are proud of who we are and what we are doing.'



GOLDEN BALL: Lochdonhead and Ulva primary schools were awarded a medal at a tag rugby competition on the island

Schools' tag of success

LOCHDONHEAD and Ulva primary schools were awarded with the Golden Ball for their success in the tag rugby tournament at the Isle of Mull rugby club.

Pupils, parents and school staff are all delighted and very proud of the team's success. The children said they were pleased and surprised to have done so well.

The school would like to say a big 'thank you' to the team coaches, David Callander and Iain MacKay, for all their hard work and support.

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Win £200 worth of books for your local school

Scottish Friendly
Scottish Book Trust
Inspiring readers and writers

Schoolchildren from Argyll & Bute will be taken on a literary safari from Monday 22nd September to Friday 26th September with BBC presenter and children's author Nicola Davies.

As part of the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour, Nicola will treat 592 primary school pupils to her lively lectures on the natural world as she visits 10 schools in the area. Nicola, who was a presenter on The Really Wild Show, will inspire youngsters with tales of spotting sperm whales off the Dominican coast and chameleons in Madagascar. Pupils will also be encouraged to find inspiration in the natural world around them and to use this as a prompt for their creative writing. The Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour brings the best UK and International authors into schools to inspire a love of reading and writing. The tour has been sponsored by Scottish Friendly, Scotland's largest mutual, for sixteen fruitful years.

To celebrate the book tour coming to the area, The Oban Times has teamed up with organisers Scottish Friendly and Scottish Book Trust to giveaway £200 worth of books to one local primary school in Argyll or the west Highlands.

To enter to win books for a school of your choice, simply answer this easy question, complete the form and send to The Oban Times, School Book Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be received by Tuesday September 30, 2014.

Q: On Nicola's adventures, where did she spot chameleons?

Answer.....
Name
Address
Postcode
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School of choice (if you are a winner)

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Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Digital subscribers can enter by printing this page and submitting their entry along with a letter explaining you are a digital subscriber (please provide your email address). Closing date for entries is midnight Tuesday September 30, 2014. Books can only be delivered to a school within the UK.

POLICE WILL LISTEN TO THE COMMUNITY AS THEY STEP UP CAMPAIGN

LOUISE LEE
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A PLEA from mums to give drug dealers no hiding place in Oban has been heard by the police divisional commander.

Marlene Bailey, the area's chief police officer for Mid Argyll, Kintyre, Oban, Lorn and the Islands, says both illegal and legal highs are on her agenda and every single piece of information from the community counts.

Confirming her strong commitment to listening and responding to information from the community, she said every tip-off is vital in the battle against the dealers. It may be the last piece in the jigsaw that officers need.

One mum, who spoke privately about her 14-year-old son's drug habit, said she felt that the police were finally listening.

She said: 'The thing is I know who is selling the stuff to my son. And we all know where drug users live. But we will not say anything to the police - because it seems sometimes nothing is done.'

'If this police officer is really going to change things then I am sure the whole community will get behind a shop-a-dealer campaign.'

'At the moment we are in a living hell with my son. He will use anything that is available to him.'

'For months he didn't smell of alcohol so I couldn't work it out. It wasn't until I read a story in *The Oban Times* a few weeks ago, that it dawned on me that he was using drugs. When I confronted him, he then told me they were legal.'

So-called legal highs have caused 60 deaths in Scotland last year.

Known as *Clockwork Orange*, *Bliss* and *Mary Jane*, they are available for sale in some shops.

The effect of the drug is to induce a reaction similar to that caused by cannabis or acid.

Divisional Commander Bailie urged people in the community to be aware of what their children were doing.

She said: 'There has also been a lot of concern recently, particularly among parents, with regards to the availability of legal highs and the potentially fatal consequences of taking such a substance.'

'I would urge anyone not to use legal highs. Just because something



CRACKDOWN: Police aim to ram home the point that there is no hiding place for drug dealers in Oban

Plea from chief to join in fight against drug dealers

is legal does not mean that it is safe and young people in particular need to be aware of this.

'I would also ask the community to please feed in any information regarding suspected drug dealing or drug abuse in the Oban area.'

'Over the forthcoming weeks, I am

looking to launch a *Shop-a-dealer* initiative in Oban with a view to gathering further intelligence to support our on-going enforcement activity.

'The initiative will allow members of the public to give intelligence directly to their local police anonymously. Sometimes people just don't realise how important a small piece of information can be in the wider scheme of things.'

'It might just be the valuable bit of the jigsaw that we need to obtain a warrant to search a property for drugs.'

'Any information will be of benefit to us. There is no doubt that the use of illegal drugs causes significant harm to the individual user, his or her family and the wider community in general.'

'It is therefore really important that we work together to tackle this.'

'In the interim, I would ask that where anyone who has information on drug dealing, no matter how big or small they think it is, to get in contact with us immediately on 101 or through Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 where they can give information anonymously.'



MOVING: Lidl's current Oban store on Lochavullin Drive. It is not yet known if this store is to close



NEW OWNERS: The Co-op store on Soroba Road, which has been purchased by Lidl

Lidl buys Oban Co-op store

STEVEN RAE
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THE OBAN Co-op store in Soroba Road has been purchased by a rival supermarket chain, which is remaining tight-lipped about future plans for the building.

Co-op staff were told on Monday that German discount giant Lidl had bought the shop, following last month's announcement that it was to close and redundancies were a possibility.

While Lidl confirmed the purchase, a spokesman released no further

information about job losses or the future plan for new building.

However, the Co-operative Group released a statement saying Lidl plans 'extensive works' at the store, and that it will be closed for around six months.

A current employee has claimed that staff were told on Monday that the building was to be demolished and a new store built on the same site.

The worker, who asked not to be named, said: 'This is awful because we are still none-the-wiser as to what's happening. We're still in limbo.'

'All we really know now is that it is now up to Lidl, but we were told Lidl is demolishing the building, so I can't see there being any work for us while the new store is being constructed.'

The Co-operative spokesman said: 'The Co-operative Group continually reviews its retail estate, and we have made the decision to focus on smaller convenience stores and sell those trading outlets that do not align with our strategy.'

'All of our 38 staff in Oban will transfer to the new operator, and it will continue to trade as a Co-operative store until it transfers

to Lidl. However, we understand that following completion of the acquisition Lidl intends to undergo extensive works at the store, after which it will be six months before it re-opens.'

'Regrettably, this means that all staff are at risk of redundancy.'

'The consideration to sell the store is in no way a reflection on the hard work and commitment from colleagues working at the Oban store.'

There is currently a Lidl store at Lochavullin retail park, but the chain has not made any statement regarding the staff there or the building.

John's off to a flying start

ADVENTURER and businessman John Forteith has been overwhelmed with the kindness of people after starting a fundraising campaign for the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Oban.

Planning to visit 14 countries in four weeks to raise much-needed cash for the Mossfield-based treatment centre, the well-known businessman has now had 90 pledges, after featuring in last week's *Oban Times*.

A woman in Fort William even chased one of Forteith's delivery vehicles to hand over £20 cash.

John, whose son Guy was diagnosed with the debilitating illness when he was 16, says the support of the centre has been invaluable to his whole family.

His European motorbike challenge, a solo trip, is being funded by John in order that every penny raised goes to the centre.

John will mount his motorbike on Monday November 3 travelling more than 6,000 miles.

To donate <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/johnforteith> or of course, safely, chase a Forteith van.

IT'S TIME
Oban Index 2015

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Addict jailed for one year after police raided flat

A HEROIN addict who received diamorphine through the post for himself and to sell to others has been jailed for a year.

Oban sheriff court heard on Tuesday that police intelligence suggested that Ian Smith, 47, described as a prisoner at Greenock prison, had deposited a quantity of cash in the bank account of a certain individual in order to buy diamorphine.

Royal Mail in Oban was asked to alert the police if any packages addressed to Smith in Oban appeared and on June 24, such a package was received at the depot.

It was duly delivered to Smith and shortly after police searched the premises, found Smith in possession of two wraps of heroin and the packaging and wrapping from the parcel in his kitchen bin.

When interviewed Smith said he had been on a drug treatment and testing order from the court but had started using heroin again after two-three weeks.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'He told police, "I owed the guy down the road a bit of money and was sent the drugs partly for myself and partly to get the money together to send down the road to pay off the debt".'

'The total weight of the brown powder in the package was 11.45g and the value was £801 at the lowest deal.'

Defence lawyer Laura McManus said Smith had no intention of selling the drug to new users, only to those he knew as users and who came to him. Smith pleaded guilty to supplying diamorphine at a flat in Oban on June 24.

Sheriff Douglas Small told Smith: 'I have repeatedly said any person who appears in this court and who is convicted or pleads guilty to dealing drugs can expect a custodial sentence.'

He jailed Smith for 12 months.

Man panicked as missing teenager was in his house

A BROTHER and sister who denied to police that a missing teenager was in a house they were living in have been ordered to carry out unpaid work in the community.

Police had called at a house in Soroba in Oban while searching for the girl after information she had been seen in the company of Kevin Gillan, 26, of Soroba House Mews.

He was asked if he had seen the missing child, but denied she was in the house and when police returned a further twice, said again she wasn't there.

His sister, Emma Gillan, 23, of Miller Road, Oban, had told police on June 18 as she was leaving the house that the missing teenager was not there. Police subsequently received a call from the Gillans' mother later that morning to say the girl was in the house.

James Dunbar, lawyer for Kevin Gillan, said the accused had met the teenager at a friend's house and she had told him that she worked in Lochgilhead and had missed the last bus home.

'He offered her a place to stay with him in his mother's house,' said Mr Dunbar. 'The police came to the house and at this point he had no idea how old this girl was. He is not on social media and had no idea that a search was going on.'

'At first he didn't think police were looking for her because he thought she was older.'

But once he realised the girl was, in fact, the missing teenager he panicked, Mr Dunbar told the court. It was not done out of malicious intent, he added.

Both pleaded guilty to obstructing police officers searching for a missing teenager by saying she was not in the house. Kevin Gillan was sentenced to 200 hours of unpaid work in the community and put on a supervision order for a year and Emma Gillan was ordered to carry out 100 hours' unpaid work.

Business is under threat over new parking regulations, claim town centre drivers

LOUISE LEE
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ANGER over parking is reaching fever pitch as amenity wardens nicknamed 'yellow jackets' continue to patrol Oban's town centre with eagle-eyed determination.

Some businesses claim trade is suffering, with one shopkeeper saying sales had fallen almost 40 per cent since the 'draconian' parking meas-

ures were put into place by Argyll and Bute council in June.

Another businessman spoke of a similar downturn: 'Our sales were 20 per cent up on the season in May - we are now 20 per cent down.'

'Instead of paying £1 to park, people are driving to Tesco and getting everything from there.'

'This is the death knell of the independent shops in the town. Unless the council thinks again about the

parking situation, then shops will close. I have no doubt about it.'

Volunteers in the town centre are also noting a downturn in visitors. Charity shops, Oban Phoenix Cinema and Oban War and Peace Museum are reporting concerns that paying £9 a day for a parking place will be too much for the people who are most likely to give their time for free.

Another anomaly that has drivers hot and bothered is the lack of park-

ing bays, in particular at Ganavan Sands. Although council notices instruct drivers to park in a bay at the popular beach, it is impossible, say drivers, as no bays exist.

Similarly in the former Rockfield school in the town centre, motorists are advised to park in bays, but again none exist.

Robert Milne, a shop contractor, said: 'I do not know if I will come back to find a ticket on my wind-

screen because I am not parked in a bay - but there is no bay to park in.'

'I have had three tickets on the street already this month, so I'm very cautious about stopping anywhere.'

A council spokesman confirmed the authority was 'pleased' with the progress of the new parking regime in the town. Oban is the only place in Argyll and Bute to have a paid-for on-street parking system.

He added: 'At Ganavan, the bays

are not clearly marked, however, charges reflect this. It costs £2 per day to park here versus 80 pence an hour elsewhere.'

'The car park might not be in the finest condition but it is much cheaper to park there and the surface is proportionate. The new system ensures effective traffic management by ensuring parking turnover - helping our town centres remain vibrant, busy places.'



PERMITS: Keith McCallum



DOING GOOD: Stephen Campbell



NEW SYSTEM: Graham Fraser



TOO BUSY: Amy Trengrouse



DISCOUNT: Senga Cakebread

The Oban Times reporter Steven Rae took to the congested town centre streets to find out what people are saying about parking in Oban

KEITH McCallum, 45, a painter and decorator who lives in Oban, feels that at times, the over-zealous nature of parking attendants can cause trouble for tradesmen in the town, and feels permits would help.

He said: 'There are places in the town centre where it costs you 20p for every 15 minutes.'

'It's not very handy if you're working in the town all day because that is 80p an hour, so who do you pass that on to?'

'We were loading six tins of paint the other day from the van and a traffic warden came along and said, "Move the van or you're getting booked" and that was at 7.45am.'

'Although it was just a quick stop to unload stuff for work, she didn't want to know. Permits for tradesmen in the town would certainly help us from passing it onto the customer.'

Stephen Campbell, 39, lives in Oban and has a joinery business.

Despite getting a ticket recently, and not always agreeing with the amenity wardens, he feels the restrictions are a good thing for the town.

He said: 'I got booked for being on the grass at the Atlantis Leisure car park when I took the kids swimming, but there's nothing to say there that you shouldn't park there.'

'I think they're doing a good job because if you don't have a ticket

you shouldn't be parking in certain places, and it's definitely easier to get stopped in the town centre now.'

'There's a massive difference in the attitude between the traffic wardens though - some are a lot better than others. Also, you can park free in Oban, as long as you're willing to walk and know the streets where there are no restrictions.'

Graham Fraser, 65, lives in Oban and runs an art and crafts shop in the town centre. He says the parking restrictions are having a huge impact on his business, and he feels the council should adopt a new method for paying for short-term parking.

He said: 'For years before the wardens came into the town, our profits were 20 percent increased on average a year, now we are down about 20 percent. Customers need to be able to go about their business without being forced to pay for stopping for a couple of minutes.'

'There is a system called disc parking, where you set the time and the rate and for the first hour you

get it free of charge, then you pay thereafter.'

'That would allow people to go about their day in the town without too much expense.'

'People who are stopping for five minutes to do a bit of business are charged 80p, but invariably people don't have 80p and end up putting £1 in. People who work in the town need somewhere to park.'

'The council needs to provide cheap or free parking to people in the town as it does for its own employees in Albany Street.'

Amy Trengrouse, 23, lives in Taynuilt but drives to Oban during the week for her job in a town centre building society.

She manages to avoid paying for parking but said the expense would be noticeable if she had to pay.

She said: 'The town is always too busy to park so I never even attempt to park here.'

'I park at the Atlantis Leisure centre car park because it's free and is only a five-minute walk for me.'

'In the summer it was more difficult to find a space there, probably because of tourists, but now it's easier and there is a choice of spaces.'

'I think people in Oban had it good for so long without wardens hassling them, so now it's being enforced, people are taking it badly.'

'If it wasn't for the free parking at Atlantis, I would probably notice it because it adds up if you're paying a few pounds every day to park.'

Senga Cakebread, 55, lives in Taynuilt and works for a charitable organisation in Oban and surrounding area.

She feels commuters to the town should receive a discounted annual rate to park, and that the restriction against staying in one space for more than two hours is against common sense.

She said: 'There's a severe lack of parking spaces and it costs £8 a day unless you go to Tesco or Lidl or the Co-op, but two of them are restricted to up to two hours and although most of the time they don't enforce that,

the thought of fines mean you do feel concerned when you park there.'

'At the moment, CalMac charge £3 for the whole day, which is jolly reasonable, but I can see them restricting that to ferry users in the future.'

'It's ridiculous that if you are willing to pay all day long in the town you can't just do that. You need to move your car every couple of hours so you end up playing Monopoly round the streets as they seem keen to enforce that rule.'

'There should be a yearly fee to park in town for commuters into the town centre.'

'I suppose this could encourage the use of public transport but I travel across Argyll so it's just not feasible not to bring my vehicle to work.'

'When the police were enforcing the parking, they were pretty good about it. They would come into your work and give you a chance to move your car, and with the old traffic wardens you knew when they were off duty after five o'clock and you were safe, but not now.'



Oban charity walks to the beat of a different drum

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A MEMORY walk in Oban organised by Alzheimer Scotland has raised more than £700 for people living with dementia.

Around 80 walkers made the journey from Ganavan beach to Dunbeg and back on Sunday, twice as many as the organisers had expected.

The walk was one of a series of similar events being held across Scotland in September, aimed at helping people with memory difficulties to stimulate their memory and enjoy

themselves. The Oban walk had a musical theme with Helen McNeil playing the Celtic harp for the walkers at the registration tent at Ganavan beach.

Ali Barrow, singing leader from the local musical memories group and Jim Bowers, from North Argyll Carers, entertained the walkers along the route with acoustic guitar playing and singing, along with a giant sea turtle called Marcello, who was a great hit with young and old.

On arrival in Dunbeg there was a tent with refreshments kindly donated by Lidl and Tesco.

Andy Crabb, dementia advisor at Alzheimer Scotland, said: 'This was an amazingly positive way for the people of Oban and Lorn to show our support and solidarity for the

88,000 people living with dementia in Scotland.'

'Everyone had a lot of fun on the walk and having the live music - and not forgetting the giant Turtle - seemed to create a wee festival atmosphere.'

'It was a brilliant turn-out by the people of Oban, and I would like to thank everyone who turned up on the day, as well as all the volunteers from the local branch of Alzheimer Scotland who helped keep the show on the road, the musicians and Marcello the turtle who kept us entertained, and Oban's Lidl and Tesco for donating the refreshments.'

The money raised in registration fees and donations will go to supporting people living with dementia, their families and carers.

A82 overnight closures

Overnight closures of the A82 at Pulpit Rock, south of Ardlui are scheduled to take place each night from **Tuesday 30th September to Friday 10th October 2014.**

The road will close at 2200hrs and re-open each day at 0600hrs. The A82 will remain open either side of the closure.

Diversion routes between these hours will be northbound via the A83 at Tarbet, A819 and A85, and southbound via the A85 at Tyndrum, A819 and A83.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

This is to allow essential work to be carried out safely on the A82 Pulpit Rock improvement project.

Closures can be subject to change, therefore please refer to the Transport Scotland website for the latest information:

<http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/project/a82-pulpit-rock>

'No formal plan' for rural school kitchens

TWO KITCHENS in rural schools could be part of a funding bid by Argyll and Bute council.

But at a cost of £250,000 for each one, the Scottish government may find them difficult to finance, says Michael Russell the area's MSP.

Primary pupils in the first three years will from January 2015 receive free school meals every lunchtime worth £330 per year.

Councillors in Argyll and Bute initially made a decision to supply the free school meals in Iona and at Ulva through local hotels and restaurants.

That is until it was discovered there was nowhere open out of season to deliver the meals from late October until April.

Upon learning from *The Oban Times* that they would get meals from hotels, parents raised concerns about having no kitchen facilities in schools.

Mr Russell, who has had a number of representations on the matter, said: 'As I understand it the council has indicated that it needs capital support to ensure free school meals in these locations.'

'The Scottish government has guaranteed finance to allow delivery across Scotland.'

'The final agreement is a matter for negotiation through the normal COS-

LA Scottish government mechanism.

'I have not heard any difficulties being expressed except some incredulity at the first estimate from the council of half a million pounds for just two kitchens.'

A council spokeswoman said: 'The provision of a free meal to children who may not have one at the moment, for a variety of reasons, is aimed at promoting healthy eating and underpins the council's commitment to ensuring that every pupil has the best chance of making the most of their education opportunities.'

'The council currently has no formal plans to provide kitchens in Iona and Ulva primary schools.'

'Further capital investment would be necessary to provide kitchens at these two schools.'

'The council is awaiting confirmation of its allocation of capital funding for free school meals from the Scottish government.'

'Until funding is confirmed, the parents of pupils in P1-3 attending Iona and Ulva primary schools will be reimbursed by the council.'

'The option of having food prepared in local hotels was one of several discussed but discarded as inappropriate as the hotels are only open during certain seasons.'

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Six months to rescue Rockfield

Trust is preferred bidder but told to build a 'business case' for cultural hub

LOUISE LEE
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THE group trying to save Rockfield from demolition has been given six months to prove it has the money to back up its plan to transform the former Oban primary school into a cultural hub.

Oban Communities Trust (OCT) was confirmed as the 'preferred bidder' at a meeting of Argyll and Bute council last Wednesday.

But the council said it will not make a final decision on the building's future until February 2015, by which time it will have examined the trust's 'business case' in detail.

Speaking on behalf of OCT, Oban solicitor Gordon MacNab said: 'We have been overwhelmed with the public support for the community plans for this building.'

'We have been asked by the council

to provide a full business case by the end of the year and it will be considered by councillors at a meeting in February.

'This is a good news story for Oban. The local people have pulled out all the stops to make this happen. This has brought the community together in a very positive way.'

'We aim to deliver a high quality centre in the heart of Oban that will bring to the fore the cultural, musical and hospitality aspects for which the west coast is renowned.'

'We aim to do this as a legacy to preserve our history for this town.'

'Rockfield will be an arts, culture and heritage centre - but that is only the beginning. This new place will be part of the town for the next 50-100 years.'

Concerns have been growing about the condition of the Victorian building, which is riddled with dry rot on



PETITION PLEA: Councillor Alistair MacDougall receives a petition from campaigner Fiona Campbell-Smith last Wednesday before the council meeting. The petition was signed by 1500 people

the ground floor. Campaign group Rockshield is calling on the council to protect the building from further damage.

Fiona Campbell-Smith, who headed up the Rockshield campaign, said: 'This is great news for Rockfield and the many thousands of people who have opposed the demolition.'

'However, it is time to get our sleeves rolled up and make sure the council does not close Rockfield by default, by not taking any action with the deteriorating state of the building.'

'We are already looking at other venues such as the Florrie in Liverpool, the Cargill Centre in Kilma-colm and we can see how successful they already are.'

The group is holding a public meeting in Oban Phoenix Cinema between 10 and 11 am on Saturday October 4, 2014.

Dog walking row lands up in court

A COUPLE holidaying in a caravan on Mull, who had a row over exercising the dog, ended up before the sheriff in Oban sheriff court.

Alisdair Bowen, 35, and Christine Coyne, 30, both Assynt Road, Inverness, had been staying at a caravan at Newdale caravan park, Tobermory on July 19 and spent the afternoon drinking in the town.

On Tuesday the court heard that on returning to the rented caravan, the couple had argued and the caravan park owners heard the row and called the police.

When police arrived they found a mirror and coffee table had been broken and the ceiling of the caravan damaged.

Bowen pleaded guilty to breaching the peace and was fined £360 while his partner of three years, Coyne, who pleaded guilty to wilfully destroying property, had her sentence deferred until January 6 to allow her time to pay for the cost of repairs.

Driver three times over legal limit

A DRINK driver has been banned from driving for four and a half years after admitting being three-and-a-half times the legal drink drive limit.

Alan Black, 36, McColls Terrace, Oban, was sentenced at Oban sheriff court.

On Tuesday he admitted for the committing the offence on August 12 at McColls Terrace.

Black was also ordered to carry out 180 hours of unpaid work in the community.

Affordable Oban homes is still a priority, says chief

MARIAN MILLER
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IT IS back to the drawing board for the Oban-based housing association that had planned to build a social housing complex on the former Rockfield school site.

Instead, Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), has to look at other options for spending the £5 million set aside for demolishing the former primary school and building

37 new homes, including 15 under the umbrella of 'care for the elderly'.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles councillors decided last week in favour of Oban Communities Trust's (OCT) bid to turn the Victorian building into a community and cultural hub.

A feasibility study for ACHA costing £24,000, and paid for via the council's strategic housing fund, had looked at refurbishing the B listed building and converting it into social housing.

However, that proved too costly and ACHA opted for demolishing Rockfield and building anew.

Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of ACHA, said: 'Clearly the association is disappointed because we put a lot of work into developing our proposals, but we respect the right of councillors to make decisions on the basis of the options they have before them.'

The project had been a priority in the association's plans for 2015-2018,

given the 659 applicants on the waiting list for an affordable home to rent in Oban.

He said Historic Scotland's guidelines allowed for the demolition of the building, if the plan was based on a sound economic and social case.

Mr MacGregor said: 'We have other options to look at. We still need to take them forward because we had been concentrating on Rockfield.'

He said it was difficult to be clear on what the other options might be

because ACHA did not own any sites in the Oban area and therefore it would involve talking to private developers about affordable housing.

'I think it will be early October before we can take anything forward,' he added. Mr MacGregor was, however, clear that the Oban area was still a priority for ACHA because of the enormous pressure on the waiting list.

'If the OCT's proposals do not meet preferred bidder status, then I think

it is difficult for ACHA to have a position of interest because we will have had to look at other options and move forward,' he said.

In his experience, he felt the time it would take for a business case to be drawn up and evaluated by the council could realistically take until the beginning of next year.

'We will hopefully have put alternative proposals forward which can go ahead linked to the association's new-build housing budget.'

Spotters set for Highland fling as express steams into Oban

STEAM train enthusiasts have the opportunity to see a famous express train this weekend in Oban as it tours the west coast.

The West Highlander Steam Express will be in Oban on this Saturday, September 20, as the train makes its way from Glasgow.

Because of the steepness of the hill out of Oban, two locomotives will haul the steamer to the summit.

The train leaves Oban to travel to Connel Ferry and Taynuilt, then back to Crianlarich, before heading up to Fort William, arriving just before 8pm.

Sunday sees the steamer make its journey to Mallaig and back, including the crossing of the Caledonian Canal at Banavie and running alongside Loch Linnhe, before heading across the Glenfinnan Viaduct, famously featured in the Harry Potter films.

After arriving at Mallaig and a short break, the train travels back to Fort William, hauled by The Great Marquess steam engine, before beginning the route back through Tyndrum and Crianlarich and back to Glasgow.

This section is part of the overall route from Preston, which starts on Friday, and will see the train return there on Monday night after leaving Glasgow in the morning.

For full train listings and prices, visit: www.railwaytouring.net.

Police come after non-payers as total unpaid fines hits £37,000

HIGHLANDS and islands police have launched a crackdown on people who have not paid their fines.

During the first week of the scheme, police targeted offenders as the collective debt from outstanding fines totalled £37,000.

Police are also tracking down criminals on warrants for crimes such as failure to appear in court, theft and drug offences.

Almost 200 people have been arrested so far through the operation and £5,000 of unpaid fines have been recovered.

Assistant chief constable Campbell Thomson, responsible for policing in the north of Scotland, said: 'The aim of this ongoing operation is to disrupt criminal activity, target criminals and prevent crime.'

'This visible and robust enforcement has supported communities throughout the north of Scotland.'

'Our activities though Operation DEKA will support the work we do day in, day out, to reduce the number of victims of crime and proactively focus on those criminals who are most prolific, commit most crime and cause the most issues within our communities.'

Busy weekend for Oban police as seven arrested in one day

OBAN police arrested seven people in four incidents last Saturday, all of whom have been reported to the procurator fiscal.

Three young men were arrested in the early hours of Saturday morning after ignoring advice from police to turn the music down in Dunollie.

The men aged 16, 17 and 18 were playing music at a high volume when officers were called to the address.

But the trio failed to heed a warning from police and officers forced entry to the property and arrested the youngsters.

Later on the same day, three men on the shores of Loch Awe, in two separate incidents, were brought to the attention of the police. The men were arrested after being found to be in possession of cannabis.

Later that evening, at 7pm, a 38-year-old driver believed to be twice over the legal limit was arrested by police in Connel.

Landowners turn out in force to forge closer links to council

A NEW initiative has been launched in the Western Isles to improve community land ownership in Scotland.

The scheme from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) and Community Land Scotland was created following a meeting of more than 50 landowners in Stornoway last week.

David Cameron, chairman of Community Land Scotland, said: 'This is the first time community landowners have come together with the council in such numbers to discuss how we can forge closer relationships and help deliver our shared aspirations for economic growth and community development in the islands. We want to build on the event by agreeing a shared agenda for practical action.'

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West Ardnamurchan

THE REMAINS of a possible Viking longhouse have been examined by archaeology enthusiasts in west Ardnamurchan. Members of Ardnamurchan Community Archaeology spent an afternoon investigating the site near Portuairk after officers of Archaeology Scotland identified it as a possible house. The group measured old stone structures and believe it to be an 18-metre curved wall, which Vikings could have placed their ship on to act as a roof, forming a longhouse. After the investigation, Jon Haylett of Ardnamurchan Community Archaeology said: 'The western wall didn't curve uniformly as it would have done had it followed the line of a Viking ship. Despite this, we still think this is a possible longhouse as it's situated exactly in the sort of place one would expect to find one and the site, tucked up against a steep slope, is ideally protected from the weather.'

Raasay

PUPILS and staff of Raasay primary school are appealing for photographs of the island for a commemorative calendar to mark the tiny school's 150th anniversary. Raasay is known as an isle of scenic views and teachers at the 10-pupil school are looking for images taken throughout the school's lifetime in all four seasons. Wilma Duncan, head teacher of Raasay primary school, said: 'If you or anyone you know has any photos of views of Raasay or from Raasay in winter, spring, summer and autumn then we'd love to have a look. E-copies of images would be okay. It would be interesting to see what photographic gems exist within the community and to bring these together to form a keepsake to sell which would commemorate 150 years of Raasay public/primary school.' Anyone with suitable images is asked to contact the school.

Western Isles

WESTERN Isles Development Trust (WIDT) is looking for ordinary members from across the islands to join its board. The charitable trust currently exists to distribute funds gained for community benefit from renewable energy installations, such as wind, wave and tidal technology. Four ordinary members are being sought, one each from Lewis, Harris, Uist and Barra. The idea is, as projects increase, to expand the trust's activities to support community ownership of large scale renewable energy infrastructure with the aim of tackling fuel poverty through access to locally generated 'green' electricity. Anyone interested in applying to be an ordinary member should contact WIDT at info@widt.co.uk or write to The Community Planning Unit, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Sandwick Road, Stornoway.

Loch Melfort

AN OPEN day at the Melfort polytunnel opening in August was a huge success despite inclement weather. When owner Yvonne Anderson agreed to open it up she hadn't realised how much interest there would be. She said: 'I made the date as late as possible, maximising the chance there would be something to see. In the end, my crops were certainly visible, but it was clear there was more to come. A show of promise more than deliverance. At the end of the 'open' weekend, I slid the doors shut and didn't venture in for ages. A mixture of relief and exhaustion, I think.'

Morvern

THE PEOPLE of Morvern have been awarded a grant from Highland Council to carry out maintenance in the area. The peninsula's community council received the £1,500 boost from a council discretionary fund at an area ward meeting last week.

Taynuilt

AN AGE old embroidery hidden in a loft has been reunited with its owners thanks to *The Oban Times*. Margaret and Allan Gallacher received the embroidery from Margaret Mears of Lanark, who was aware that relatives of the soldier who first sewed might be found through the paper. The silk embroidery was produced by Mrs Mears' late husband's brother Ian Gallacher, of Taynuilt, as a gift for his parents. Ian was sadly killed in an accident in service in the 1950s. After his death, Ian's wife returned with the children in Taynuilt to live with her parents who farmed in the area. Allan said: 'It was only recently we got an opportunity to take a photo with Margaret



EMBROIDERY: the silk work was taken to its rightful owners Margaret and Allan Gallacher

and the embroidery. We also took it to let Ian's surviving sisters Jean and Chrissie see it.'



PRESENTATION: two of the organisers, Dave Bleazard and Gus Brydon, present a £2,500 cheque to Les Stewart, treasurer of Oban lifeboat and crew members. The money was raised at the 2014 Oban sea kayak race and brings the total donated to the Oban lifeboat from this event since its first race in 2010 to £9,800

Kayak cash boosts Oban lifeboat

THE £2,500 raised at this year's Oban sea kayak race brings the total raised since 2010 to £9,800. Race organisers would like to thank the following businesses and individuals around Oban that supported this year's event: Piazza Italian Restaurant; Eusky Seafood Restaurant; Kronks Sandwich Deli; Julies Coffee House; Cuan Mor Restaurant & Bar; The Oban Kayak School; Orsay Gift Shop; Jackson Brothers Butchers; Outside Edge; The Iona Shop; Digital Kangaroo; Coastal Connections support RIB; Mathesons of Oban support RIB; Jonathan McAllister Freedom II, Fishing boat; Specsavers Oban; Nancy Blacks Chandlery; The Olive Garden Restaurant; R A Clements Accountants; Bossards Patisserie; Kilbowie Outdoor Centre venue and support RIB, Dr Erik Jespersen support RIB; Caley Fisheries Chandlery; George Street Fish & Chips; Craigard Décor; Sea Pebble Marketing and Argyll Kitchen Design Studio.

Exhibitors of all ages compete at St Oran's and Dunbeg flower show

A SUPERB day at St Oran's and Dunbeg Flower Show on September 6 saw a host of great exhibitors compete to be crowned champion.

Results: open section: four pansies, Black family trophy: 1 Ian Brown, 2 Ian Brown, 3 Ian Brown. Vase of herbaceous: 1 Duncan Black. Vase of annuals mixed: 1 and 2 Duncan Black. Vase of annuals, one kind: 1 Ian Brown, 2 Alan Pringle. Vase of sweet peas: 1 Ada Campbell, 2 Alan Pringle, 3 Rabbin MacKay. Three large cactus or decorative: 1 Ian Brown. One giant dahlia: 1 Ian Brown, 2 Ian Brown 3 Alan Pringle. Miniature ball dahlias: 1 Ian Brown. Ball dahlias small 1 Ian Brown, 2 Duncan Black, 3 Duncan Black. Small decorative, 1 Ian Brown 2 Ian Brown. Miniature decorative: 1 Ian Brown. Pom pom dahlias: 1 Ian Brown, 2 Duncan Black, 3 Duncan Black. Dahlias collarette 1 Ian Brown, 2 Duncan Black. Mixed varieties dahlia: 1 Ian Brown, 2 Ian Brown, 3 Ian Brown. Best dahlia, Jimmy Black trophy: Ian Brown. Two spikes gladioli: 1 Duncan Black. One spike gladioli: 1 Ian Brown, 2 Duncan Black. Vase of three roses: 1 Ian Brown. One rose, Catherine MacCallum trophy, 1 Ian Brown, 2 Ian Brown, 3 Duncan Black. Two long shaped potatoes: 1 Alan Pringle, 2 Achaleven primary school, 3 Barcaldine primary school. Two round shaped potatoes: 1 Alan Pringle, 2 Alan Pringle, 3 Isobel Grout. Two carrots: 1 Alan Pringle, 2 Barcaldine primary



WINNING SMILES: some of the children who won prizes at the St Orans and Dunbeg flower show

school. One cucumber: 1 Duncan Black, 2 Barcaldine primary school, 3 Achaleven primary school. Three tomatoes, Hugh MacPherson trophy: 1 Duncan Black. Duncan MacPherson trophy, collection of vegetables: 1 Rosie Campbell. Face on a plate: 1 Kenna Ferguson, 2 Rosie Campbell. Falls of Lora trophy: Rosie Campbell. Primary 1 to 3, arrangement of flowers: 1 Daniel Campbell, 2 equal Hannah Ferguson/Abbi Ferguson. Animal made from natural materials: 1 Hannah Ferguson, 2 Amy Irvine, 3 Millie Wassalidge. Painting of Queens Baton in Scotland: 1 Zara MacLeod, 2 Abbi Ferguson, 3 Hannah Ferguson. Campbell trophy, Hannah Ferguson. Primary 4 to 7 arrangement of flowers: 1 Innes Munro. Animal made from natural materials: 1 Ruaridh

Photograph: 1 Gillian Pringle, 2 Alan Pringle, 3 Pringle. Floral art: pre-school arrangement of flowers: 1 equal Rosie Campbell and Kenna Ferguson. Animal made from natural materials: 1 Rosie Campbell. Face on a plate: 1 Kenna Ferguson, 2 Rosie Campbell. Falls of Lora trophy: Rosie Campbell. Primary 1 to 3, arrangement of flowers: 1 Daniel Campbell, 2 equal Hannah Ferguson/Abbi Ferguson. Animal made from natural materials: 1 Hannah Ferguson, 2 Amy Irvine, 3 Millie Wassalidge. Painting of Queens Baton in Scotland: 1 Zara MacLeod, 2 Abbi Ferguson, 3 Hannah Ferguson. Campbell trophy, Hannah Ferguson. Primary 4 to 7 arrangement of flowers: 1 Innes Munro. Animal made from natural materials: 1 Ruaridh

MORVERN lines

Memorial reminder of rifle danger

THE DAY after tomorrow, September 20, is called in Gaelic, 'The Day of the Roaring', because on that day the red deer stag rutting season is said to start. The stag stalking season opens on July 1 and closes on October 20. During this period many hundreds of professional stalkers and their guests will have been out on the hill with high powered rifles taking the annual cull. It is estimated that deer stalking generates more than £100 million for the national economy. Greater safety consciousness among stalkers, training and advances in rifle design mean accidents are, happily, rare these days. However, that was not always the case. Two memorials in Lochaber remind us how dangerous rifles used to be if they were mishandled. On Glenquoich Estate, which lies between Invergarry and Loch Hour, there is an inscribed granite marker stone a few miles from Altheithe commemorating Adam Foster, a 'deer forester' who was accidentally killed in 1889, aged 37. The accident took place on a cold December morning when Adam and John Robertson, a stalker from Cluanie, were out hind shooting. Adam was about to take the shot when he decided his companion's rifle might be more suitable. As the rifles were being exchanged, John Robertson's went off and the bullet entered the back of Adam's neck, causing him to bleed to death almost immediately. Adam, whose family originated from Roxburghshire, left a widow and three young children. He was buried in nearby Arnisdale graveyard under a headstone aptly inscribed: 'And what I say unto all, watch. Mark 13:37'. Bullets are no respecter of rank or position, as is shown by a granite cross high up on the side of Gulvain, a steep-sided, 2,000-foot high mountain, overlooking Loch Arkaig on Achnacarry Estate. It marks the spot where the 25-year-old Earl of Dalkeith met his death while deerstalking on September 17 1886, as a guest of his uncle, Donald Cameron of Lochiel. Walter Dalkeith, the eldest son and heir of the 6th Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, left Achnacarry that morning with head stalker John Cameron and two ghillies, Alexander Chisholm and John MacDonald. The rifle they carried was a .450 double-barrelled Alex Henry Express. They travelled eight miles up Loch Arkaig on the estate steam yacht - appropriately called 'The Rifle' - and went ashore at the foot of Glen Camgarry on the south side of the loch. After a long, hard climb and a change in the wind direction, they eventually came within range of three stags late in the afternoon on the steep, west side of Gulvain, 2,000 feet above the glen. The Earl fired at one of them which disappeared over the ridge. He reloaded and ran forward to see what had happened. As he was making his way down the slope in search of the stag, he slipped on the wet grass and began to slide on his back, unable to stop himself. A few yards below and directly in his path, was a smooth, steep sloping rock. The Earl hit the rock with some force and fell over it, still holding the rifle with the muzzle pointing downhill. However, at this point either the butt or one of the hammers struck the rock causing the rifle to spin round facing him. The sudden jolt caused one of the barrels to go off and the bullet entered his left shoulder. The high velocity, hollow Express bullet, specially designed to 'mushroom' on impact, shattered his left shoulder blade and severed his axillary artery. Eighty minutes later the Earl was dead. So too was the stag which was found lying not far away. By this time darkness had fallen. One of the ghillies was sent to tell the captain of the steam yacht to return to Achnacarry for assistance. The ground was so steep and difficult that head stalker John Cameron and the one remaining ghillie, dared not move the body until about 3am when, by the light of the moon, they managed to carry it in their plaids down to the foot of the glen from where it was eventually transported to Achnacarry. The following week Walter was buried beside his grandfather in the family vault of St Mary's Chapel in the grounds of Dalkeith Palace.



MEMORIAL: Alex MacDonald beside the Earl of Dalkeith's cairn on Gulvain which his great grandfather helped to carry there in 1886

One year later, 34 stalkers and shepherds from Achnacarry Estate met in the snow by the side of Loch Arkaig to carry the granite cross, weighing more than half a ton, three miles up to the place where the Earl died. There it stands to this day - as much a tribute to those who laboured to get it there as to the nobleman whose life is commemorated. An eye is still kept on it by Donald Cameron of Lochiel's deerstalking tenant, Alex MacDonald, whose great grandfather, John Cameron, was with the Earl when he died and helped carry the memorial stone from Loch Arkaig-side. These two terrible events remind us that no advances in technology can replace the need for the safe-handling of rifles at all times and in all situations.

Iain Thornber
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Kilchrenan

THE ANNUAL guild sale at Kilchrenan was held recently with a good number of residents and visitors attending. Two visitors, Neil and Hazel Martin from Barcaldine, were paying a nostalgic visit to the church in Kilchrenan where they were married 17 years ago.



LUCKY: Neil and Hazel Martin with their Ardanaiseig hotel meal voucher

When they saw the poster for the sale they decided to take a look, although Neil was somewhat reluctant. Before leaving, they bought tickets for the treasure hunt; they had to place a pin on where the treasure was buried. To their surprise and delight they won the top prize - a meal for two at the prestigious Ardanaiseig Hotel - the hotel where they spent their honeymoon 17 years ago.



EXCITEMENT: crowds gather to greet The Princess Royal

Princess Royal cuts ribbon on Lochmaddy's flagship marina

A ROYAL visitor received a warm welcome in North Uist as she opened the area's first marina. More than 300 people gathered in Lochmaddy along the new marina to greet the Princess Royal as she cut the ribbon on the flagship project, part of the Crown Estate's drive to invest in coastal communities. The Comann Na Mara (CNM) 26-berth marina was built with the help of £410,000 of funding from the Crown Estate and more than 300 yachts from the UK and Europe have tied up on the pontoons in the first two months of operations. Local residents have reported that Lochmaddy's hotel, shop and arts centre have already seen thousands of pounds of benefits thanks to yachtsmen visiting the marina, which has light power and water, with a laundry, toilets and showers still to be installed. Accompanied by CNM chairman Gus Macaulay and company secretary and deputy lieutenant George MacDonald, Princess Anne walked along the pontoons to speak to local lifeboat crews and to the skipper of a visiting Finnish yacht. Mr Macaulay said: 'This great day marks the start of an exciting new era of marine tourism in Uist to which everyone can contribute and from which everyone can benefit.' Uist's strong musical traditions also accompanied the Princess on her visit, with a Gaelic psalm sung to her by three precentors, tunes from the two local pipe bands, Gaelic songs from the primary children and local musicians and a clarsach tune from 12-year-old Anna Maclain.

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MEMORIES: Lochside's youngest and oldest pupils, Aaron MacLellan and Shannon Gall, get ready to bury the school's 50th anniversary time capsule

Lochside top of the class for 50 years

PAST and current pupils of a Fort William primary school have been celebrating 50 years of learning. Children, staff and parents gathered at Lochside RC primary school on Friday to mark the golden anniversary which featured a mass, time capsule and balloon release. The morning mass of thanksgiving included readings from Monsignor James MacNeil, Father Roddy McAulay and Father Michael MacDonald. Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy also made a speech as one of the first pupils of Lochside. Afterwards, pupils released 100 gold balloons with name cards attached. It is hoped the cards will be posted back to say where they were found. The oldest and youngest Lochside pupils, Shannon Gall, primary seven, and Aaron MacLellan, primary one, buried a time capsule in the school grounds with photos, books, jotters and a school badge and tie inside. Lochside was open to visitors all day, with displays of old photos and memorabilia for past pupils and staff to enjoy and the celebrations ended with a ceilidh in the evening with music from Lochaber Pipe Band. Head teacher Violet Smith said: 'We were delighted to see many visitors throughout the day. They enjoyed looking at displays of photographs and memorabilia, visiting the classroom and a delicious buffet lunch. We were happy to answer their questions, to chat with them and to give guided tours around our school building and outdoor areas.' Charles Kennedy said: 'Lochside primary, or St Columba's as it was known in my days, could not occupy a more special place in my heart. It was built on land given over by my grandfather from the family crofts and I was part of its first primary one intake. For five decades it has served the generations so well and the past 21 years under head teacher Violet Smith have seen it grow in Highland and national prominence. It is a credit to Scottish education.' Pupils and staff of the school also created a celebratory magazine with photographs and memories from the 50 years. It is available to buy at the school office.

TWO-YEAR JAIL TERM FOR VILLAGE 'VETERAN' Fireman blazes a trail to prison

A LONG-SERVING fireman has been jailed for two years for deliberately starting two fires causing hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of damage. Fort William Sheriff Court heard on Tuesday that 40-year-old David MacKay helped colleagues fight both fires he started, one of which it was feared would engulf a village of 450 residents and took two days to extinguish. For battling one of the fires MacKay was paid double the hourly rate because it was a public holiday but denied under questioning that the call-out cash was what prompted him to torch the forests and moorland. Former long-term girlfriend Sheila Henderson, 31, a carer, gave evidence in court against MacKay telling police she saw his white van near the scene of one of the fires shortly before it started. The piper and drummer is now understood to be in a relationship with female firefighter Rowena Wilkes who lives near his parents. A member of his family confirmed outside the court that despite his refraining shame the pair were still an item. Twenty-one-year veteran MacKay was a crew manager and joint second-in-command of the 10-strong band of



SENTENCED: fireman David MacKay

starting a blaze a few days later, on April 1, in nearby Glen Tarbert, the fires destroying hundreds of acres of specially planted native trees. The earlier fire threatened Strontian itself and was two miles wide. However, MacKay of 8 Dal Nan Each, Strontian, overlooked the fact his Scottish Water van was equipped with a tracker system. And when suspicion fell on the white-van-man police intelligence analyst Craig Allen, 35, was able to produce a map for the jury putting the transit van at the correct time and place where and when the fires started. Carnoch Estate owner Steven Fox, 58, also told how from high on a hillside he spotted a white van leaving a layby in Glen Tarbert a few minutes before smoke and flames were seen near the layby. The jury at Fort William Sheriff Court took only an hour to find MacKay guilty by majority verdicts on both fires. Sentence was deferred until yesterday for a social work background report on MacKay and an estimate of the cost of the fires. Procurator Fiscal Ruairidh McAlister told Sheriff Mungo Bovey the cost to Forestry Commission-owned woodland was £42,000. He handed papers to the sheriff with the Carnoch Estate figure which the owner Steven Fox has already said is £750,000 of damage. Defence lawyer Rosalyn McTaggart said her client still maintained his innocence over the fire-raising. Due to the break-down of a long-term relationship, he was living with his supportive parents and trying to sell his house. He had never been in trouble with the police or courts before. As a result of the court case he had lost his jobs with both Scottish Water and the fire service. The solicitor handed the sheriff three character references on MacKay telling how he had raised money for charity. She claimed there was 'an outpouring of local community support' for MacKay. Jailing him for two years Sheriff Bovey said: 'I bear in mind you are a first offender and of a previous unblemished character. 'But these two events costing hundreds of thousands of pounds carried an inherent risk to others. 'The situation is aggravated by the fact you were paid to fight the fires.' Afterwards a spokesman for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service said: 'Our retained firefighters do an excellent job in protecting our communities. 'Mr MacKay was with the fire service for more than 20 years and all the good work he has done in that time has been ruined by his actions and his reputation has been destroyed. 'He has let himself, the service and his colleagues down and has been dismissed.' A Strontian resident said: 'He has got off quite lightly. The betting was that he would get two to four years. I feel sorry for his parents. They still believe he didn't do it.'

Biker, 45, dies in A82 Glencoe crash

A MALE motorcyclist died in a crash in Glencoe on Monday. The 45-year-old collided with a 4x4 on the A82 near the Kings House Hotel at around 12.30pm, closing the road in both directions for almost six hours. The female car driver spent the night in Belford Hospital, Fort William, for treatment to foot and leg injuries. A male passenger was also taken to hospital but was released after treatment to a rib injury. Motorists faced an extra 60 mile journey as they

were diverted along the A85 to Oban, rejoining the A82 at the Ballachulish roundabout. Police are appealing for information from anyone travelling in the area on Monday afternoon, particularly the occupants of a white camper van. Officers believe the driver or passengers may have seen the crash. A police spokesman said: 'Sadly, as a result of the collision, police can confirm that the 45-year-old motorcyclist has died as a result of his injuries. Next of kin have been

informed, but have asked that their privacy be respected at this time. 'Police Scotland are anxious to speak with drivers who were travelling on the A82 in the vicinity of Glen Etive about 12.30pm and are keen to trace the occupants of a white camper van who may have witnessed the collision. A report is being prepared for the procurator fiscal.' Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact local police by calling 101.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000

'Kicked out' of group claims councillor

THE FORMER head of Argyll College says he has been kicked out of Argyll and Bute council's ruling administration group. However, the leader of Argyll and Bute council has said 'growth' is difficult with people not willing to play by the same rules. Councillor Michael Breslin, an Independent politician, does not know the reason why he was dismissed - other than he would not 'renew his vows' with other councillors. A set of rules including not speaking out against the council and 'toeing the line' were produced by administration members of the council last month.

Representing Dunoon, Councillor Breslin said: 'Despite numerous requests to know what the consequences would be of not renewing my vows, Councillor Walsh emailed the administration members a week ago on Monday to tell them I was now out on my ear. 'This was a dishonest way to conduct business. 'I will now be submitting a formal complaint to the Ethics and Standards Commissioner about the plotters because I have been unable to get the matter resolved internally. 'They want me out, it appears, because they don't like being

challenged when that's necessary, and believe me that's more often than you might think.' Councillor Dick Walsh said: 'It is no secret that last year, for the first time in the history of local government in Argyll and Bute, we received critical reports specifically on member behaviour. 'This was a real wake-up call for us and it was time to face the facts. We needed to roll up our sleeves and get on with the job of restoring stability and security to the council. 'The facts now are that for the past year, the majority of colleagues have done just that. We have been working

together positively on an agreed action plan. 'We have sought commitment from members that they too are willing to put the interests of Argyll and Bute first. 'We have asked them to continue to work together, always for the good of Argyll and Bute and its people. 'This kind of commitment is vital so that Argyll and Bute can move forward and can build on its strengths and the stability already restored. 'It is difficult to see what part in this growth could be played by anyone who is neither willing nor able to make that commitment.'

Firm stripped of operator's licence

TORLUNDY haulage firm Lochaber Transport Ltd has been disqualified from holding an operator's licence for five years by the Traffic Commissioner for Scotland. This follows a public inquiry in May by the commissioner when a number of issues came to light as a result of investigations by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA). The commissioner also disqualified Stewart MacCallum of Onich, who was running the business which was in his son's name, from holding or obtaining an operator's or transport manager's licence for five years. He had previously had two licences revoked and an application for one refused. The company's former transport manager, Gordon Campbell, who resigned in April 2013 and did not attend the inquiry, was disqualified for three years. Matters investigated related to Mr MacCallum's personal financial position, the commissioner not being informed of changes to the company, maintenance standards, a vehicle operating without a tax disc and the firm's relationship with an operator who had been disqualified indefinitely by a deputy traffic commissioner. Joan Aitken, Traffic Commissioner for Scotland, said, following her findings: 'Stewart MacCallum's personal insolvency and precariousness explain why his son's name was used for this company and why other persons' names were used over the years of the licence. 'I have no doubt that this licence was used as the vehicle whereby Stewart MacCallum returned to operating vehicles in a corporate entity. 'From previous revocations he would know that a licence holder had to be of continuing financial standing and that his involvement would draw attention.' She added: 'Mr MacCallum has let all of us down due to his proximity to [the disqualified operator] and the failure to keep proper records of vehicles, drivers, and drivers' hours and to check if drivers were working for others.'

ARGYLL AND BUTE REMEMBERS

Commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War

Saturday 20th September 2014
Parade of Remembrance
North Pier, Oban—1.30pm

Commemoration Service,
at Corran Halls, Oban—2.00pm

Join military veterans, serving members of the armed forces, community groups and others from all over Argyll and Bute to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War

All welcome

Organised by the Argyll and Bute World War 1 Commemorations Steering Group, which includes representatives from the Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Royal British Legion Scotland, local community groups and businesses, and Argyll and Bute Council

Heather heads up search for best green project



ONTO A WINNER: former BBC Scotland meteorologist, known affectionately by fans as Heather 'the weather' Reid, was joined by a buzzy bee and ribbiting frog to kick-off the search for Argyll's best green community idea

HEATHER 'the weather' is urging community groups across Argyll to enter A Grand Green Idea, for their chance to win £1,000 to help bring their green initiative to life. A partnership between World Wildlife Fund Scotland and People's Postcode Lottery, A Grand Green Idea is challenging community groups, schools and social clubs to come up with an idea that will benefit their local environment. This year's competition has two main categories; climate and energy, which could include funding a community wind turbine to insulating a local Scout hut; and wildlife and nature - which could range from clearing pondweed from a local stream, to creating an insect habitat like a 'bee hotel'. This year will see a finalist from each category receive £1,000 to bring their idea to life and an overall winner receiving an additional £1,000. Heather Reid, a former meteorologist at the BBC, said: 'This is a great opportunity for people to think about their local surroundings.' The competition hopes to convey that small ideas can make a big difference within Scotland's communities. The winners of last year's competition, Fife-based Community Led Environmental Action for Regeneration wowed judges with their urban orchard project. To enter, visit www.wwfscotland.org.uk/grandgreenidea before October 5.

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Wednesday 24 September 2014
Colonsay - 7.00pm - 8.00pm (Colonsay Village Hall)

Thursday 25 September 2014
Oban - 4.00pm - 5.00pm (Corran Halls)

Friday 26 September 2014
Kilmelford - 9.00am - 9.30am
Balvicar - 10.00am - 10.30am
Easdale Island - 11.30am - 12.30pm
Ellenabech - 1.00pm - 1.30pm
Toberonochy - 3.20pm - 3.50pm
Cullipool - 4.15pm - 4.45pm

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JOIN US ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26 2014 FOR OUR BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR AND HELP PEOPLE LIVING WITH CANCER



Why be part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning?

Macmillan Cancer Support helps improve the lives of people affected by cancer.

There are currently two million people living with cancer in the UK. By 2030 there will be four million. We want to make sure we're there for all of them.

One in three of us will get cancer and for most it will be the toughest thing we ever face.

When you're facing the toughest fight of your life, you need a team of inspiring people in your corner with you. That's what Macmillan Cancer Support is.

We provide medical, emotional, practical and financial support and we push for a better cancer care system. We are the team that gives you the strength and energy to face the fight and get through it.

Having a coffee morning is a great excuse to get together with those we cherish. And in making time for what really matters, you'll also be making time for Macmillan to help people affected by cancer.

How much Macmillan time can we create together this year?

£25 pays for a Macmillan nurse to support a family affected by cancer for one hour.

£138 pays for three hours of confidential support and information for anyone with questions or concerns about cancer.

£61 pays for four hours for a Macmillan benefits adviser to help someone struggling with the costs of cancer.

£181 could pay for a Macmillan social worker or family support worker for a day, helping people manage the social and practical problems of living with cancer.

£278 could keep a Macmillan information and support centre stocked for a month with all the resources it needs to support people affected by cancer.

£370 could pay for the hire of a room for a year so a self-help and support group could hold regular meetings.

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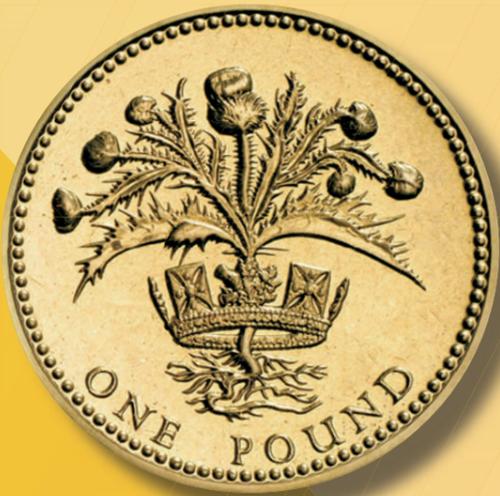
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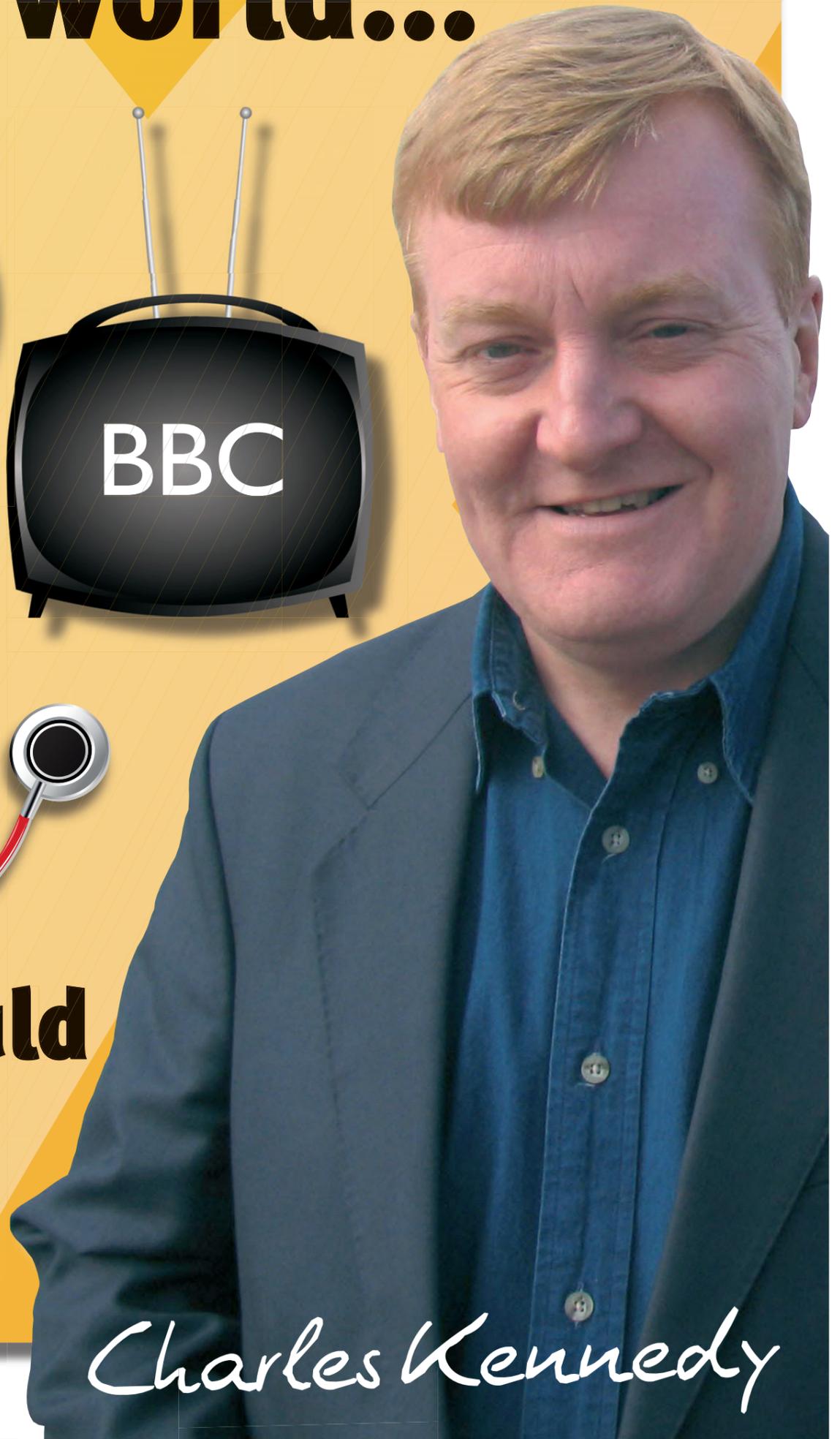
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Charles Kennedy



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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Accept the democratic will with good grace

Today is a defining moment in the story of Scotland. Indeed, it is the very stuff of history. As we march in our millions to the polling stations either full of passion and fervour or impelled by a sense of duty and tradition, one thing is for certain: the political topography of this country and of these isles will never be the same.

Change, in whatever forms it takes, is in the air; the status quo, according to the pundits, is no longer an option. With a record number of the people both here in the west Highlands and throughout the country registering an intention to vote, we seem to be entering uncharted waters. This is, it could be argued, the perfect example of 'democracy max'.

No one can deny that the referendum vote has engaged the people of this country to such a remarkable level; it has breathed new life into what seemed a moribund political process. The exchanges between the rival camps have been exhilarating, exciting, lively, robust and exhausting.

However, when the dust has finally settled and all the brouhaha and tumult has settled down, it is equally imperative that we accept the democratic verdict of the people with good grace.

Those on the winning side must show a degree of 'magnanimity and the losers demonstrate a graciousness. Courtesy and consideration are the watchwords which will help make this a truly remarkable and historic moment in Scotland's history.

GLASGOW LETTER

Ceol's Craic

CEOL'S Craic, in association with An Lochran, gets its new session underway on Saturday September 27 in the CCA, Sauchiehall Street.

The opening concert will be an American night celebrating the connections between traditional Gaelic song and the musical genres which combine to make what is now known as Americana - blues, country, bluegrass, gospel and rock'n roll.

The programme will get underway at 7.30pm when the Veloninos, with a long standing love of rock'n roll will perform numbers from their forthcoming debut album.

Then, at 8.15pm, Laura Beth Slater, a singer and mandolin player from Lincolnshire, will be collaborating with Darren MacLean, a double Mod Gold Medalist.

At 9.30pm, Murdigan MacDonald, one of the leading exponents of the unique country/Gaelic crossover scene, will perform Gaelic interpretations of country classics as well as original compositions. For this he will be backed by the Anna Fraser Ceilidh Band.

Children are welcome at this event until 10pm and the Ceol's Craic special menu is available from 6pm.

When they first started in the CCA, concerts took place in the restaurant downstairs but are now located in the comfortable theatre on the upper floor.

Earlier in the week in the CCA, on Tuesday evening at 6.30pm, there will be a bilingual illustrated talk on rock'n roll in Glasgow from 1957-64 with Eddie Cavin.

Ceilidh scene

IT WAS a busy weekend on the local association ceilidh scene.

Comun an Taobh an Iar was first up with its event in Milngavie and the organisers were delighted with the attendance.

Entertainment was provided by singers Ainsley Hamill, Linda MacCallum, Norman MacKinnon and Calum Ross, fiddler Ryan Young and piper Graham Richardson with the evening being convened by Peter MacDonald.

The following evening, in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, Ainsley and Ryan again performed for the Clydebank and District Highlander's Association.

Charlie MacColl, who was chairman, and his friend Jimmy Cameron travelled down from Lochaber to

maintain their strong link and affection for the 'Bankies' and they were rewarded with a good attendance.

Others providing the entertainment were Scots singer Ann Hepburn and piper Robert Wood with Charlie's son Calum playing accordion selections being an extra bonus on the programme.

There was even some nostalgia for ceilidh goers of a past era with a rendition by president Christine Buchanan and her sister Dorothy Kennedy of one of the favourites of their uncles Angus and Arthur MacIver.

Stirling ceilidh venue switch

PLEASE note the first ceilidh of the Stirling branch of An Comun Gaidhealach on Saturday September 20 at 7.30pm will take place in Logie Kirk Hall, Causewayhead, and not at the usual venue.

The programme will be sustained by members of both Stirling senior and junior Gaelic choirs.

Albert Halls, Stirling

JULIE Fowlis and her band will be playing at the Albert Halls in Stirling on Saturday September 27 and will perform music from her latest album, Gach Sgeul (Every Story).

Keeping up the Uist connection, the evening's programme will also feature piper Fred Morrison.

Diary dates

Friday September 19: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Ceilidh, Crawford Hall, Partick, 7.45pm.

Saturday September 20: Stirling branch An Comunn Gaidhealach - see above.

Tuesday September 23: Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72A Waterloo Street, 8pm - Dana and Susan Robinson. Ceol's Craic - see above.

Saturday September 27: Ceol's Craic - see above. Albert Halls, Stirling - see above. Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

TRAIL West will be playing in the Park Bar on both Saturday and Sunday with Eriskay Lilt there on Friday. In the Islay Inn it will be Gunna Sound on Friday and Parting Glass on Saturday.

Neil Murray, Telephone 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.



Morris touring car getting lifted onto Mull ferry - 1963

This week's flashback photograph was taken by John Batey and shows a Morris Tourer car being loaded onto the Mull ferry in Oban in 1963. John was staying in a self catering department owned by Fiona Wyllie of Arduaine. Prints or emails of flashback photos should be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone who wishes a print returned must supply a stamped, addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Think again over council tax rise

Sir, Councillor Donald Kelly wants to increase Council Tax to help lessen the impact of council cutbacks and generate an extra £250,000 for Argyll and Bute Council to spend in Oban.

Has councillor Donald Kelly forgotten the multi million pounds Argyll and Bute underpays this century?

If so Mr Kelly, try paying your own expenses on a working persons income and think again.
Howard MacAuley, Oban.

Aghast at flu vaccine plan for children

Sir, I was aghast at seeing the heading 'Flu vaccination on offer to children'.

Is NHS Highland offering the vaccination (nasal) to the children without consulting the parents/carers of said children 'between the ages of two and 11'? Surely not.

Dr Abhayadevi Tissington, immunisation organiser for NHS Highland, said: 'The vaccination programme being rolled out in the Highlands will help protect children and stop the spread of nasty flu viruses which can lead to serious health problems.'

This vaccine is not necessarily harmless. Unlike the adult flu vaccine which contains thimerosal, FluMist (FluMist) does not but instead has live virus which cannot be guaranteed not to contain avian virus, developed in chick kidney cells.

It appears to spread the live

viruses into the environment through the side effects of runny nose which can last up to 21 days, effectively spreading the flu not preventing it.

The children and young people who receive the vaccine actually become contagious and a risk to the vulnerable sub-groups, the very young, the immunologically compromised and the old that the programme according to Mr Abhayadevi is allegedly supposed to be protecting.

In most years this will be to strains that would not have proliferated anyway.

But there is a giant positive - in 2013 the vaccine manufacturer MedImmune and Wyeth expected to push MedImmune's revenues to more than \$1 billion/year.

Angus Files, father of vaccine damaged child.

Excellent new hospital menus

Sir, Just when I thought the meals at Lorn and Islands Hospital were already excellent, in came the new menus offering even more choices for breakfast.

I recommend the porridge. I would like to highlight the vital role the kitchen staff play in helping patients to recover.

When I had no appetite at all, the tasty, well-presented food tempted me to try at least a little. As I recovered, the meals became a highlight of the day.

In addition, the occasional home-baked treats on the tea trolley - shortbread, cakes and scones - were a great boost to morale.

Sheila Barnard, Tobermory.

Professional, caring ward staff

Sir, I recently spent nearly a month in Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, and have nothing but the highest praise for the diligence, professionalism and humour of the ward staff.

I recognise there are former patients whose experiences will have been different from mine, but I do know that it affects the morale of the staff when adverse comments appear in your correspondence column.

I wish by this merely to add to those many letters containing favourable comments which you have already published.

Reverend Christopher (Kit) Jarman, Oban.

Looking for McAlindens/Johnsons

Sir, My great grandfather was called James Johnson.

He was born in 1831 and lived in Abbeyleix, County Laois, Ireland.

He was married to Julia Horan, born 1864 and they had a large family.

Their oldest child was my grandfather, James Johnson, born 1884.

The family lived in an area known as 'The Island' outside of the town of Abbeyleix.

My grandfather married Mary Maher and lived in Abbeyleix for all his married life.

He had two sisters Mary, known as Molly, born 1893, and Julia, born 1895.

These two sisters emigrated to Scotland as young women.

One of them married a man called Mr McAlinden, but I do not know if the other sister married. I do know they lived in Oban and Clydebank.

If you think that you might be related to me, or know of any of the above people please contact me at the addresses below.

Pete Johnson
peter.penator@gmail.com

Parking policy is unwelcoming

Sir, I was recently on a short trip to Oban and made a visit to the Congregational Church.

I parked in the adjacent car park at Tweeddale Street where a council worker was making a real effort to tidy up all the weeds and rubbish.

I thanked him for his work - he was making a great effort.

I then paid a visit to the church, on the way out I met a friend who had recently had an operation for breast cancer. We chatted for a while. The whole time I was worried about getting back to my car to save myself from a £60 fine.

Some council workers are promoting the town while others do nothing more than making people feel unwelcome. I think we need to think about parking.

Unless someone starts to make it easy to be in the town centre - people will simply go elsewhere or worse still do all their shopping on line.

I have read, again in *The Oban Times*, about Graham Fraser's plan for a locals' parking ticket and I think this sort of idea is to be lauded. I hope the council is listening.

Jan Maxwell, Soroba Road, Oban.

ISLAY LETTER

Priest to retire

THE REVEREND Ken Skipper, non-stipendiary priest at St Columba Scottish Episcopal Church, Bridgend, is to retire at the end of the month.

He will conduct his final service, which will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion, at the Glen Road church on September 28.

Ken took over his island duties 16 years ago after he and his family moved to Bowmore following his retirement from his Northumberland Episcopal charge. During that time he has served the island church with devotion and spiritual support and he will be greatly missed by the small but faithful congregation.

Scottish Episcopalians have had a worshipping presence on the island for close on 130 years.

The moving force behind the provision of the Bridgend church was Canon T C Wakefield, Rector of St Kieran's in Campbelltown, and the present building was opened and consecrated for worship in 1888. By the early 1930s, decreasing numbers saw a decline in its function and the building was little used and began to structurally deteriorate.

This led to the congregation worshipping at the Mission Church of the Good Shepherd in Bowmore, but the arrival of new blood on the island in the early 1960s saw a revival of interest in the Bridgend church and a number of improvements

were carried out. The Bowmore Mission church ownership passed to the local authority and became a centre for a number of local organisations. It is now privately owned.

Currently, further improvements are being carried out at the St Columba Church, locally known as the 'Red Church' because of its distinctive roof tiling, and when these are completed the congregation hopes the premises will be used by local community groups. At present the building accommodates the worshipping needs of the island's Roman Catholic congregation.

Meantime, everyone wishes Ken a long and happy retirement.

Pre-Mòd concert

LOCAL children who will shortly strut their stuff at the Royal National Mòd in Inverness previewed their competition pieces before an enthusiastic audience in Bowmore primary school on Friday.

The event was set in motion by Bowmore primary school Gaelic choir which performed under the direction of Arlene McKerrrell deputising for regular conductor Clare Jordan. Arlene was also at the helm of Còisir Og Ghàidhlig Ile in their two-part harmony, unison and pìur a beul spots.

Songs and poems were delivered by Lauren Morris, Maggie and Morven Brown, Emily and Liam Gray, Rachel Johnston and Anna Mitchell

and the featured soloists were Elizabeth Aitchison, Isabel Ferguson, Iona Scott, Kayla Woodrow and Lewis Davey. Ryan Johnston played the tin whistle and the solo verse speakers were Orla Davidson, Diura Patterson and Harry Wells.

This was an evening of tuneful and lively entertainment performed with great gusto by the youngsters and greatly enjoyed by those in attendance.

Everyone wishes them, and all the other Mòd competitors, every success as they tread the boards in Inverness in October.

Lagavulin jazz festival

VISITORS who flocked to the island for the Lagavulin jazz festival 2014 enjoyed the Indian summer weather as much as the music on offer in seven venues over three nights.

Among a host of top names in the musical genre were the Gramophone Jazz Band, the Champion Fulton Trio and the Donny McCaslin Quartet.

Jazz giants making a return visit included Tommy Smith and Brian Kellock and adding to the enjoyment were local cool cats '95 Roots', the Lyndon Anderson Band and Colin Steele's Melting Pot.

The festival, now in its 15th year, is sponsored by Lagavulin Distillery and is promoted by Jazz Scotland in conjunction with Islay Arts Association.
Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Telephone 01496 810658.



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

GE B' E DÈ A THACHRAS anns an taghadh beachd an-diugh, tha mi fhìn mar iomadh neach eile le dòchas dùrachdach nach lean argamaid is aìmhreit air gach taobh. Feumaidh daoine gabhail ri rùn an t-sluaigh ged a bhios an co-dhùnadh tàmailteach dha taobh air choreigin.

Tha mi a' creidsinn gum bheil da-rìribh a' mhòr-chuid air gach taobh den deasbad seo a' sìreadh na slighe as fheàrr air adhart do dh'Alba, agus chanainn gum bi sin a' ciallachadh modh agus spèis eadarainn.

Nuair a bhruidhinn bull ann an Comhairle Shiorrachd Obair Dheathain an aghaidh inbhe a thoirt dhan Ghàidhlig san sgìre sin, thug mòran tarraing air cho mi-ionchaidh 's a bhiodh e Gàidhlig a chur air toiseach air Doric. Ach chan e taic dhan Ghàidhlig seach Doric a thathas a' moladh, agus tha làn-chòir agus cothrom aig a' Chomhairle sin obrachadh gus cultar Alba a thoirt air adhart cho math ri dualchas Gàidhlig na sgìre. Tha gun teagamh mòran a' cleachdadh Doric nam beatha làitheil ann an Siorrachd Obair Dheathain agus tha e nàdarach gu leòr gum biodh iad a' sìreadh taic is adhartachadh dhan dualchas sin. Ach ma tha dòchas gu bhith aca air adhartas, feumaidh an iomairt leasachaidh tighinn bhon choimhearsnachd aca fhèin agus chan eil mi cinnteach gum bheil sin air nochdadh fhathast. Fad bhliadhnaichean ag obair an co-bhuinn ri luchd-taice Alba, shaoil mi gum robh mòran nach robh idir a' tuigsinn an obair mhòr leantainneach a bh' againn ann an saoghal na Gàidhlig mus deach aonta fhaotainn air inleachdan adhartais. Cha robh is chan eil e gu leòr a ràdh gum bheil còir aig Alba air co-ionannachd taice ris a' Ghàidhlig, feumaidh an luchd-taice an toiseach aontachadh nam measg fhèin ciamar as fheàrr dhaibh gluasad air adhart.

Ged a tha dùbhlain mhòra ann an obair-leasachaidh na Gàidhlig, tha dol againn air cùisean a chur air adhart ann an leithid seirbheis foghlaim tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig le aithne agus spèis dha dualchaintn sgìreil. Bhiodh e gu tur càrr na mo bheachd-sa gun d' rachadh milleadh sam bith a dhèanamh air rud a tha a' sònrachadh coimhearsnachd sam bith, agus mar a tha aithnichte gu h-eadar-nàiseanta, tha foghlam bunaiteach ann am beatha chànanain sam bith. Saoilidh mi fhìn gum bheil e nas duilghe buileach plana coileanta a dhealbhadh Alba far am bheil umhir de mheagan ri chluinntinn feadh Alba eadar Sealtainn agus na Crìochan.

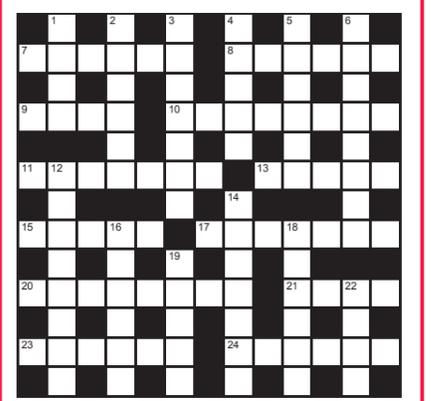
IT IS DISAPPOINTING to see renewed criticism of Gaelic language development in some newspapers and it seems particularly unfortunate that this has been triggered by elected members of Aberdeenshire Council debating their own Council's draft Gaelic Language Plan.

Aberdeenshire does have a Gaelic heritage so this is not some foreign language being imposed on the area, and neither is it being proposed instead of any initiative which the council might wish to take on Doric.

Aberdeenshire is fortunate to be home to two unique Scottish cultures which it should support with pride!
Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

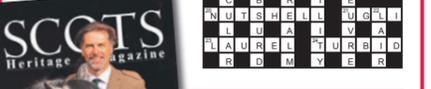
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- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Across | Down |
| 7 Punishing stick (6) | 1 Bowed (4) |
| 8 Oust (6) | 2 Top (6) |
| 9 Any thing (4) | 3 Mean spirited (7) |
| 10 Intensity of feeling (8) | 4 Horse comb (5) |
| 11 To spiritually cleanse (7) | 5 Regard with respect (6) |
| 13 Awry (5) | 6 Drowsiness (8) |
| 15 With the shorter part facing (3,2) | 12 Eccentric (8) |
| 17 Hair dresser (7) | 14 Label (7) |
| 20 Fruitful (8) | 16 Car fluid container (6) |
| 21 Dropping sound (4) | 18 Deadly (6) |
| 23 Oriental market place (6) | 19 All excited (5) |
| 24 Canine's coat (6) | 22 A product of protein metabolism, could be used as a fertilizer (4) |

LAST week's SOLUTION



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The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

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

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Musicians celebrate festival's 40 years

TALENTED musicians gathered in Fort William to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Lochaber Music Festival, as artists from the past four decades returned to perform.

It was standing room only in the Nevis Centre as traditional music, fiddles and accordion sat happily alongside jazz trumpet and piano, as did classical oboe and violin and cello with Gaelic songs and piping.

The line up included Royal National Mod gold medalists Robert Robertson and Eilidh Davies as well as up and coming talent from Lochaber Schools Pipe Band and Lochaber Music School. Margaret Sargent, vice chairwoman of Lochaber Music Festival Association, said: 'The concert surpassed all our hopes and expectations. It was a wonderful evening and our magnificent musicians came from as far away as London to perform. They were so pleased to take part even though some could not stay to hear the whole concert.'

'We have been overwhelmed by their generosity and enthusiasm. They are true musical ambassadors for Lochaber and we can be immensely proud of them.'

TALENTED: Sgoil Chuil Loch Arba of Lochaber Music School performed a selection of traditional songs 20_1389a101

Group seeks public views on woodland

A COMMUNITY group in Lochaber is seeking views from the public about a proposal to buy woodland in the area.

Glengarry Community Woodland Group applied to the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS) to purchase 30.5 hectares of land following massive support within the community and the plan will now go to full consultation.

The group say the purchase will allow them to use the woodland for public benefit and is open to suggestions of its use.

Grace Grant of Glengarry Community Woodland Group said: 'It would be wonderful if we could create a few new jobs and even eventually build a couple of houses for local key workers.'

'Other small communities have done this kind of thing successfully and with our community fully behind us we are sure it can be done. This is not a lobbying occasion but a chance for them [the public] to question us in some more depth about our intentions and to gauge whether they think we have both the financial expertise required in place and the commitment to manage the land in a sustainable way.'

'It is also to find out what the plans are for the site and what development we envisage taking place over the next five years.'

Details of the application can be viewed online at www.forestry.gov.uk/nfls and all comments must be submitted by Wednesday October 1.

Responses and comments should be sent to Malcolm Wield, Forestry Commission Scotland, Highland Conservancy, 'Woodlands', Fodderty Way, Dingwall, Ross-shire, IV15 9XB or to malcolm.wield@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Owners defend plan to flatten old school

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

OWNERS of an 18th century school in Ardgour have defended the decision to demolish the building, despite wide opposition to the proposal.

Kingairloch Estate, owned by Susan Larson and her mother Angela Yeoman, asked the council's planning department for permission to knock down the former Kingairloch school at Camusnacroise and replace it with a modern dwelling house but objectors say it is of historic value as it is thought to date back to 1770.

In March, the owners lodged a similar application but after 11 objections the Highland Council's historic environment team said the building was of 'local and regional importance' and the application was withdrawn. Last month the estate reapplied after making slight changes to the design of the new house, to look more like the original building.

In the month since the planning application was submitted, 12 formal objections have been lodged but Ms Larson said Kingairloch Estate would benefit from a 'rebuild rather than restore' due to structural problems in the cottage, including extreme damp, cracks in the stonework and poor foundations.

She added: 'My father, John Yeoman, charged me with the



UP FOR DEMOLITION: the old school at Kingairloch

caretaking of Kingairloch. One of his stipulations was to ensure the protection and safe-keeping of Kingairloch as it neighboured the super quarry at Glensanda which he developed. Since 1999, each property has slowly and carefully been restored in line with modern building regulations to make them fit for any purpose. I plan to continue with this current planning application as this exposed beautiful site will benefit from an insulated, dry, two bed cottage beautifully furnished with access for all.'

The school is known nationally for its connection with Scottish novelist Robert Louis Stevenson,

particular significance'. The school has also been used as a manse, house and ceilidh venue over the years.

Former Highland Council leader Dr Michael Foxley was one objector to the plan.

He said: 'I am dismayed this application has been resubmitted virtually unchanged.'

'This is a historic building within the community that existed in Kingairloch until it was extinguished by the current owners in favour of holiday homes. A primary school in Kingairloch featured in *Kidnapped*, which most people would regard as a unique letting point. This is an important part of the local history of Ardgour and Morvern and deserves protection with future use.'

Local historian Iain Thornber added: 'The demolition of the existing building will be a significant loss in both historical and cultural value, not only to Lochaber but the whole Highland area.'

'Its architecture and recorded past is part of our national heritage and the case for its removal has not been made.'

'There is no reason why this small building cannot be fully restored and for these reasons I earnestly urge the planning committee to reject the application.'

Highland Council's planning committee is expected to discuss the application in October.

Kerry's delight over short film event role

A COMMONWEALTH athlete returned to her home of South Uist to host a national short film competition at her former school.

The Gaelic event, FilmG, launched recently for a seventh year at Sgoil Lionacleit on the Isle of Benbecula, by Kerry MacPhee, the first person from the Western Isles to compete in the Commonwealth Games.

This year's theme 'Gealladh', (promise, vow or wager) is something Kerry herself can relate to, having vowed to be the best she can be to get herself to the top of her sport. Kerry used her meeting with the pupils at Sgoil Lionacleit on September 5 to encourage young people to pursue their dreams so they, too, can make it to the top, no matter the discipline.

She said: 'I want to try and instil confidence in young people so they believe in themselves and follow their dreams.'

'I'd like to thank FilmG for inviting me. It's great to be part of an exciting Gaelic project for young people and I really enjoyed being a model for one of this year's theme posters.'

Since its launch in 2008, FilmG has encouraged young people and adults to pick up their cameras and explore their creative talents in conjunction with the use of the Gaelic language.

BARRY'S SIGHTS SET ON HALF MARATHON Lochaber runner defies disease to cash in for Parkinson's UK

A LOCHABER man diagnosed with Parkinson's disease at an unusually young age is to run a half marathon to set a positive example to other sufferers.

Barry Moran, 40, from Glenachulish, was diagnosed earlier this year but wants to lead as normal a life as possible and to keep his fitness up to fight the disease.

He is to run the Great Scottish Run half-marathon in Glasgow on October 5 and has already more than trebled his initial fundraising target.

Barry, who lives with his wife and two sons, explained: 'I felt weakness and stiffness in my right arm as much as two years ago but by the start of this year the stiffness had progressed to my back and leg, as well as pain in my neck and shoulder, all on one side of my body. I had also developed a tremor and shaking in my right hand and arm, and muscle spasms in my leg, which prompted me to visit my GP.'

'My GP referred me to a neurologist in Inverness and brain scans quickly diagnosed Parkinson's disease, which at the time was devastating.'

Barry, who works as a chef offshore for an oil company, kept active before his diagnosis, running and cycling in his spare time, and after getting over the initial shock, decided to carry on exercising and eventually to do the half marathon to raise funds and awareness of the disease. He said: 'It was quite a shock to the system but part of the reason I'm doing this is, the

neurologist said to keep active and a healthy lifestyle and I'll give anything a try.'

'I'd been running for a few years and stopped when I got my diagnosis then thought 'this is stupid' and decided to carry on.'

'I set myself a £300 target and I'm already above the £1,000 mark; my dad alone raised £850 from people at his work at Glensanda quarry so I really am going to smash my target.'

All money raised from the half marathon will go directly to Parkinson's UK, which funds support through specialist nurses and funds research into finding a cure.

Donations can be made through Barry's JustGiving page: www.justgiving.com/BarryMoran



FUNDRAISER: Barry Moran, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's at age 39, will run the half marathon to raise funds and awareness for the disease

Skye beach pontoon plan sparks worldwide protest

HUNDREDS of people from all over the world have joined a campaign to stop a proposed pontoon on a 'precious' Skye beach.

Locals and visitors to Elgol have reacted in horror to the plan, which is still at the consultation stage, and almost 500 people have signed an online petition with signatures from Germany, New Zealand and Australia adding to local objectors.

The proposal by Highland Council is to install a floating pontoon on the sandy beach to be used in the busy summer season and moved elsewhere in the winter.

Rosalind Lamond from Elgol started a social media campaign to have the plan scrapped.

She said: 'Locals and visitors will appreciate how special our wee beach is. This page has been created as a voice for people to support our community in an effort to stop the Highland Council defacing our village and precious little bit of sand.'

Iain Stephenson of Skye called the proposal 'unthinkable'.

He added: 'As a local independent walking guide and tour operator, I bring many visitors to Elgol. Most of them use the boat services there. None of them feel that the jetty is inadequate and almost all of them are amazed by the perfect little beach with its clear water. The beach is a great resource and although it's small, Skye is not over endowed with such fine sand.'

John Dargie, from Aberdeen, said anything which could spoil the beauty of the harbour should be prevented.

He added: 'The inherent nature and beauty of the west coast, especially the Isle of Skye, is a national treasure. If we over develop this area now we will look back in 30 years with sorrow.'

A Highland Council spokeswoman said: 'The council is consulting with stakeholders and the community on a proposal to install a seasonal pontoon at Elgol to relieve congestion. No definite plans or proposals are in place to progress this idea as the council is still consulting.'

Anyone who wishes to comment is asked to email harbour manager Tony Usher at tony.usher@highland.gov.uk

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Primary 1s-in the picture



Kilchuiemen primary school in Fort Augustus' eight new pupils



Tobermory primary school's intake for this year on Mull



Arrochar primary school's primary ones



The new primary one pupils at Crianlarich Primary school; Emily, Archie, Lewis and Alfie, whose teacher is Mrs Allison Ward



The new primary one pupils at Tiree Primary school



Lochnell Primary school in Benderloch has 17 new primary one pupils this term



Both the English and Gaelic medium primary ones at Leverhulme Memorial School, Harris



Smiling faces from Bea and Charlie, the new primary ones at Strath of Appin Primary School in Appin.

Oban waterfront project progress

THE OBAN Bay waterfront enhancement project is another step forward after Argyll and Bute council approved the business cases for major improvements last week.

Funded through the CHORD initiative, the full business cases (FBCs) for both the public realm enhancements and the new north pier maritime visitor centre were approved on Wednesday September 10 at Oban, Lorn and the isles area committee.

Work is expected to begin on the north pier in January 2015 with the demolition of the 'White Building', with construction of the new facility estimated to take nine months.

The public realm work will be split into two phases, with Stafford Street being developed first from October 2014 to April 2015 and the remainder of the project being developed between May 2015 and May 2016. The new facility on the north pier will feature a circular gathering space covered by a timber and glass canopy, and will include a pier office, additional public toilets and showers, secure lockers, storage and laundry, a waiting area for coach parties and cruise ship passengers and a covered event space.

The improvements will encompass all of Stafford Street as well as extending into George Street, Queen's Park Place and Station Square.

The improvements to Stafford Street will provide a terrace to sit and view the bay, a flexible space with power and wi-fi for small events, and shelter with inlaid artwork and ornamental colour changing LED lighting, in keeping with the scheme at McCaig's Tower.

The design for Station Square provides a flexible space for events, a wider seaside footway, improved shelter for bus passengers, flexible seating, ornamental planting, LED lighting similar to Stafford Street, provision for taxis and a new plinth for the clock tower.

George Street and Queen's Park Place will see bespoke seating areas, an improved footway on the seafront, refurbished railings and sea wall, an interactive information point and replacement lighting along the sea wall.

The FBCs will now go before the full council at its next meeting on Thursday September 25.

BUSINESSMAN RENEWS VOW TO KEEP MINIATURE RAILWAY ON TRACK

Train delayed for four years

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

RESIDENTS in Argyll and Bute will be waiting up to four years for a miniature railway a wealthy businessman wants to bring to the area.

Simon Clarke from Nottingham bought the full railway, previously used on Mull, when it closed down two years ago and has been looking for a site in Argyll and Bute for laying a track since.

Addressing Oban, Lorn and the isles area committee meeting at the Corran Halls on Wednesday September 10, Mr Clarke insisted he still planned to bring the attraction, along with associated jobs to the area, but in the meantime has agreed to loan the railway to a 'significant UK tourist attraction' in the north east of England.

Mr Clarke, who currently works in the oil industry, said: 'I want to rebuild it in the exact style it was in Mull, and create another stand-alone tourist attraction.'

'As a business venture, it stands on its own two feet as it generates its own income.'

'Originally I had hoped plans for a site in the Oban area would be in place in a year to 18 months, but now it is looking like nearer to four years.'

'A visitor attraction of this type is not cheap so I want to make sure it's done right, with the proper infrastructure and job opportunities.'

'The railway was on Mull for more than 30 years and once it is rebuilt, I want it to outlast me.'

Fergus Murray, head of Argyll and Bute council's economic development department, said he thought the area would greatly benefit from the attraction and would try to help Mr Clarke as much as possible.

“ A visitor attraction of this type is not cheap so I want to make sure it is done right ”

Simon Clarke

Mr Clarke, who works in the Middle East but whose parents live in Kilchrean, said he had been in talks with three landowners about locations, with Loch Awe, Taynuilt

and Kerrera potential sites for the track.

To duplicate the attraction as it had been on Mull, he said he needed between 50 and 100 acres of land and although previous sites considered in Kilmartin, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown had the advantage of being flat, they were not on a main tourist route.

Roddy McCuish, councillor for Oban south and the isles thanked Mr Clarke for committing to investing in Oban, and said: 'I'm delighted Mr Clarke has purchased a 'return ticket' as we were fearful we had lost such a great opportunity.'

'The proposals seem like a safe bet because the business plan worked on Mull for more than 30 years.'

Councillor for Oban North and Lorn, Duncan MacIntyre shared councillor McCuish's view, adding he felt there was a lack of visitor attractions in Oban.



RETURN TICKET: businessman Simon Clarke insists he will be back with his miniature railway



FINE DISPLAY: former fireman Kenneth Leitch from Oban was amongst those showing off their models at the weekend at the North Lorn diecast model show. Kenneth's collection includes fire engines from around the world, gathered over a 17-year period

FINE SHOW IN VICTORY HALL

Model show raises £620 for charities

THE NORTH Lorn diecast model show was held at the weekend in the Victory Hall in Benderloch.

The event was well attended by visitors and locals, with model displays from around Scotland, including Mid Argyll, Tullich, John O'Groats and Wick on Saturday and Sunday.

As well as the model collectors there were art exhibitions in the

other half of the hall and in the car park model engineers gave a great display of working steam engines and a steamboat.

The weekend raised £620 in total to be split evenly between the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust and Victory Hall funds.

George Berry of North Lorn Modellers thanked everyone who attended.

Oban lifeboat helps stricken yacht

OBAN'S lifeboat was launched last Wednesday afternoon (September 10) to help a 38-foot yacht with engine problems.

Stornoway Coastguard had been alerted to the boat in trouble, just south of the isle of Kerrera. The yacht was taken in tow to a safe berth at Oban Bay Marina.

Social landlord web tool launched

INDEPENDENT body the Scottish Housing Regulator has introduced landlord reports and the nation's first online comparison tool gauging the performance of social landlords.

More than 8,000 tenants in Argyll and Bute now have access to the unique resource available at www.scottishhousingregulator.gov.uk

Going green with woodland funerals

A NEW, greener approach to burial is to be offered to Argyll and Bute residents as the council implements more environmentally-friendly funerals.

Woodland burials, which are less formal than traditional interments, have the deceased being buried in a shallower, single-lair grave with coffins made from biodegradable materials such as wicker or bamboo.

While providing an ecological benefit, they are around twice as expensive as standard burials as they require more ground. Members of Argyll and Bute council's policy and resources committee agreed to adopt the new green and woodland burials policy at a meeting last month.

At present the council only receives a handful of requests a year for the burials but the option is expected to become more popular as people are made more aware of the benefits.

A funeral planner at a funeral directors in the Oban area, who asked



Pennyfuir Cemetery, which has ground to the back overlooking Lochan Dubh that is suitable for the woodland burials. Argyll and Bute council has stated it will use areas that naturally lend themselves to future woodland planting

not to be named, said she could recall two requests for the services in the past ten years, but suggested it was perhaps because the public

were not fully aware of the option. Pennyfuir Cemetery outside Oban is one of three sites to be used by the council, with an extension to the

existing area in the new part of the cemetery. A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'Each site will be developed within the grounds of the existing cemeteries using areas which naturally lend themselves to future woodland planting.'

'Maintenance of these sites is in keeping with the natural woodland setting, with the grass being cut only once a year and trees being planted around the grave to create a pleasant, natural environment over time.'

'Some people see this kind of burial as the logical extension of an environmentally aware lifestyle.'

The burials require more ground than a traditional burial due to the low density of the lairs and the single graves, which reduces the number of interments in comparison to a traditional lair.

The other sites in Argyll and Bute used for the green burials are Carrick Cemetery in Tarbert, Strachur Cemetery and Barbour Cemetery, Cove.

Kayakers boost child loss support group by £16,500

A CHARITY supporting parents who have lost a child have raised £16,500 from a special kayak adventure.

Simpson's Memory Box Appeal (SIMBA) organisers in the Highlands say they are incredibly grateful to everyone who donated and all money raised will go towards supporting others.

At the end of July, 12 kayakers and 10 canoeists, from Argyll, Orkney, Sutherland, Inverness and Aviemore left Banavie near Fort William to embark on their challenge to paddle 92kms over canals and four lochs in four days.

The expedition was organised by the charity's Highland ambassador Susan Simpson to raise funds and awareness of SIMBA.

Whilst many of the team were parents, grandparents, siblings, other family members or friends, paddling in memory of the children they couldn't take home and watch grow up, some joined the adventure just because they wanted to support a charity that makes such a difference to so many people.



SHARING THE LOSS: SIMBA's Highland ambassador Susan Simpson organised a kayak fundraising challenge

Susan Simpson said: 'Throughout the four days, each of us shared about the heartbreak of losing a baby and about how we work hard to honour their memory in a positive way.'

'Many tears were shed as we thought about the wee ones who are missing from our homes, but our hearts swelled with pride that each and every one of us managed

to paddle The Great Glen in their memory.'

'We met so many people along the way who wanted to know more about why we were taking in this challenge and it was so good to share more about what the charity does.'

The group is already planning another kayak challenge next year and has met with safety and equipment providers Boots n' Paddles.

Susan continued: 'But what is more important to us is that through the awareness that has been raised we are reaching more families and individuals affected by the loss of a baby.'

'We are breaking down the taboo surrounding talking about miscarriage, stillbirth and neonatal death. Just today I had a midwife tell me how much of a difference she sees first hand that our memory boxes make to families.'

The group is holding a 'Service to Remember' on October 15.

For more details contact Susan on simbahighland@gmail.com or phone 07771 538382.

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10 Shock Jocks

WIN A PAIR OF DUBARRY BOOTS

MULL PROVINCIAL MÒD



The children both sung *Leanabh an Aigh*, to the tune of *Bunessan*, which their great-great-great auntie, Mary McDonald, wrote. [16_138islacameron](#)

Amongst the competitors were brother and sister Cameron and Isla MacInnes of Iona Primary school, who entered the solo singing competition for primary school pupils on Friday morning.

The children both sung *Leanabh an Aigh*, to the tune of *Bunessan*, with Cameron coming first and Isla coming second in the competition.

The song is of particular significance to the siblings and their family, as their great-great-great

auntie on their father's side, Mary McDonald, who spoke only Gaelic, wrote the song in the early 1800s.

The melody of the song is famously used in the hymn *Morning Has Broken*.

Brother and sister Cameron and Isla MacInnes, who go to Iona Primary school, entered the solo singing competition for primary school pupils.

Cameron, 8, won the competition and Isla, 9, came second.



Scott Thompson, 14, from *Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile*, won the solo fluent singing competition for boys aged 13-15. [16_138scottthompson](#)



Pupils from primary one to three at Dervaig Primary school, who sang the *Seashore Song* in the *Action Song*, Under-13 competition. [16_138dervagp13](#)



Shannon MacKean, 16, from *Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile*, who won the solo singing competition for girls aged 13-16. [16_138shannon](#)



Camrie MacInnes, 10, from *Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile*, who won the fluent solo singing competition for girls aged 9-10. [16_138camriemacinnnes](#)



Lily Howitt, 8, of Salen Primary school, who won the under-13 beginner fiddler competition. [16_138lilyhowitt](#)



Tobermory Primary school pupils Holly MacLean and Nina Anderson, both 11, who won the duet singing competition for girls under 13. [16_138tobermoryduet](#)



Burach Gaelic Choir - [138mod11](#)



Karis Breagha Brown, 6, from *Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile*, who won the competition for recitation of the poem *Air an tràigh*, for children aged 5-6. [16_138karisbrown](#)



Natalie Livingstone and Donna Dugdale, winners of the duet competition. [16_138tobermoryduet](#)



THE ROYAL NATIONAL MÒD INVERNESS

From John Morrison Chief Executive of the Mod

Dear friends

The last few days has seen meetings taking place in Inverness with the Inverness Pub Watch group and also with the Inverness Business Community. The interest in the Royal National Mòd and in our Gaelic language, music and culture was sincere and reassuring. Those who attended may have been motivated by business performance but they all left the meetings enthused about our music, culture and the Gaelic language. Some may view Gaelic signage in businesses as a token gesture, but it was refreshing to see every pack of Gaelic signs being collected by those in attendance at the meetings.

Competition entries for the 2014 Mòd are extremely healthy – exceeding the 2009 Oban Mòd total by 39. To exceed the entries for 2009 is quite a feat and we are now sitting at approximately 1,800 young participants and 1,300 adult participants. This is the highest participant numbers in the last decade and provides a strong foundation for a huge event. In addition, the Mòd Fringe has now exceeded 70 events and continues to grow. The impact of support from Homecoming Scotland 2014 has helped to create a fringe around the Mòd that is unrivalled in the history of the Mòd.

Each one of these participants is to be commended and the figures illustrate the roots that the Mòd has in the Gaelic communities. Whether it is choristers meeting once a week in community halls throughout Scotland or individuals being taught songs, or poetry, in numerous primary schools throughout Scotland, the roots of the Mòd are diverse and strong. Youngsters will return home and seek guidance from parents or grand-parents which makes the event cohesive across the generations. It has endured because of these roots and it will continue to flourish so long as these roots are maintained.

Eden Court will host the vast majority of the competitive events at the Mòd this October. On the few days that we need to overspill the additional venues are virtually adjacent. In many ways this will be the easiest Mòd ever from the perspective of venues. The 2014 Mòd will also see the launch of a Mòd app which will hopefully make life a bit easier for everyone.

The cadences of the above paragraphs probably do not do justice to the massive effort that is undertaken annually to maintain the flagship Gaelic language, music and cultural event. Guaranteed funding would certainly make our life a lot easier but we live in an imperfect world. Within that general context we do well to stage such a unique and precious event on an uncertain and continually fluctuating funding platform. Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

John Morrison
Chief Executive Officer



Ceann an Tuirc



Atomaig Piseag



Oban Gaelic Choir



Taynuilt Gaelic Choir



Dingwall Gaelic Choir

Fèis Latharna

Traditional music tuition for children and young folk in Oban and Lorn. Traditional music lessons are held each Saturday during term time between 10am - 1pm in the Glenruitten Road Church Centre, Oban.

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ORGANISERS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL MÒD

Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail | The Royal National Mod

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2015	AN T-ÒBAN 9 – 17 DÀMHAIR	OBAN 9 – 17 OCTOBER
2016	NA H-EILEANAN AN IAR 14 – 22 DÀMHAIR	WESTERN ISLES 14 – 22 OCTOBER

Plà Mòdan Ionadail | Provincial Mòds

LEODHAS LEWIS	ÀIRD NAM MURCHAN ARDNAMURCHAN
DÙN ÈIDEANN EDINBURGH	GLASCHU GLASGOW
SRUIGHLEA STIRLING	INBHIR NIS INVERNESS
CILLE BHRIDHE AN EAR EAST KILBRIDE	AN T-EILEAN SGITHEANACH SKYE
CATAIBH IS GALLAIBH SUTHERLAND & CAITHNESS	AN T-ÒBAN OBAN
ÌLE ISLAY	NA DREOLLUINN MULL
LIBRIST LUST	DAIL RIATA DALRIADA
LOCH ABHAIR LOCHABER	TAOBH SIAR ROIS WESTER ROSS
BEART IS AONGHAS PERTH & ANGUS	BARRAIGH IS BHATARSÀIGH BARRA
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*For Provincial Mòd dates and more, go online
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what's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

- THURSDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER**
Gaelic Conversation Group, Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban, 7-8.30pm
Hollow Mountain Trio, Every Thursday, Barn Bar, Lerags, 8-11pm
- FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER**
Gaelic Conversation Group, Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban, 11.30am
WW1 Commemoration Service and Parade, North Pier, Oban, 1.30pm
Ardfern Science Festival, Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern, 8pm
- SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER**
Ardfern Science Festival, Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern, All day
Fasnadoich Gun Club, Open Shoot, 12 noon
Afternoon Tea in aid of MacMillan Cancer, Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban, 2pm
Appin Historical Society, Stewarts of Appin, Port Appin Hall, 2.30pm
Buttons and Bows Band, Kilmallie Community Centre, 7.30pm
Mark Radcliffe and Foes, Easdale Island Hall, 8.15pm
- SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER**
Craft Fayre, Every Sunday, Creagan Inn Appin, 12-5pm
Motor Fest and Classic Vehicle Show, Mossfield, Oban, 1pm
- MONDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER**
Opening up the Gas Market, Public Meeting, Royal Hotel, Oban, 3-7pm
- WEDNESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER**
Autumnal Tea, Oban Congregational Church, Argyll Street, Oban, 2-4pm

Email details of your event to
whatson@obantimes.co.uk.

what's on
at COASTERS Oban

FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER
Cracking Craic 9.30 till late

SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER
Garry Innes, Norrie Mactvor and Friends 9.30 till late

SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER
George Noble DJ - from afternoon onwards

Four out of five adults
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**Easdale Island
Community Hall**

Radio 2, 6 music and Glastonbury
presenter Mark Radcliffe with his
band Foes. Expect songs of hangovers,
loves lost, regret and the odd dead dog.

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Ardtornish Quintet Jackie Kay

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Not you turning back from margarine to butter
Not a stain on your laundry - coffee, wine? -
Not to the daily how are you? a shaky, I'm fine,
Not your lucky dip lottery every Saturday,
Not you, stood there in a quandary
At the sorry not this time, sotto voce.
Not the tenner on Diesel, not the Wagon Wheels.
Not your broken heart, not your love of Kiel,
Not your last minute rush on a Sunday,
Nor your good intention to visit Iona, one day.
Not your empty Calor Gas canister,
Not your words to the good Minister.
Not your face when you're low on fuel,
Not your last fiver on fishing tackle.
Not your gin, not your tonic, your wee brandy.
Not you when you're pale, when you're pealie wally,
When the last ferry to Mull has left the jetty.
Don't get upset, don't you fret, eh?
When you're out of sorts, you can depend on
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Don't underestimate the empathetic store:
Not only retail therapy for the terminally bored
And the terribly lonely (if a wee bit pricey) but deep
analysis
For those shopping sends into paralysis.
The ones who came for a bunch of fresh parsley,
And a tin of Ambrosia creamed rice.
Or the ones who weren't sure really
What they wanted (something nice!)
who say, when just through the door,
Not sure what I came in for ...
When what they wanted was something more:
Not a commodity, not a material thing,
Not even a loan of a movie - a little bit racy,
Not the packet of firefighters, honestly!
Not even the bag of kindling: but a kind word
A warm-hearted blether in wintery weather.
A small bit talk for the short days, long nights.
Safe home, safe home would even suffice.
And then it's the windy drive back,
through the stoically, proud pines,
Over the uncertain cattle grid,
Past the empty passing places,
Where you missed your chances,
Avoiding the deer, the sheep, the stags,
the odd romances. And it's round
the bend, now, and into the dark.

Jackie Kay was the first Scottish Book Trust and Ardtornish Estate writer in residence from November 2012. She wrote five poems, known as the Ardtornish Quintet. Number Two Lochaline Stores is published in full as it was in *The Oban Times* in 2013.



JACKIE KAY: will be at Three Lochs Book and Arts Festival on Saturday September 27. Photo: Denise Else

Meet the author: Jackie Kay

SPEAKING at this year's Three Lochs Book and Arts Festival on Saturday September 27 at 1.30 pm will be Jackie Kay. Jackie was born in Edinburgh in 1961 to a Scottish mother and a Nigerian father. She was adopted as a baby by a white Scottish couple, and grew up in Glasgow. Initially harbouring

ambitions to be an actress, she decided to concentrate on writing after Alasdair Gray, a Scottish artist and writer, read her poetry and told her that writing was what she should be doing. She studied English at the University of Stirling and her first book of poetry, the partially autobiographical *The Adoption Papers*, was published in

1991 and won the Saltire Society Scottish First Book Award. Her other awards include the 1994 Somerset Maugham Award for *Other Lovers*, and the Guardian First Book Award Fiction Prize for *Trumpet*, based on the life of American jazz musician Billy Tipton, born Dorothy Tipton, who lived as a man for the last

50 years of his life. In 2010 she published *Red Dust Road*, an account of her search for her natural parents. Having realised as a small child, that her skin was a different colour from that of her beloved parents, Jackie Kay embarks on a complicated and humorous journey to treasure the adoptive family that chose her, track down her birth parents and embrace her unexpected and remarkable life.

During the Three Lochs Book and Arts Festival 2014 she will read from her most recent books *Reality, Reality and Fiere*. She will also read from her poems the Ardtornish Quintet - giving a very local flavour.

First of three Scottish-Jewish books released

A DYNAMIC writer exploring the nature of being Jewish in a very Christian society are explored in the work of by J David Simons, Scotland's pre-eminent Jewish novelist. The *Credit Draper*, much of which is set in and around Oban during World War One, as about a Russian Jewish immigrant who is trying to survive as a stranger in a strange land, in this case, the Western Highlands, during the War. The book is the first part of a major Scottish-Jewish trilogy, which culminates with the release of *The Land Agent* in October. J David Simons, Scotland's pre-eminent Jewish novelist, has re-edited the first two books in his magnum opus, the Glasgow and Galilee trilogy. Both books were re-issued by Saraband on September 11, before the publication of the trilogy's finale, *The Land Agent*, published in hardback on October 23. The *Credit Draper*, short listed for the McKitterick

Skerryvore on tour



CHASING THE SUN: Hot on the heels of their biggest US Tour so far, followed by an appearance at the 40th Tonder Festival in Denmark, Celtic rock group Skerryvore released their latest CD, *Chasing the Sun* in September. Skerryvore will be touring the new album throughout the UK and Europe during October and November, with the exciting prospect of an appearance in Mumbai forming part of their soon to be announced winter tour. The band will be appearing on Friday October 3 in Arrochar at the Three Villages Community Hall. Photo: Kris Kesjak

Scottish Opera

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★★★★ acrosshearts.co.uk, 2014

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Gaelic short film competition launched

FILMG, the national Gaelic short film competition run by MG ALBA, was launched last week for a seventh year, hosted by a Commonwealth athlete. The competition was launched at Sgoil Lionacleit on the Isle of Benbecula, by Team Scotland athlete Kerry MacPhee, a former pupil at the school and the first person from the Western Isles to compete in the Commonwealth Games. This year's theme 'Gealladh', (promise, vow or wager) is something that Kerry herself can relate to, having vowed to be the best she can to get herself to the top of her sport. Kerry used her meeting with the pupils at Sgoil Lionacleit on September 5 to encourage young people of all ages to pursue their dreams so they too can make it to the top, no matter the discipline. She said: 'When I left Uist to study at university, I did not think for a minute I had the talent to pursue my dream as an athlete. I therefore want to try and instil confidence in young people so they believe in themselves and follow their dreams. I'd like to thank FilmG for inviting me, it's great to be part of an exciting Gaelic project for young people and I really enjoyed being a model for one of this year's theme posters - I wish all the participants in this year's competition the best of luck.' Since its launch in 2008, FilmG has encouraged both young people and adults to pick up their cameras and explore their creative talents in conjunction with the use of the Gaelic language.

Fèis na Mara music festival

FEIS NA Mara is benefiting from Scottish Sea Farms Funding. The two-day music festival in Mallaig will promote interest and further education in Scottish traditional music and culture. Eilidh Shaw, treasurer, Fèis na Mara, said: 'The event attracts a lot of extra people to the area for the weekend. Parents from all over Lochaber bring their children for the workshops and music lovers the length and breadth of the UK come to hear the bands and enjoy the festival atmosphere in a stunning location. It is a terrific opportunity for the local community to work together and we are delighted that Scottish Sea Farms has been able to support us.' Jim Gallagher, managing director, Scottish Sea Farms, said: 'This is a super event and the Heart of The Community cash will enable the organisers to attract a high calibre of musician to attend and inspire our future generations.' The evenings consist of concerts and dances while during the day workshops are organised for the children and teenagers. The festival hopes to nurture the younger generation of musicians in the local area, giving them the skills and confidence to perform to an audience themselves.

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GAEILIC GIRLS: Emma MacFarlane, Hannah Prill, Niamh Mackaveney, Emma Kok and Naomi Stanesby established Na Seudan in 2010.

Tarbert's young folk band to launch first album

Na Seudan Ùr's new CD already receiving rave reviews

AN ALL-female band from Tarbert, which has been attracting attention from across Scotland since it formed in 2010 with members as young as nine, has released its first album. Na Seudan has created *Seunta* (Enchanted), a 15-track album that features new music and old favourites that saw the band named the best under-19 folk group at the 2012 Royal National Mod.

Renamed Na Seudan Ùr - the New Jewels - to avoid clashing with another band of a similar name, the group includes Emma MacFarlane, Hannah Prill, Niamh Mackaveney, Emma Kok and Naomi Stanesby.

All five girls are accomplished multi-instrumentalists and singers that are earning a reputation for their harmonies and sound that fuses jazz, folk and classical influences.

Now aged between 14 and 18, the band will launch *Seunta* next Friday, September 27, at the Putechan Hotel, Bellochantuy.

Including tracks such as *The Slave's Lament* and *My Heart is on the Highlands*, the album includes four Scots songs by Robert Burns, as well as *Chi mi na Mòrbheanna* and *Buain na rainich*, songs the girls performed at their first ever national Mod.

The album has already won the support of renowned Gaelic singer Mary Ann Kennedy, who adjudicated Na

Seudan in their very first Mull Mod when cellist and bass player Emma Kok was just nine years old.

Writing on the album cover, Mary Ann says: 'Young musicians with big imaginations and an obvious love of Gaelic song - hear a new Argyll generation blossom and say you were there at the start.'

The album launch marks a major milestone for Na Seudan Ùr who are taught Gaelic by Dr Neil MacDonald and perform music arranged by music director Susan Rhodes.

The event will see the band debut a new Gaelic composition by Susan, *Bean an Iasgair* (Fisherman's Wife).

Susan said: 'I've set a George Campbell Hay poem to music and arranged it for the girls. It is about a fisherman's wife who can't sleep as she is worried about her husband fishing between Arran and Cowal in a storm. It's a song full of anguish, torment and rage and is also a very contemporary sound.'

'So as well as a CD launch the 27th will be the launch of a new Gaelic song too.'

The album launch will be hosted by Kenneth Thomson, conductor of Glasgow Gaelic Choir, and will begin at 7.30pm.

For a taster of some of the tracks on the CD, see Na Seudan's Facebook page.

Trust asks: Is there a place for heritage?

CONSERVATION charity the National Trust for Scotland has launched a debate with its 320,000 members about its future.

Entitled *A Place for Heritage?* the debate is based on an examination of different factors and issues that might influence the trust's role in modern Scotland.

Some of the issues and potential options for the Trust will be discussed by members attending the NTS annual general meeting to be staged in Stirling on Saturday, October 4.

Among the topics are proposals for a more co-ordinated approach to managing Scotland's key heritage sites and responses to calls to improve the links

between the Trust and local communities, including the possible implications of the land reform movement.

As a charity, the National Trust for Scotland is rare in having legislative backing for its core conservation role.

This provides two unique powers: inalienability, which means that important heritage sites are held by the trust for the nation on an inter-generational basis and cannot readily be sold; and conservation agreements, where the trust can enter into a partnership with an owner to ensure the natural or historical significance of a property is not subsequently obliterated by unsympathetic land uses.

Kate Mavor, chief executive of the National Trust for Scotland said: 'Although there is no such thing as a blank sheet of paper for an 83-year-old charity, there may well be new options for the trust as it seeks to remain viable and relevant.'

'There are serious questions as to whether we have the right balance of properties and, indeed, if there are different ways of managing them, not necessarily directly.'

'We also need feedback on the trust's role - should we be more of a campaigning organisation, speaking up for our heritage?'

'We are certainly independent of government

Argyll library visitor increase

LIBRARIES in Argyll are enjoying something of a renaissance with a huge ten per cent increase in visitors in the past full year.

Whether it is *Fifty Shades of Grey* - or a good old Catherine Cookson the library service has also branched out to a new ebook service - for the more technically minded.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'We provide readily available cultural experiences, support for literacy, new skills and shared family experiences within our library buildings.'

'We share library buildings with partner organisations, deliver formal and informal training courses, host cultural events and activities, and provide specialist services such as our partnership with Macmillan, providing support and advice for cancer sufferers and their families in Rothesay and Campbeltown libraries.'

'The council recently launched an online e-book lending service at <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/ebooks>.'

Visits to libraries in Argyll and Bute have risen from 266,588 in 2012/2013 to 293,359 in 2013/2014.

The current library budget is around £1.2 million.

Sunny outlook for island business

A SURVEY carried out by Business Gateway Outer Hebrides to assess local business experiences in the current economic climate has shown positive results.

Businesses were asked for their views on prospects over the next year, skills and recruitment, business support, marketing and sales, strategy and forward planning.

Among the businesses surveyed 89 per cent of respondents were optimistic about prospects in the coming year, while four in 10 businesses plan to grow within the same time scale.

The survey results will shortly be available on the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's website. The survey was carried out with the support of a Student Summer Programme Placement, Laura Stewart, 17, who recently completed her studies at the Nicolson Institute prior to beginning her degree in maths and statistics at the University of Glasgow this month.

The comhairle's student placement programme, places students in different departments to undertake innovative projects that will have a positive benefit for both the comhairle and the student.

Norman MacLean, senior business development officer, said: 'Laura did a very professional job and fitted in well with the team while working at Business Gateway. The business survey gives us a valuable insight into current issues impacting on the local business community and will help us in the development and delivery of business support services.'

In Grateful Gladness

Poems by Lorna Cammock

LORNA Cammock is a woman in her fourth or perhaps fifth flush of youth. Her collection of poems was self published earlier this year.

Travelling to Iona and often staying over in Oban, Lorna is a well-kent face. She can often be found with her ukulele in hand teaching a ship's captain a song or two.

Her book has short poems that sum up her life, including Glasgow Airport Prayer Room and One Day written on Iona in April 2013 when the author met the regional director of VisitScotland.

This is a refreshing collection of joyful poems that lift the heart.

The book can be published from Lorna at lornacammock1@gmail.com

New book from Lewis storyteller

STORYTELLER Calum Ferguson has turned his attention from the lives of others and penned his own memories.

The result is *Casan Searraich* or *Sunbeams in Memory* - a collection of tales spanning more than 60 years.

Calum, 84, who was born in Point on the Isle of Lewis, will be well known to many as the writer of *Children of the Black House*, *Lewis in the Passing*, *A Life of Soolivan* and *Hìort - A Gaelic History of Skilda*.

His stories begin in 1929 with his childhood in a blackhouse and continue through his school days before leaving for the mainland where art college, university and careers in teaching and broadcasting

Oban Phoenix Cinema	Boxtrolls	Thurs 18th 16.30	Fri 19th 16.00
		Sat 20th 13.00 3D, 15.30	Sun 21st 13.00, 15.30 3D
		Mon 22nd 16.00	Tues 23rd 16.00
		Wed 24th 16.00	Thurs 25th 16.00
	Lucy	Thurs 18th 18.30, 21.00	
	What If	Thurs 18th 18.30, 20.30	
	Sex Tape	Fri 19th 18.00, 21.00	Sat 20th 15.30, 20.30
		Sun 21st 18.00, 21.00	Mon 22nd 20.30
		Tues 23rd 18.00, 21.00	Wed 24th 20.30
		Thurs 25th 18.00, 21.00	
	As Above So Below	Fri 19th 18.30	Sat 20th 18.00
		Sun 21st 15.30, 18.30	Mon 22nd 18.00, 21.00
	Tues 23rd 18.30	Wed 24th 18.00, 21.00	
	Thurs 25th 18.30		
If I Stay	Sat 20th 13.00	Sun 21st 13.00, 20.30	
	Mon 22nd 18.30	Tues 23rd 20.30	
	Wed 24th 18.30	Thurs 25th 20.30	

Boxtrolls (PG)
An orphan boy leads his quirky family of subterranean critters into battle with an evil villain in this fun-packed family animation. Eleven-year-old Eggs has been raised in the underground fair of the Boxtrolls. These lovable creatures only come out at night to scour the streets of Cheesebridge for trash, which they turn into amazing inventions! Eggs has been with them so long that he now thinks he is a Boxtroll. Their nemesis is the evil Archibald Snatcher - a pest exterminator with ideas above his station, who leads a sinister gang. Matters come to a head when Winnie, the neglected daughter of Cheesebridge's wealthy mayor, teams up with Eggs to save the Boxtrolls.

Lucy (15)
A breathtaking action-thriller about a woman who accidentally develops superhuman powers. In Taiwan, terrified young American Lucy (Scarlett Johansson) is abducted by a gang of brutal drug traffickers. Pockets of narcotics are sewn into her stomach, but when these leak into her bloodstream, Lucy undergoes an astonishing transformation.

What If (15)
Smitten Daniel Radcliffe and Zoe Kazan try to remain just friends in this charming romantic comedy. After being left with a broken heart, Wallace is avoiding romance. But then he meets Chantry. The connection between them is immediate. As they start hanging out together, their friendship deepens. How long can they postpone the inevitable?

Sex Tape (15)
Cameron Diaz and Jason Segel try to prevent an embarrassing video going viral in this raunchy comedy! After ten years of marriage and two kids, Jay and Annie are in a relationship rut. To spice things up a little, the couple decide to have a kinky three-hour nookie session and record the whole thing on video. Job done, Jay erases the recording. At least, he thinks he has. In fact, he's uploaded it to the Cloud, where it can be viewed by all their friends and family! With the video just one click away from hitting the internet, the couple embark on a madcap race against time to prevent their intimate secrets becoming public knowledge.

As Above So Below (15)
Urban archaeologists uncover a shocking secret lurking in the catacombs beneath Paris in this nerve-shredding horror. Back in the 18th century, Paris faced the problem of what to do with mounting numbers of dead. The solution was to inter their bones in 200 miles of catacombs that snake beneath the city. Now a young team of urban archaeologists is venturing 370 feet beneath the streets. They're searching for a vital piece of history hidden among the remains of six million people in the world's largest mass grave. But when they get lost and come across a chilling ancient inscription, the explorers find themselves terrorised by their own personal demons.

If I Stay (12A)
Chloe Grace Moretz stars in a deeply moving romantic drama about a teenage girl whose life changes in an instant. Mia Hall is a gifted cellist who has the opportunity to study at Juilliard. Her rock'n'roll-loving parents Kat and Denny are baffled by their daughter's enthusiasm for classical music, but fully supportive of her ambitions. She has also fallen in love with the handsome and adoring Adam, who plays in a local band. But when a family drive ends in tragedy, Mia finds her life hanging in the balance. Trapped in limbo while her body lies in a hospital bed, she faces an agonising decision. Is love strong enough to bring her back, or should she allow herself to slip away?

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STEWARTS OF APPIN:
Ray and Mary Le Mesurier-Foster
Saturday 20 September
Port Appin Hall 2.30pm
All welcome
www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk

ARDFERN SCIENCE FESTIVAL
Craighnigh Village Hall, Ardfern
Friday September 19th at 8pm
A talk by prof. Martin Hendry
'The Dark Side of the Universe'
Saturday September 20th 10am-6pm
Science fun for all the family
Rocket launching: Mobile planetarium:
Sci-fi movies: Marine aliens.
Free entry, refreshments. 01852 500689

FASNACLOICH GUN CLUB
Open Shoot
20th Sept
12:00 start

THREE LOCHS BOOK AND ARTS FESTIVAL
The Sunart Centre, Strontian
Friday 26th - Saturday 27th September 2014
A fantastic line-up featuring authors, cartoonists, films, food and comedy!
See www.threelochs.co.uk for full programme details or find us on facebook

OBAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
(Top Of Argyll Street)
"Autumnal Tea"
In church Hall
Wednesday 24th Sept
2pm-4pm
Tea, Coffee and delicious homebaking £3
Charity Number SC011117

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT AFTERNOON TEA
Saturday 20th September
2pm - 4pm
Glencruitten Road Church Hall
Bric-a-Brac, Paintings, Books, Gifts, Christmas Cards

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To advertise in our community noticeboard call 01631 568000

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your local radio station
For requests, competitions or questions please email: studio@obanfm.org.uk or call us on 01631 570057

Oban FM Community Radio, 132 George Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NT

THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

MONDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Jim Edge, 1700 Drivetime With Danni Hay, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLucie's Show, 2100 David Cullen, 2200 Americano Show with Michelle

TUESDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show with Maggie May, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1330 The Quiz with Danni Hay, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey

WEDNESDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell and Maggie May, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are

THURSDAY:
0800 Maggie May's Carousel, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with DJ Taz, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY:
0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves

SATURDAY:
0900 Maggie's Swingin' Sixties, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowscher, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

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

Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lawry

CASAN
Sunbeams in Memory
SEARRAICH
SUNBEAMS: Calum Ferguson's memories of island life and beyond.

Oban band headlines Tarbert Music Festival at weekend



The Democrats on stage in 2013

MUSIC lovers across Argyll are in for a treat when Tarbert Music Festival kicks off this weekend.

Signal Fires, a four-piece cover band from Oban, which performs songs from acts such as Kings of Leon and The Killers, will play along with The Democrats, another local band, at the music festival's renowned Sunday session on the Quayside.

More than a dozen performers are preparing for the festival which will see live music in nine venues throughout the village, from tomorrow (Friday) until Sunday.

Mixing traditional Irish and Scottish folk music, the festival provides an array of musical genres to suit all tastes including country and western, pop and rock.

Hotels and restaurants will open their doors to festival-goers for the annual event, with some even inviting members of the audience on stage to flaunt their talent.

Marion Atkinson, manager at Islay Frigate Hotel, said: 'We are really looking forward to the festival and will be holding open mic nights over the weekend. We want people to come and jam together.'

'In the hotel we have three stages for performers and we will hold a ceilidh too. I'm expecting a relaxed, fun



The Signal Fires will perform on Sunday

and friendly atmosphere, and hope that everyone can join in the fun.'

Other venues include; Tarbert Hotel, Victoria Hotel, Anchor Hotel, The Corner House, Cafebarge, Stonefield Farms Coffee Shop and Starfish restaurant.



Kenny MacInnes, Mary MacLeod, left, Christine Murray, Janette MacIver and Angela Blair enjoyed the music last year



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IT IS time to rake out the Christmas outfits and get ready for the annual office and family get together - singing, dancing, fun.

There can not be a better place than the west coast to celebrate in style with some great food and dancing into the wee small hours.

With less than 100 days to go - put your party plans in place for the best night out of the season.

From small gatherings of close friends and family to big events with hundreds of guests, the advice is book early to avoid disappointment.

Annual work nights out can be excellent if they are well planned and taking the sting out of the run up to Christmas - paying a deposit early.

A meal is a good starting point for a night out, but with the number of diners often more than a typical one-table booking, always book ahead to ensure you get reservations that can accommodate your whole group.

See what special deals are on offer and shop around to find the venue that suits your party best, from facilities to location and price.

Taynuilt Hotel

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We have dates available for Party nights

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3 course Party night menu for £25 per person

Contact Reception on 01866 822437 to book and we will forward you our festive Menu and Wine list.

Booking is essential, as dates will fill up quickly

Deposit of 10% will be required at time of booking and full payment made 1 week before.

Merry Christmas!

To book please call 01866 822437
www.taynuilt-hotel.co.uk

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- FRIDAY 19th December
- FRIDAY 13th December
- SATURDAY 20th December

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The 'Reel' Christmas Party Nights Are Back!

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DALMALLY

DALMALLY MART hosted United Auctions' annual show and sale of Blackface lambs and a sale of cross bred lambs and feeding sheep.

Over 8,000 head of lambs and sheep was catalogued for this highly prestigious event. Judging was in the hands of William Cameron, Keith, who awarded the champion pen of 50 lambs or more to M/s Buchanan, Achnaba.

This quality pen of lambs, which won the James Weir Memorial Trophy presented by Miss Scotland, Ellie Keating, later sold for £62.50 to the judge.

The second prize pen went to M/s MacLarty, Littleport selling at £53 and third place was awarded to M/s Ronald, Keilator, selling at £51, and both lots were purchased by the judge. The overall sale average for all sheep sold, rose by £1.20 on the year with 1,360 more sold. The Blackface section, however, enjoyed the most spirited bidding from one of the largest following of buyers seen at this centre for some time.

Most top draws were selling £1/£2 up on the year whilst second draws were making £3/£5 more on the year.

Principal lots and prices:

Top prices per head

LAMBS:

BF: TOP DRAWS: £62.50 - Achnaba: £53.00 - Littleport: £52.00 - Corrylorn: £51.50 - Acharonich: £51.00 - Keilator: £50.50 - Luriginish: £50.50 - Lephinkill: £50.00 - Fearnoch: £50.00 - Braglenmore: £49.00 - Carse Estates: £48.50 - Drissaig: £48.00 - Glenshellach: £48.00 - Barachander: £47.50 - Benmore Home Farm: £47.50 - Musdale: £47.00 - Castles Estate: £46.50 - Garraron and Melfort Farms: £46.50 - Auch Estate: £46.50 - Stronmagachan: £46.50 - Ronnahan Farms: £46.00 - Braglenbeg: £45.50 - Rhemore: £45.50 - Cullaine: £45.00 - Drimore & Carsaig Estates: £45.50 - Dunans: £45.50 - Stroneskar: £45.50 - Garroge Estates: £45.50 - Braefoot: £45.00 - Killundine Estate: £45.00 - Kilmallieu: £45.00 - Garvachy: £45.00 - Ormsary Farms.

SECOND DRAW: £47.00 - Littleport: £46.00 - Corrylorn: £45.00 - Braglenmore: £44.50 - Lephinkill: £44.50 - Fearnoch: £43.00 - Benmore Home Farm: £42.50 - Ronnahan Farms: £42.00 - Stroneskar: £41.00 - Acharonich: £40.50 - Braglenbeg: £40.00 - Scallasaig, Colonsay.

TEXx: £73.00 - 2 Bonawe Croft: £65.50 and £61.50 - Tullochcan: £58.50 - Craigmore: £55.00 - Tullochcan: £53.00 - Craigmore: £50.00 - Barbreck.

SUFFx: £68.00 and £61.00 - Cour Grazings: £60.50 - Blarmafoldach: £56.00 - Carse Estate: £55.50 - Acha Bheinn: £53.50 - Drumclach, Colonsay.

BELTx: £52.00 - Brackley.

CHEVx: £70.00 - Barachander: £56.50 - Cairnbaan: £55.00 - Blackmount: £52.50 - Barrachander and 1 Davara: £51.00 - Brullin: £50.50 - 2 Bonawe Croft: £50.00 - Blackmount and Kingairloch Estate.

CROSS: £63.50 & £55.00 - Acha Bheinn: £54.00 - Balliemeanoch. MULE: £48.50 - Achalic Farm.

FEEDING SHEEP: £65 - High Carse and Drumclach, Colonsay. £59 - Blackmount: £50.50 - Feorline: £50 - Bonawe HF: £48.50 - Cairnbaan: £46.50 - Ederline and 83 Borve, Barra: £44.50 - Castles Estate.

Top prices per kilo:

BF: 183p - Learghabhension: 177p and 172p - Littleport: 171p - Achnaba: 167p - Drissaig, Luriginish, Corrylorn and Castles Estate: 165p - Acharonich: 164p - Brackley, Fearnoch and Ormsary Farms: 163p - Keilator and Braglenmore: 162p - Breglenmore and Auch Estate: 161p - Musdale, Kilmallieu and Barachander: 160p - Garraron and Melfort Farms, Fearnoch and Acharonich: 159p - Brackley, Auch Estate, Garroge Estate, Musdale and Stroneskar: 158p - Ronnahan Farms, Carse Estate and Braglenbeg: 157p - Ronnahan Farms & Lephinkill: 156p - Cullaine, Drissaig, Killundine Estate and Ormsary Farms.

SUFFx: 177p - Carse Estate: 170p - Tayvallich Estates: 169p - Blarmafoldach: 161p - Balliemeanoch.

BELTx: 187p and 182p - Brackley.

TEXx: 187p - Tullochcan: 181p - Tullochcan: 176p - Barbreck: 174p - Achan Highland Estates: 172p - Craigmore: 171p - Kilmallieu: 170p - Tullochcan.

CHEVx: 192p and 185p - Blackmount: 178p - Brackley: 177p - Blackmount: 171p - Rhyndachulag.

CROSS: 162p - Garroge Estate: 161p - Tigh Na Marra, Barra.

MULE: 156p - Kiloran Farmers: 153p - Balliemeanoch.

A touch of glamour at Dalmally

DALMALLY auction mart had a bit of added glamour at the weekend when Miss Scotland, Ellie Keating, appeared ringside with sellers and bidders at the annual show and sale of Blackface lambs.

Ellie attended the United Auctions (UA) sale as part of her aim to get to know Scotland's livestock sector better.

Miss Scotland has a role as ambassador for Scotch Lamb with Quality Meat Scotland.

Clearly enjoying herself, she successfully bid £70 (on behalf of an undisclosed buyer) for a cheviot cross lamb from seller Stuart Galbraith of Barachander Farm, near Loch Awe.

Ellie spoke with customers from Argyll, Crieff and Crianlarich, who were selling stock at the bumper event.

She was stopped for photographs and selfies with young Oban farmers Callum Leitch, Ross Ferguson and Blair Menzies in front of Blair's pen of lambs.

Ellie said: 'Having never been to a livestock auction market before, it was great to learn about this traditional system and Dalmally Mart's importance to livestock producers and the rural community in such a big area.'

'One thing which came over very strongly was the pride that the farmers and auctioneers take in the quality of the livestock and stockmanship skills in this part of Scotland.'

'Many thanks to the United Auctions' team and the farmers I met for making me feel so welcome.'

Peter Wood, United Auctions' auctioneer for the west of Scotland, said: 'We were delighted to welcome Ellie to Dalmally.'

'She brought an extra buzz to the place. She made a very good sale, in which sellers were up on the year, even better.'

She presented the James Weir Memorial Trophy for the championship pen of Blackface lambs to three generations of the Buchanan family of Achnaba Farm, Oban, including Archie Buchanan, daughter Morag MacCorquodale, Donald her husband and their son Donnie.

The Buchanans also achieved the top draw of £62.50 for their championship pen bought by judge Bill Cameron from Keith in Aberdeen.

The second prize pen went to M/s MacLarty, Littleport selling at £53.

Third place was awarded to M/s Ronald, Keilator, selling at £51. Both lots were purchased by the judge.

Taynuilt crofter Billy Neilson topped the sale at £73, while the overall sale average for all sheep sold rose by £1.20 on the year with 1,360 more sold.

Most top draws were selling £1 to £2 up on the year whilst second draws were making £3 to £5 more on the year.

The visit to one of Scotland's leading livestock auctioneers' facility was part of Ellie's induction to the market system.

It follows a number of engagements for Ellie in recent weeks, including joining farmers across Scotland at sampling events during the recent 'Love Scotch Lamb Weekend', organised by QMS, NFU Scotland and the National Sheep Association.

Miss Scotland enjoyed a Scotch Lamb burger thanks to the mart café, at the end of her visit.



Miss Scotland channels her inner Bo Peep at Dalmally.

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BLACKFACE SHEEP BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

SALES DATES 2014

OCTOBER

- 1 Perth Ram Society Show
- 2 Newton Stewart-Blackface shearlings and ram lambs
- 4 Stirling (UA)-including Perth Ram Society Sale
- 6 Stirling (UA) - Ewe Hoggs, Gimmers and Ewes
- 10 Dingwall - Ewe Lambs and Ewe sale
- 11 Dalmally- Ram sale
- 13 Hexham - Ram sale
- 15 Oban - Ram sale
- 16 Lanark-Shearlings
- 17 Castle Douglas
- 17 Lanark-Tup lamb sale

Full listing of sale dates and sale reports available on the web site. www.scottish-blackface.co.uk

CONTACT Aileen McFadzean Tel: 07768 820405

John Deere G220 SE, 2004, c/w John Deere G31 loader, 90hp, shuttle box, telescopic PUH, £21,495	
Massey Ferguson 5455, 2004, c/w Massey Ferguson 845 loader, 95hp, shuttle box, 40K, air con, £21,495	
New Holland TL90, 2004, c/w Howard FX loader, 4ft muck fork, £18,495	
Massey Ferguson 4245, 1998, 85 hp, 4140 recorded hours, speed shift with 40k, £14,995	
Manitou Mani reach MLT 629, 120 turbo, 2003, 6M reach, 2.9 ton lift, pallet forks, PUH, front and rear spool, £14,995	
New Holland 7840, 4WD, 1995, 16 speed with 40k, 90HP, £12,495	
Zetor 6340E, 1999, 4wd, c/w tractor loader, 75hp, 4514 hours recorded, £11,995	
Massey Ferguson 399, 4wd, 1994, 6 cylinder Perkins, 100hp approx, 12/12 shuttle box, £10,995	
Massey Ferguson 6150, 4wd, 1995, Dynashift, 2 spools, Air con, £10,795	
Deutz Fahr DX 3.70, c/w Quicke 3360 Loader/4wd, 1988, 76 hp, manual transmission, £9,995	
Kubota L3600 4WD, 1994, M348V15, c/w Kubota LA680 loader, 39HP, shuttle box, turf tyres, £9,995	
Case 4230 XL, 1995, 4wd, 85 hp front linkage fitted at cost of approx £2000, front spools, £10,495	
Massey Ferguson 375 2wd, c/w Tanco 978 loader/4 ft muck fork, 1991, £8,995	
Case 4230, c/w Quicke 2230 loader, 2wd, 1994, 84hp, £7,795	
Terex Benford HD100, 1 Ton Hi Tip Articulated dumper, 2005, £5,995	
David Brown 1490 2wd, c/w David Brown Loader, £5,995	
Volvo EB55B Pro, Excavator, 2007, 5.5Ton, Quick hitch, air con, £16,495	
JCB 8025 ZTS, Excavator, 2009, only 1400 hours, rubber tracks, £15,495	
Kubota KX161-3, Excavator, 2005, 5 Ton, rubber tracks, £14,995	
JCB 801.8, 2007, Mini Digger, ex council, 3 buckets, expanding tracks, £9,995	
JCB 801.6, 2007, Mini Digger, 1300 hours, rubber tracks, £8,995	
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Oban Times



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Interviews for this post will be held on Friday 3rd October 2014.

ACHA welcomes applications from all sections of the community and is committed to promoting equal opportunities. This post will be subject to a Disclosure Scotland PVG check.

To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk/recruitment, if you are unable to access the website please contact the recruitment team:
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Oban Times Oban Times RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT



Reshaping Care for Older People Programme

Argyll Voluntary Action is seeking a committed, dynamic and motivated individual with knowledge of voluntary sector activities to work as part of the Community Resilience programme supporting older people to engage with their communities, to become involved in their local time bank and through a range of supports to be better enabled to live independently in the homes of their choosing. The post is broad and encompasses a range of initiatives including time banking and volunteer support.

We require a Co-ordinator based in the Lochgilphead area to work flexibly and creatively (some weekend and evening working will be involved) to deliver against agreed targets.

Hours: 25 hours per week Salary: £11.00 per hour

For details, outline job description and application form email Kathleen@argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk or telephone 01631 564839
Closing date: 3rd October 2014.
Reg. Charity No. SC 029947 Company No. 277345

MULL PROVINCIAL MOD RESULTS

MOD RESULTS: LADIES PRESCRIBED: ICeithidh Smith, 2 Rachael Deans, 3 F. Ann Maclean; **LADIES ORAN MÒR:** 1 Ceitidh Smith, 2 Sandaidh NicDhòmhnaill Jones, 3 Rachael Deans; **LADIES LEARNERS:** 1 Donna Dugdale, 2 Rena Gertz, 3 Moira Westland; **MEN LEARNERS:** Hector MacKechnie; **TRADITIONAL:** 1 Kerry Finlay, 2 Kirsty Mackinnon, 3 Fionnghal nic an Aba; **LOCAL SONG:** 1 Lyle Kennedy, 2 Fionnghal nic an Aba, 3 Linn Phillips; **PUIRT A BEUL:** 1 Sandaidh Nic Dhòmhnaill Jones; **OWN CHOICE:** 1 Rachael Deans, 2 Donna Dugdale, 3 Sandaidh Nic Dhòmhnaill Jones; **DUET:** 1 Donna Dugdale /Natalie Livingston, 2 Janet Campbell/Jennifer Campbell, 3 June Riddell/John Duff; **QUARTET:** 1 Deatrach, 2 Na h-Iolairan Mara; **LADIES CHOIR:** 1 Dingwall Gaelic Choir, 2 Atomaig Piseag, 3 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich; **MALE VOICE:** 1 Dingwall Gaelic Choir, 2 Còisir Ceann an Tuirc; **MIXED VOICE:** 1 Dingwall Gaelic Choir, 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Obain, 3 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich; **PUIRT A BEUL:** 1 Dingwall Gaelic Choir, 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich, 3 Lethian Gaelic Choir; **DUET U13:** 1 Nina Anderson & Holly Maclean; **DUET 13-18:** 1 Shannon Maclean & Bethan Sexton; **ACTION SONG U13:** 1 Bun Sgoil An T-Sailein Lochaline, 2 Dervaig P4-7; **ACTION SONG Pre 5:** 1 Bunsan Pre-School, 2 Sgoil Araich An T-Sailein; **CHORAL UNISON U13:** Tobermory Primary, 2 Killohan Primary, 3 Lochaline P4-7; **PUIRT A BEUL U13:** 1 Bun Sgoil An T-Sailein, 2 Salen P5-7, 3 Lochaline P4-7; **PUIRT A BEUL 13-18:** 1 Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile, **FIDDLE U13:** 1 Lily Howitt, 2 Connie MacGee, 3 Mitchell MacPherson; **FIDDLE 13-18:** 1 Anna Westwell, 2 Eve Campbell, 3 Emily Aldwinkle; **FIDDLE 13-18:** 1 Bronwen Davies, 2 Katherine Tamplin; **CHANTER U13:** 1 Mairi Nonhebel, 2 Iain MacCallum, 3 Nina Anderson; **BAGPIPES U13:** 1 Calum McKillop; **BAGPIPES U13:** 1 Calum McKillop; **BAGPIPES 13-18:** 1 Carrie MacKenzie; **BAGPIPES 13-18:** 1 Alexander Anderson, 2 Fraser Mitchell, 3 Corrie MacKenzie; **INST GROUP U13:** 1 Easdale Primary School; **INST GROUP 13-18:** 1 Oban High School. **LITERATURE: PRIMARY:** 1 Ealasaid MacLean. **STORYTELLING 9-10:** 1 Ealasaid Maclean; **RECITATION 5-6:** 1 Karis Brown, 2 Vairi Macphail, 3 Lexie Macinnes; **RECITATION 7-8:** 1 Rona Sanderson, 2 Evie Mae Kellert, 3 Ava Duffy; **RECITATION 9-10:** 1 Ealasaid Maclean, 2 Carrie Macinnes, 3 Laurence Knight; **RECITATION 11-12:** 1 Frisael Robasdan, 2 Emma Noble/Iain Westland; **CONVERSATION 5-6:** 1 Johnny Duffy, 2 Lexie Macinnes, 3 Logan Gibson; **CONVERSATION 7-8:** 1 Catriona Cameron, 2 Rio Brown, 3 Ava Duffy; **CONVERSATION 9-10:** 1 Camrie Macinnes, 2 Louie Buchanan/Laurence Knight; **CONVERSATION 11-12:** 1 Emma Noble, 2 Iain Westland, 3 Frisael Robasdan/Domhnall Mac A'Phioear; **RECITATION 5-6 Learners:** 1 Grace Holmes; **RECITATION 7-8 Learners:** 1 Isla Crosbie, 2 Finn Eagle / Megan Curtis; **RECITATION 9-10 Learners:** 1 Hamish Kennedy, 2 Finn MacLoughlin; **RECITATION 11-12 Learners:** 1 Rachel Bolton, 2 Mitchell MacPherson, 3 Vita Winfield / Alex Ferguson; **RECITATION 13-15 Learners:** 1 Vaile Kennedy, **SOLO 5-6 Fluent:** 1 Dominic Hill; **SOLO 7-8 Fluent:** 1 Evie Mae Kellert; **SOLO 9-10 Girls F:** 1 Camrie Macinnes, 2 Ealasaid Maclean; **SOLO 9-10 Boys F:** 1 Ewan Macvicar; **SOLO 11-12 Girls F:** 1 Orla MacLennan; **SOLO 13-15 Girls F:** 1 Bethan Sexton, 2 Isla Robertson; **SOLO 13-15 Boys F:** 1 Scott Thomson, 2 Murdo MacLennan; **SOLO 5-6 Learners:** 1 Seonaidh Anderson, 2 Coel Lavery, 3 Kathryn Dugdale; **SOLO 7-8 Learners:** 1 Holly Cameron, 2 Isla Crosbie, 3 Davina Mcgrigor; **SOLO 9-10 Girls L:** 1 Emma MacLachlan, 2 Kara Gray, 3 Arwen Merrit; **SOLO 9-10 Boys L:** 1 Finn MacLoughlin, 2 Alexander Dugdale, 3 Cameron Williams; **SOLO 11-12 Girls L:** 1 Rachel Bolton, 2 Nina Anderson, 3 Holly Maclean; **SOLO 11-12 Boys L:** 1 Calum Macdonald, 2 Finlay Cameron, 3 Mitch-ell Macpherson; **SOLO 13-15 Girls L:** 1 Holly Renton, 2 Sophie Anne King, 3 Shona Wright/Tiegan Holroyd; **SOLO 13-15 Boys L:** 1 Peter Maccallum; **TRADITIONAL 13-18:** 1 Eilidh Jenkins; **Leanabh An Aigh:** 1 Cameron Macinnes, 2 Isla Macinnes, 3 Bea Yelder; **SOLO 16-18 Girls:** 1 Shannon Maclean, 2 Rebecca Woolcock; **Solo 16-18 Boys:** 1 Angus MacLennan. **Oral Competitions Junior Trophy List:** Mary Morrison **Cuach:** Ealasaid Maclean; **The Macgill Trophy:** Johnny Duffy; **Seumas Gallagher Prize:** Highest Marks In Learners Orals: Hamish Kennedy, Lochaline; **Vocal Competitions: Mrs CM Beaton Memorial Quaich:** Evie Mae Kellert; **Rockville Trophy:** Holly Cameron; **Quinish Cup:** Camrie Macinnes; **Archie Maclean Salver:** Ewan Macvicar; **Denis Macneill Salver:** Calum Macdonald; **Goldie Plate - Highest Music:** Evie Mae Kellert; **Isabel Lloyd Memorial Trophy:** Evie Mae Kellert; **Donald Morrison Cup:** Cameron Macinnes; **Mod Inadach Na Dreòlluinn Cup:** Holly Renton, Lochgilphead; **Cattanach Trophy Winner:** Scott Thomson; **Oakbank Trophy:** Nina Anderson & Holly Maclean; **Achadhbeag Trophy:** Shannon Maclean & Bethan Sexton; **Mrs A M Mackenzie Shield:** Bun Sgoil An T-Sailein; **Harper Nelson Trophy:** Tobermory Primary; **Isle Of Mull Silver Trophy:** Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile; **Lady Maclean Of Duart:** Bun Sgoil An T-Sailein; **John Simpson Shield:** Lily Howitt; **John Darroch Memorial Cup:** Mairi Nonhebel; **Allan Beaton Challenge Shield:** Calum Mackillop; **Calum Macpherson Memorial Trophy:** Alexander Anderson; **Roger Jones Memorial Trophy:** Alexander Anderson; **Young Musicians Of Mull Trophy:** Oban High School. **SENIOR TROPHY LIST:** Glen Aros Rosebowl: Ceitidh Smith; **Archibald MacDonald Memorial Cup:** Unpublished Song: Kerrie Finlay; **Neil MacDonald Memorial Shield: Local Song:** Lyle Kennedy; **Calgary Cup:** Sandaidh NicDhòmhnaill Jones; **Anabel Carothers Cup: Own Choice:** Rachael Deans; **Mull Silver Salver: Ladies Learners:** Donna Dugdale + Seumas Gallagher Prize; **Mull Silver Salver: Men Learners:** Hector MacKechnie + Seumas Gallagher Prize; **Margaret MacKay Memorial Trophy: Duet:** Donna Dugdale/Natalie Livingston; **Mrs Elizabeth Cattanach Salver: Quartet:** Deatrach; **Detta MacLean Memorial Trophy: Ladies Choir:** Dingwall Gaelic Choir; **Bentalla Trophy: Male Voice Choir:** Dingwall Gaelic Choir; **Killichronan Shield: Mixed Choir:** Dingwall Gaelic Choir; **Hilda Leslie Trophy: Mixed Choir:** Dingwall Gaelic Choir; **Isle of Mull Gaelic Choir Baton: Puirt a Beul:** Dingwall Gaelic Choir; **Catherine Fletcher Memorial Trophy:** Most Expressive Performance: Solo: Rachael Deans.

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The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://www.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
14/03345/FUL	Land 55M NW of 1 Rankin Drive Lochyside, Fort William	Erection of special needs dwellinghouse
14/03348/MSC	Burnbrae, Claggan Road Fort William	New dwelling house and associated external works
14/03411/FUL	Unit 2, Shopping Centre Unit, Glenloy Street, Caol, Fort William	Proposed alterations & change of use to form Beauty Salon & Flat
14/03435/PIP	Land South of Dal-Rainich Lochaine, Morvern	Proposed single house plot
14/03450/FUL	Old Pines, Gairloch Spean Bridge	Replace flat roof with monolithic metal finish roof over restaurant area. Replace windows in restaurant area with floor to ceiling glazing.
14/03457/PIP	Land 25M South of Natanel House, West Tirindish, Spean Bridge	Proposed dwelling house
14/03458/PIP	Plot 18, West Tirindish Spean Bridge	Proposed dwelling house

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED)
THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

Construct and operate a small-scale, run-of-river hydro scheme that abstracts water from the Abhainn Ghuilbinn and Allt Cam
Application Reference: 14/01646/FUL
Applicant: Corrou Property Company

In accordance with the provisions of Regulation 26(b) of the above Regulations, The Highland Council hereby gives notice that planning permission for Construct and operate a small-scale, run-of-river hydro scheme that abstracts water from the Abhainn Ghuilbinn and Allt Cam at Ghuilbinn Hydro Scheme, Corrou Estate by Corrou Property Company as described above, has been granted by the Council.

A copy of the planning permission is available through the Council's web based eplanning portal online at <http://www.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using the application number 14/01646/FUL) or by appointment during normal office hours at the Planning and Development Service of The Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William PH33 6XY

Common Grazing Meeting
Tiree, Balephetrish.
Special common meeting at Park House Steedings, 3PM Sat 20th September.

First Registration of a Croft
Mrs Deborah Carmichael has registered her croft 20 & 21 Badabrie, Kilmallie on the Crofting register held by the Registers of Scotland.
Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 26 May 2015. Details of the Registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home.
The Crofting Registration Number is: I2152

Mrs Flora MacConnell is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at Upper Kilchattan, Isle of Colonsay to Dr David Stewart Binnie of Benoran, Scalasaig, Isle of Colonsay. If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (email info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/02041/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse (amended design relative to planning permission reference 12/02318/PP)	Land North East of Ardnornish Craignaig-a-Mhinister Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
14/02056/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land South West of Cieran Cottage Benderloch Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
14/02057/PP	Erection of two dwellinghouses.	Plots 2 and 11 Black Crofts North Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
14/02157/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land North West of Scalladh An Eilein Achnacraig Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA65 6AY	Sub Post Office Craignure
14/02164/PP	Erection of agricultural building	Ard-Bruach North Connell Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1DX	Sub Post Office Ledaig
14/02167/PP	Renewal of planning permission 11/01240/PP - Erection of a dwellinghouse and detached garage and the installation of a septic tank.	Plot 5 Land East of Mill Farm House Bardalene Oban	Sub Post Office Ledaig
14/02169/PP	Variation of condition one of planning permission reference 13/01780/PP to extend the period for implementation by one year	Land West of The Haven North Connell Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1RD	Sub Post Office Ledaig
14/02175/PP	Change of use of hotel to restaurant with bar on ground floor and installation or replacement roof covering (part retrospective)	Soroba House Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 45B	Oban Area Office
14/02180/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North of Seabank Farmhouse Benderloch Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1SB	Sub Post Office Ledaig

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/02099/PP	Re painting of hotel	Tobermory Hotel 53 Main Street Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6NT	Tobermory Area Office
14/02173/LIB	Retention of Spanish Slate Roof Covering to Front Roof Plane	Soroba House Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 45B	Oban Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/01510/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land North East of Lussavigen House Lussavigen Isle of Jura Argyll	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura
14/02131/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South of Gartloch Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

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Engagement

CUMMING - CACACE

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Veronica eldest daughter of Ian Cumming, Oban and Marion and Paul Shaw, Renfrew, to Dario, elder son of Antonio and Catherine Cacace, Milngavie.

Happy 40th

SCOTT
Wednesday 17th September

Love from all the family x

Many Thanks

To the two Oban High boys who willingly pushed my punctured heavy trailer away from causing a traffic jam outside the Parish Church on Friday last.

Also to Colin and John who went to a lot of trouble in changing the wheel for me.

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ENGAGEMENTS

MACINTYRE - COOKE - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Morven MacIntyre, Cruachan, Lochawe and Dylan Cooke, MacKelvie Road, Oban on Monday, September 8, 2014.

RUBY WEDDING

MACKAY - MACKENZIE - At Tobermory Parish Church on September 20, 1974 by the late Rev. Gordon Holroyd, John to Joanie, Sonas House, Tobermory.

MACKINNON - MACNEIL - On September 21, 1974 at St Leo the Great, Glasgow, Kenneth to Mary Elizabeth MacNeil. Present address: 187 Bolnabodach, Isle of Barra.

DEATHS

BELSHAW - Peacefully at the Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban, after a short illness, aged 82 years, Pete Belshaw, a dear husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Missed by all.

BURNETT - Peacefully at the Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on September 16, 2014, Norma, beloved wife of the late Arthur, loving mum to Rosslyn and mother-in-law to Michael, devoted gran to Paul and the late Laura and a dear friend to many.

HARPER - John Allan (Lochgoilhead). Peacefully at home on Saturday, September 13, 2014, Allan beloved husband of the late Elsie, father of Allison and Jane, father-in-law of Graham and grandfather of Scott and Rachel. Funeral service at Lochgoilhead Parish Church on Friday, September 19 at 10.30am, thereafter at Cardross Crematorium for 12.15pm to which all friends are welcome. Family flowers only please.

KENNEDY - Very suddenly but peacefully at home, on September 10, 2014, George Haig Kennedy, 6 Balvicar Road, Oban, (formerly of Benderloch), beloved husband to Margaret and of the late Sarah, much loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Family flowers only please.

MACDONALD - Suddenly after a short illness in her 96th year Margaret MacLean Macdonald. Rockburn, Tobermory. Loving Sister of the late Calum. Sadly missed.

MACINNES - Isa passed away peacefully on Tuesday September 16, 2014, at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban. Beloved daughter of the late Allan and Jessie MacInnes and dear sister of the late John and Cathie. Treasured aunt and great-aunt. Former secretary Oban High School. Funeral will take place from Oban Parish Church on Monday September 22 at 1.30 pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

McDONALD - Peacefully at North Argyll House, Oban on September 14, 2014, in her 91st year, Jean Stuart McDonald, (former PE Teacher at Oban High School), beloved daughter of the late John and Ella McDonald, Glasgow, dear sister to David and the late Ian and a loving aunt. Funeral service will take place at Ardchattan Kirk on Thursday September 25 at 1.00 pm. Thereafter to Achnaba Cemetery. All friends are respectfully invited to attend. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/Donations if desired for North Argyll House Residents Fund.

ROSS - (Aless/Balachulish). Suddenly, but peacefully at Redwoods Nursing Home, Aless on Tuesday September 9, 2014, Jessie Stewart Ross (Ettie) (née Chisholm), aged 90 years. Beloved wife of the late Calum, daughter of the late Angus and Elizabeth Chisholm, dearest mum of Alison and mother-in-law of Donald, a much loved granny of Elaine and a loving sister of the late Angus, Mamie and Jimmie. Funeral private at her own request. Enquiries to Mairi Russell Funeral Services. Tel: 01349 880901.

TEMPLETON (née Broadfoot) - Peacefully, at North Argyll House, Oban on September 12, 2014, Margaret, aged 89 years, beloved wife of the late Thomas Templeton, much loved sister of May

and dear aunt of Robert and Moira. Cremation service will take place at Clydebank Crematorium, on Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 1.15 p.m. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support or North Argyll House Residents' Fund, through D. & A. Munn Ltd, Breadalbane Street, Oban PA34 5NZ.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMPBELL - The family of the late Flora-Jane, Auntie Jean, express their gratitude to the nursing staff of Ward I especially Cath MacKichan who comforted Jean in her final moments, Hamish Hoey undertakers with Catriona for their sympathetic professionalism, the Rev Cringles for a beautiful service, all chord and pall-bearer's and the Steak House for a warm reception. Appreciation goes to the long term carers of Care Direct, District Nurses and Connel surgery. Thanks to friends Rhona and Hilda, the Women's Guild of Christ Church and all others who came from near and afar to the service. A very generous sum was raised for the Local Diabetics Support group.

CAMPBELL - The family of the late Susan Campbell wish to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for their support and kind expressions of sympathy following their recent sad and tragic bereavement. Thanks also to Rev M. Kinnear for his comforting service, McFall Funeral Directors for efficient funeral arrangements and The MacDonald Hotel for refreshments. Finally, thanks to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside. The sum of £1,000 was raised and has been shared equally between 'Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland' and 'Cancer Research'.

CAREY - Annamarie and family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy following the sad passing of our beloved Auntie Patsy. I would like to thank my dear Auntie Jean for her love, care, kindness and support, you were there for us both throughout. Special thanks to Dr Helliwell for kind attention, compassion and support shown to us both during Auntie Patsy's short illness. I would also like to thank Dr Ward for the compassion shown to us on Tuesday morning, also a big thanks to district nurse, Joanne Robinson, for her kindly visits, also to Susan in McNulty's chemist for all her help and kindness. Sincere thanks to Rev Hilda Smith for a most comforting service, to Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for professional, caring and efficient arrangements. I would also like to thank Stan and Kenny for the respect and kindness shown to us on Tuesday morning, I was very touched. Thanks also Morna for the beautiful flowers and to the Stag Hotel for an excellent purvey. Finally, thanks to everyone who attended the church and graveside to pay their last respects.

MACKAY - The family would like to thank all relatives and friends for the many kind expressions of sympathy received following the recent death of Mairead, Fort Augustus. Special thanks to Rev Tabeta D. Baader for a comforting service, to the organist for his appropriate selection of gaelic melodies and to Angus Grant for his moving fiddle music. Thanks also to funeral directors W. Fraser & Son of Inverness for their sensitive and efficient arrangements and to the staff at Stravaighers Lodge for providing refreshments to such a large crowd. Finally thanks to all who attended the funeral for their overwhelming support. The retiring collection raised £550 for Cancer Research.

OXLEY - Moira, Gill and family would like to say a special thank you to the wonderful staff at Care Plus, Torrsay Court, Oban and Lorn & Islands Hospital for the exceptional care and kindness shown to Pearl in the last months of her life. The family greatly appreciate the cards, flowers and messages of support from everyone at

this sad time. Thanks also to Hamish Hoey and son for their professionalism in taking care of all the funeral arrangements and to Rev Jeff McCormick for the lovely service. To all friends and family who attended the cremation service in Greenock, your support was really appreciated.

MEMORIAM

BEATON - In loving memory of our dear Aunt Jessie, who passed away September 18, 2013. Loved and remembered every day.

Also remembering her husband Kenneth Iain, who died September 16, 1990 and our cousin Margaret Young, who died September 16, 2002. Treasured memories. - Catherine, Alan and family.

BLUE - Lillian in loving memory of a dear sister and sister-in-law who died September 22, 2011. Always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts. - Inserted by her sister Mary, Jim, Kevin and wee Ryan.

BLUE - Lillian in loving memory of a dear sister who passed away on September 22, 2011. Too dearly loved to be forgotten. - Inserted by her brother Donnie

HUNTER - Betty. 1st Anniversary. September 22, 2013. We watched you getting tired A cure was not to be God put his arms around you And whispered come to me With tearful eyes we held you As you gently passed away Although we loved you dearly We couldn't make you stay. - Monica, Brian, Emma, Steven, Danielle and Sarah.

MACCALLUM - In loving memory of a dear father, father-in-law and grandad Alistair, who died at home in Pennyghael on September 20, 2013. Will always be remembered. - Stephen, Lynda, Zoe, Rowan and Angus.

MACCUISH - In loving memory of our darling son Bobby who left us on September 17, 2006. You are always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts son. Till we meet again. - Mum and Dad.

MACCUISH - Bobby not a day goes by that you are not in our thoughts. Our world is a lonelier place without you. - David, Tia, Claire and Daniel.

MACCUISH - Bobby. The years pass but nothing changes. You are always in our thoughts and hearts. You'll never walk alone. - Peter, Julie, Jenna, Andrew and family.

MACDONALD - Remembering with love our beloved father and papa, Douglas Macdonald who passed away on September 18, 1991, also remembering loved ones gone before and after. We keep in our hearts the love of the past For there it was planted forever to last Too deep in our hearts for death to divide Each day of our lives you walk by our side. - Inserted by his ever loving daughters Mary Flora, Sandra, May Margaret and families.

MACDONALD - Treasured memories of our dear parents, George, who died August 16, 1992 and Chrissie who died September 17, 2005. Always in our thoughts. - Mary, Peggy, Hugh, Christine and families.

MACDOUGALL - Treasured memories of Callum, a dearly loved husband, father and grampy who died on September 19, 1997. Loved and remembered always. - Freena and family, Iochdar, Bussanag.

MACDOUGALL - In loving memory of our dad and grampy, Callum, who passed away on September 19, 1997. Never more than a thought away. - Margaret and family, Bussanag.

ROSS - In loving memory of a much loved wife, mum and nanny Marion, who died September 15, 2003. It's a lonely life without you And sad has been each day For life and home are not the same

Since you were called away. To lose someone you loved for years Is hard beyond belief Your heart comes near to breaking And God only knows my grief. - Loving husband Rusty and family.

SMALLEY - Peter John, my dear old dad Your smile has gone forever And your hand we cannot touch

We have so many happy memories Of you, dad, we loved so much Loved forever - Honey, Russell and Kiera.

SMALLEY - Peter John. Gone but never forgotten Only a thought away Loved and cherished memories. - Angus-John, Paula, Ruairidh-John and Ella.

WILLIAMSON - Treasured memories of Bruce, died 10 years ago September 20, 2004. Glad to have grown up with you Sadly can't grow old with you. Also remembering with love Hamish, died September 10, 2000. Both sorely missed. - Linda, Richard and family, Lochy Bridge, Fort William.

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Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Celebrating 150 years of St John's

A CELEBRATION of the 'cathedral' will be held later this month, marking 150 years of this remarkable Christian community.

Founded as St John's Cathedral in 1864 it was the establishment of a base in the town. The story of the Episcopal Church in Oban begins with the Victorians. Though it has a long and momentous history in the West Highlands, tracing its history back through the Jacobite times, in which the Episcopal Church took a prominent part and for which it suffered severely. Back to the days before the disestablishment, when the Church of Scotland was itself Episcopal and before that to the foundation of the Diocese of Argyll, about 1200, and the Diocese of the Isles, pre-1189, for which dioceses St John's in 1920 became the Cathedral; back to the Celtic Church, whose principal saints are commemorated in the names of the Cathedral Choir Stalls.

St John's congregation was first gathered in 1846, when Oban was only a village and the present site was open fields.

The original architect, Charles Wilson, died before the plans were finalised, and his partner David Thomson picked up the commission and designed what

is now the middle zone of the cathedral, completed in 1864. Some of the congregation were Anglicans from England and Ireland, but many were local Episcopalians from Appin, Ballachulish, and Glencoe, where the Episcopal Church has existed in continuity from the times before the Disestablishment.

Two local lairds, MacDougall of Dunollie and Campbell of Dunstaffnage, were crucial to the project of starting a building, and both the families are still connected with the congregation.

To celebrate the 150th anniversary a celebration of Festival Evensong is being held at 3pm on September 21 led by

the current Provost, The Very Revd Nicki McNelly with a former Provost, Canon Allan MacLean preaching. This will be followed by a reception in the narthex to which everyone is invited.

There will also be an art exhibition, mini flower festival and coffee mornings taking place between September 20 and 25 to help raise much needed funds for essential repair work to St. John's.

On Sunday, September 21 at 3pm a Festal Evensong will be held with guest preacher The Revd Canon Allan Maclean. While an Art Exhibition and Mini Flower Festival will be held between September 20 until the 25.



AS IT WAS: St John's Cathedral celebrates 150 years this month.

Obituary - Ewan Cameron Ormiston

April 7 1929 to August 29 2014, aged 85 years

BORN at Banchar Farmhouse, Laggan Road, Newtonmore. Died at Raigmore Hospital Inverness.

Cameron Ormiston sadly passed away peacefully in Raigmore Hospital Inverness on Friday August 29, 2014 after a short illness.

A fit and active man all of his life he was still shifting ponies and going about his daily rounds only a few weeks before he died.

Born in Banchar Farmhouse Newtonmore to Ewan and Elcie on April 7, 1929, he claimed his prowess at shinty came about because his mother walked him through the goalposts on the The Eilan shinty pitch the night before he was born.

After some time in Newtonmore school he was educated at Gordonston.

A sportsman all of his life, and one of the greatest all

rounders in the Highlands, he not only played shinty, even captaining the team, but was well known on the Highland Games circuit for competing in both the Light and Heavy events as well as running Hill Races and Wrestling.

During his National Service he was a PT Instructor in the army and later on a very keen clay pigeon shot like his father, travelling all over Scotland. His real passion however was his highland pony. In his early years, along with his father, they had upwards of 300 ponies used for the deer and leased out to Highland estates too, these then became the basis of the pony trekking workforce.

There is hardly a farm in Badenoch that Cameron and his father have not farmed at some point, but he is probably best known for his years at Strathmashie Estate at Laggan

during the 1970s and 1980s.

His proudest moment in the horse world was when he won Reserve Champion overall of the show in the Fredricks Trophy at the Horse of the Year Show in London in 1966 with the stallion Glentromie Trooper.

In latter years he lived at a new house Mo Dhacaidh (Gaelic for My Home), that he built at Croila Stables in the village, never retiring but still doing his daily rounds of all his animals even at 85 years old.

He still attended all local shinty matches supporting his beloved Newtonmore and every week made time to go round and visit all his old friends and some younger ones just like his father had done before him.

A true Highland Gentleman who meant so much to so many and who will not be forgotten for a long time to come.



DONATION: Rev Dugald Cameron is pictured handing over a donation to further the good work of the Feis Group.

Parish Church enjoy Cuan Mor Ceilidh

A CHURCH social enjoyed a night out with music and fellowship in the strange surroundings of a town brewery.

The Cuan Mor function room was the venue for a recent Parish Church Ceilidh.

Parishioners enjoyed the stirring music of a sextet from the Reel and Strathspey Society led by Helen Jordan.

Solos were heard from Christy Cameron and Feis Latharna stalwarts James and

Rebekah MacPherson with Anna Garvin.

A tasty half-time supper was provided by the Cuan Mor staff which helped sustain the dancers for a rousing second half.

Thought for the week

Pray for first Oban meeting of Scottish Rural Parliament in November

PRAYER is a wonderful gift that God has given us to pray for others.

The first Scottish Rural Parliament in Oban is a meeting of 400 delegates from all strands of rural life coming together to discuss pressing rural issues and to set the scene to highlight them to government and other bodies.

Group fully supports this and has been working alongside others, including the Scottish government, to help with its formation.

Please pray for the delegates that will be chosen, that Rural issues can be highlighted and for God to have His hand on the gathering.

Bill Harvey, Scottish Churches Rural Group.

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GRADUATION



Bethany Stone graduated from Edinburgh Napier University with a Bsc Honours Degree in Biomedical Science. Beth is the daughter of Mary and Graham Stone, Bridge of Awe and she was a pupil at Tainuitt Primary and Oban High School.



Paula Anne MacLachlan graduated from Glasgow University with Bachelor of Arts degree (Childhood practice). She attended Inveraray and Lochgilphead schools and Langside college, Glasgow. Paula is the daughter of Kenny and Moira MacLachlan, Inveraray and is currently part of the management team of Glasgow City Council nursery.



Dr Rona Young MBChB recently graduated from the University of Dundee. Rona is the daughter of Bill and Rona Young, Lochgilphead and a former pupil of Lochgilphead Primary and Lochgilphead High School. Rona begins her career working as a junior doctor at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh.

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Connel racer frustrated with 13th place at San Marino

'I know where I went wrong and will learn from it'

CONNEL Moto3 rider John McPhee ended a frustrating weekend at Misano with only 13th place in the San Marino Grand Prix to show for his efforts.

The Saxoprint-RTG rider, who struggled with engine braking and front suspension difficulties in qualifying yesterday, held his own at the start to circulate in 15th, locked in a battle outside the top 10 for the best of the rest.

But four laps in, after a pivotal tussle with Aspar's Juanfran Guevara for 12th, McPhee was run wide and out of the reckoning for a decent points-paying finish as the group in which he'd been battling broke away.

From that point on the chances

of closing back up became increasingly remote as handling issues and rider errors impeded progress.

Meanwhile Guevara forged ahead to finish ninth while McPhee crossed the line in 13th some 14 seconds in arrears of race winner Alex Rins.

McPhee's RTG-SaxoPrint team-mate Efrén Vazquez, who finished 10th, hangs on to fourth in the standings, while McPhee remains in 13th.

'It was a difficult race,' said the Scot. 'I held my own at the start and managed to make up some places which got me into a bit of a fight with Guevara.'

'We both made errors as we fought for position as a result of

MOTOR CYCLING

which I got run wide and lost the group. After that I was trying to catch up and pushing too hard.

'And basically that, coupled with my tyres being worn and the bike starting to slide around, cost me the chance of a decent finish.'

'The harder I pushed the more prone I was to making mistakes which, in the end, caused me to lose my rhythm and the chance of closing back up. But I know where I went wrong and will learn from it.'

John is next in action on Sunday at the Aragon Grand Prix in Spain.



SPEEDSTER: John McPhee in action at the San Marino Grand Prix last Sunday Photo: Bonnie Lane/CanBe Images



Taynuilt

LADIES: Medal Final played September 14: Silver Division - 1 Anne S MacCalman 67 (18); 2 Carol MacLarty 67 (20) 3 Carol Church 67 (20). Bronze Division - 1 Sally Thompson 64 (27); 2 Jill Stewart 70 (23); 3 Sandra Elliott 71 (24). Gents: Medal Final played September 14 - 1 Allan Stewart 60 (10); 2 Robert MacLarty 61 (12); 3 Ewen McGlynn 63 (19).

Islay

LAGAVULIN Trophy played Sunday September 14 - 1 N Carmichael 74-4=70; 2 R Quail 84-9=75; 3 A MacAllister 91-16=75 C55 74.

Glencruitten

ERIC Deverill and Steven McCuish won the Dennis Cathro Pairs at Glencruitten on Saturday with a score of 51. James Scott Snr and Hugh Vennard were second with a score of 52, and in third place were Scott Jordan and David Ross with a score of 56.

In the family cup on Sunday Diane Colewell and Pat Murphy were the winners with a score of 88 - 14 = 74 (bih). In second place with same score were Helen Pearson and Keegan MacPhee (110 - 36 = 74).

On Saturday there is to be a scramble.

Tobermory

THE GENTS medal final for the President's Cup was won by Club Captain Ewan MacCrone with a net 63, and the Tobermory Trophy for runner-up final was won by John Weir with a net 66.

The junior club championship for the James McNab Trophy was won by the captain's son William MacCrone with a gross score 144 for 36 holes, and the net trophy won by Murdo MacLennan with a magnificent 110 net.

Scores for the men's section, President's Cup - 1 Ewan MacCrone 71-08-63; 2 Iain Wilshire 83-15-68; 3 Ross Kirsop 81-12-69.

Tobermory Trophy - 1 John Weir 79-13-66; 2 Graham Davidson 73-06-67; 3 Richard Inglis 85-12-73.

Junior Section: James McNab Trophy first round - 1 Murdo MacLennan 99-48-51; 2 William MacCrone 66-05-61; 3 Lewis Wilshire 71-08-63. Second Round - Murdo McLennan 99-40-59; 2 Ross McCrone; 3 Lewis Wilshire 76-08-68.

Ladies nine-hole medal final - 1 Kath McAdam 20 points; 2 Jennifer Jack 17 points; 3 Olive Brown 12 points.

Andrew skips family to victory

THE LAST competition of the season at Oban Bowling Club was held last Saturday when the club held its annual Ewen

BOWLS



FAMILY AFFAIR: Helen MacLean, Andrew Forbes and Donna Forbes - winners of the Ewen Campbell Memorial Triples

Campbell Memorial Triples. Sixteen teams took part and through the round robin section emerged the four semi-finalists.

Donnie Douglas's team were beaten by Gus MacGillivray's team with the other semi-final going to an extra end before Andrew Forbes' team finally got the better of Donald Crawford's team from Lochgilphead.

The final was won by Andrew Forbes who was playing with his mother Donna, and his grandmother Helen MacLean making it two wins in two weeks for Donna and Helen.

The prizes were presented by Stephen Campbell and Janet Campbell, family of the late Ewen Campbell.



WINNERS: The Ewen Campbell Memorial Triples winners with Stephen Campbell, Janet Campbell and Beth and Ewen Campbell, who are the grandchildren of the late Ewen Campbell

Table tennis season ready to start

TABLE TENNIS

THE FORT William Table Tennis Club is set to return at the end of the month, welcoming players of all abilities.

The club will meet in the Nevis Centre on Monday September 29 and each following Monday between 6.30pm and 9pm. A fully qualified coach will be on hand and can be booked for individual training sessions.

Jim Hinchley of Fort William Table Tennis Club said: 'Anyone who doesn't want to join the leagues but wants to come along for a knock about and a bit of fun is no problem, just come along and join in.'

'In this year's season we have planned mixed doubles, the all comers singles, knockout and of course the very popular singles handicap.'

For further information contact Jim on 01397 708827.

Uist team pays tribute to a 'superbly gifted footballer'

FOOTBALL

A SOUTH Uist football team have paid tribute to their teenage striker who died in a tragic car accident.

Lochdar Saints Football Club called Carl MacPhee 'a great friend and role model' following the news of his death last Saturday.

The 19-year-old, known as 'Doodoos', was one of five men in a car which ploughed into a fence at Daliburgh after a football game last weekend.

A spokesman for Lochdar Saints Football Club said: 'Doodoos will always be remembered for his important part in the most successful period of the club's history. He was a fighter and a nightmare for defenders. He worked hard on the pitch and trained hard off the pitch to make himself physically the best he could be.'

'His last game for the club was a true reflection of his character as without hesitation or fear he scored a diving header to add to his impressive 30 goals for the season.'

'A great friend to all and a role model for others to follow, who his family could be proud of.'

The Uist and Barra Football Association also expressed sadness at the loss of a 'superbly gifted footballer'.

A spokesman said: 'Tributes have been paid by hundreds of people through social media, showing the popularity of a truly lovely young man. Carl was a superbly gifted footballer whose prowess in front of goal saw him rise to become the top striker in Uist and Barra.'

'He will be sadly missed, not only by the footballing community but by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him.'



GIFTED: tributes have poured in for striker Carl MacPhee

Mid Argyll rugby club secures grass pitch for training

RUGBY

A NEW home has welcomed junior rugby players this school term as Mid Argyll Rugby club has secured a grass pitch for training.

The club, which runs the after school rugby sessions at Lochgilphead Joint Campus, will be hosting rugby training at MacRae Park after agreeing use of the pitch with Kilmory Camanachd.

Mini rugby, for P4-7 children, and youth rugby for S1 to S6 students has resumed on Tuesday afternoons between 4pm and 5pm.

Use of the grass pitch until the October holidays means youngsters can play contact rugby; training will revert to the 3G pitch in wet weather.

People interested in becoming volunteer coaches at the rugby club attended the annual Rugby Ready training course, delivered by Argyll and Bute rugby development officer Allan Wright. The course took place on Tuesday September 16 from 4pm to 6pm at the school.



ON THE BALL: prizewinners at Tobermory Golf Club, left to right, Murdo McLennan, John Weir, Ewan MacRone and William MacCrone

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

COMPETITION

WIN £750

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

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.

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This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

D Robison, Argyll Terrace, Dunoon

D McAulay, Forest View, Strachur

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

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.

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.

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Please tape your £1 coin here

Name

Address

Tel No.



Veteran and teenager on target as Kingussie win Camanachd Cup

'Victory is sweet payback for pain of recent final defeats'

KINGUSSIE co-manager Russell Jones believes Saturday's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup victory is sweet payback for the pain of recent final defeats.

The Badenoch outfit sparked in front of a 5,000-strong crowd in Inverness and possessed too much firepower for Glen-urquhart, winning 4-0.

Jones couldn't hide his contentment at the victory, and the manner of it, as Kingussie players savoured the hugs and handshakes of their fans on the Bught Park tuft at the end.

That joy was made all the more special for the Dell players and supporters, knowing what they had been through in recent years.

'To be honest, we've been building towards this,' he said. 'We have had a couple of near misses in 2010 and 2011 but what do you do?'

'You have to go away, work harder and come back and that's what we have done. I didn't feel we had any failures on the day and, no disrespect to Glenurquhart, I felt we played the better shinty. When our young boys get the confidence, they can really play.'

Glenurquhart took a large crowd with them and their red and black chequered flags provided a colourful backdrop to the 107th final.

Sadly, for them, their team couldn't convert the opportunities that came their way.

James Macpherson will feel he could have done better when, with the scoreline at 1-0, he let a ball evade his stick with the goal gaping.

SHINTY

Similarly, Fraser Heath could have made more of an opportunity he himself created just a few minutes later.

Glen were to rue that when Ronald Ross added to teenager Savio Genini's 21st minute low strike, to make it 2-0 in 39 minutes.

The legendary striker proved he is still a class act; beating two defenders before clattering the ball past Stuart Mackintosh.

In the second half, Kingussie were never under concerted pressure and Genini made it 3-0 in 68 minutes.

Substitute James Falconer, only 16, ran bravely at the heart of the Glen defence, causing panic.

When the ball broke out of the goalmouth, Genini was in exactly the right place and shot firmly into the net.

Interestingly, Genini was an 11-year-old mascot the last time Kingussie won the Camanachd Cup - back in Dunoon in 2006.

Who would have known his contribution, eight years later, would be so telling?

'It's brilliant to be able to say I've won the cup now. I've grown up with shinty all my life and I've enjoyed every minute of it but nothing will ever compare to this, ever,' he beamed. With only seven minutes to go, Ross made it 4-0.

The ball squeezed through to him through a rack of bodies and he coolly converted before gathering the Albert Smith medal for man-of-the-match.



CHAMPIONS: A jubilant Kingussie celebrate after winning the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup last Saturday. Photo: Neil Paterson

North v South under 21 match at An Aird

THE squads have been announced for the North v South Under 21 Match which takes place at An Aird, Fort William on Saturday throw up 1pm.

The match will be an opportunity for the players to stake a claim for the forthcoming Under 21 Shinty Hurling International at Paic Esler, Newry, County Down on Saturday October 25.

Scotland Under 21 International manager Garry Reid said: 'The North U21 v South U21 fixture used to be a cornerstone of the shinty calendar and the players have shown

a real appetite to be part of this fixture with more than 70 players turning up for the trial sessions in Inveraray and Inverness. The fixture will also be used as the final part of selection for the Scotland Under 21 team that will compete against Ireland in Newry, Co Down on the October 25, so the players on show will have the opportunity to bring success for their respective area as well as achieving personal recognition of being selected for their country.'

North Under 21 Squad - Callum MacDonald (Lochaber); Shane Gillies (Kilmallie); Michael MacKenzie (Lovat); Fraser Heath (Glenurquhart); Blair Morrison (Caberfeidh); Michael Russell (Newtonmore); Darren Hanlon (Kingussie); Jack Dignan (Lochaber); Oliver MacRae (Kinlochshiel); Lewis Tawse (Lovat); Graeme MacMillan (Lovat); Donald Nixon (Kinlochshiel); Ewan Menzies (Glenurquhart); Martin Munro (Kilmallie); Greg Matheson (Lovat); Callum Stewart (Newtonmore); Jordan Fraser (Kinlochshiel); Arran MacPhee (Fort William); Stuart Callison (Lochaber); Coach: Alan MacRae (Lovat).

South Under 21 Squad - Ewan Harrison (Col Glen); Innes MacDonald (Kyles Athletic); Cameron McCue (Aberdour); Christopher Blair (Kyles Athletic); Daniel Madge (Oban Celtic); Zac Coley (Kyles Athletic); Fraser MacNicol (Inveraray); Finlay MacMillan (Glasgow Mid Argyll); Iain Wilson (Strachur); Cameron Keith (Kyles Athletic); Ali MacDonald (Inveraray); Malcolm Clark (Oban Camanachd); Craig Anderson (Glasgow Mid Argyll); Lewis MacNicol (Inveraray); John McNulty (Glenorchy); Craig Taylor (Kilmory); Angus Thorburn (Aberdour); Coach: Alan MacKechnie (Glenorchy).



DOUBLE TROUBLE: Ronald Ross celebrates scoring his second goal in the 4-0 defeat of Glenurquhart in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup final at Bught Park, Inverness. Ronald went on to win the Albert Smith Medal for his man-of-the-match performance. Photo: Donald Cameron



CHAMPIONS: the Ken MacMaster under 14 cup final took place before the main event last Saturday with Oban Camanachd defeating Skye 3-1 in a pulsating final. Our photo shows the Oban youngsters with their coaches after the trophy presentation

Kingussie Shinty Club pay emotional tribute to 1914 cup-winning team

'We wanted to connect the current players with those lads from a century ago'

PLAYERS from Kingussie Shinty club paid an emotional tribute on Saturday to their 1914 cup-winning team, which included six players who died in World War One.

The players wore special commemorative jerseys in the televised Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final against Glenurquhart, each embroidered with a poppy and the name of a compatriot from 1914, including the six who never returned from the trenches.

Kingussie ran out 4-0 winners on Saturday, with Savio Genini and Ronald Ross both bagging a brace.

One hundred years ago, Kingussie defeated Kyles Athletic 6-1 in the final of the trophy, the most iconic competition in shinty, at Possil Park in Glasgow, which proved to be the last time those 13 players would ever star together.

The Great War was declared four months later and six players were to die on the battlefields, with a fur-

ther two shot and wounded and one gassed in the conflict.

A century on, and with the club again in the final, the Highland club paid homage to the brave players of 1914 and the sacrifices they made for their country.

Each player selected for the game received a card with a photo of their corresponding player and a biography, compiled by club historian John Robertson and co-manager Russell Jones.

Surrounding the poppy logo on the shirt were the words: 'Camanachd Cup Final 1914-2014 Always Remembered', with the player name stitched below.

Each player was allowed to keep the jersey after the final at Bught Park in Inverness, a fitting and poignant moment.

'What happened to those 13 players mirrored what was happening across Highland communities at that time,' said manager Russell Jones.

'You look at the grainy pictures of those men and it seems like a very different time.'

'It may be a century on, but we are still the same club. A lot of the current players are in similar professions and are of the same age. The village is still the same and we are playing for the very cup those men did.'

'That is why we wanted to connect the current players with those lads from a century ago.'

Great-great-uncle
Defender Barrie Dallas, 38, wore the name of his great-great-uncle Alistair, an Army PT instructor, who played in 1914.

'There's no doubt the players will be thinking about those men before the game,' said Dallas, whose great-great-grandfather Jack Dallas is the sculpted player on top of the Camanachd Cup itself.

'I can recall being told a story that, in 1919, a special event was held at the Star Hotel to honour, with spe-

cial caps, the Kingussie players who won the 1914 trophy.

'Sadly, family members had to collect caps on behalf of the six who never returned to the village after the Great War.'

This weekend's captain James Maclean wore the name of 1914 captain, William MacGillivray, who was killed at the Battle of Festubert on May 18 1915.

Also killed in action were Alick Tolmie, who died at Scarpe, John G Macpherson who fell at Arras, Malcolm McIntosh who was killed at Flanders and John Macpherson, who died from his wounds after Festubert.

'William MacGillivray was certainly at the front of my mind when I stepped out onto the pitch on Saturday,' said current skipper James Maclean.

'It puts everything into perspective. I was very proud and honoured to be leading the team out on such a poignant occasion.'



The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	14	10	2	2	37	17	22
Lovat	13	7	4	2	30	18	18
Glenurquhart	14	7	4	3	25	16	18
Kyles Athletic	13	6	3	4	25	20	15
Kingussie	13	7	1	5	29	27	15
Inveraray	14	3	4	7	18	29	10
Kinlochshiel	13	2	2	9	21	34	6
Lochaber	14	1	2	11	18	42	4

Marine Harvest National Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fort William	13	11	2	0	70	10	24
Oban Camanachd	13	11	1	1	46	12	23
Kilmallie	13	9	1	3	50	19	19
Beaulieu	14	7	1	6	37	29	15
Caberfeidh	14	5	1	8	31	39	11
Glasgow MA	13	4	0	9	22	43	8
Glenorchy	14	2	1	11	12	57	5
Bute	14	1	1	12	8	67	1

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	12	12	0	0	49	6	24
Newtonmore	11	7	1	3	34	12	15
Strathglass	14	7	1	6	38	32	15
Glenurquhart	12	5	3	4	25	23	13
Beaulieu	13	6	1	6	31	36	13
Kingussie	13	4	1	8	31	46	7
Lovat	11	3	0	8	21	37	6
Inverness	14	1	3	10	21	58	5

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ballachulish	13	9	4	0	37	13	22
Kyles Athletic	13	8	3	2	45	17	19
Oban Celtic	14	6	4	4	20	27	16
Aberdour	14	6	3	5	32	31	15
Lochside Rovers	14	6	3	5	32	34	15
Strachur	14	3	3	8	18	33	9
Taynuilt	14	2	4	8	32	46	8
Kilmory	14	2	2	10	16	31	6

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fort William	13	11	0	2	54	19	22
Glenurquhart	14	8	1	5	25	31	17
Lochcarron	13	8	1	4	37	45	17
Lochaber	14	6	1	7	50	39	13
Kinlochshiel	14	5	3	6	27	33	11
Boleskine	14	5	0	9	29	48	10
Aberdeen Uni	14	3	3	8	29	39	9
Skye	13	3	1	9	31	35	7

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inveraray	14	12	2	0	66	7	26
Tayforth	14	12	1	1	51	10	25
Glasgow MA	12	6	1	5	42	25	13
Col Glen	13	5	2	6	36	31	10
Bute	12	5	1	6	22	29	10
Ballachulish	12	4	0	8	19	41	8
Glenorchy	11	2	0	9	12	35	4
Aberdour	14	1	1	12	14	84	3

Marine Harvest North Division 3							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caberfeidh	14	10	2	2	52	17	22
Kilmallie	14	6	3	5	51	28	14
Lewis	14	6	2	6	29	30	14
Strathspey	14	6	1	7	28	44	12
Lochbroom	14	4	4	6	19	36	9
Inverness	14	3	2	9	24	48	8

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Saints hold the bragging rights after first Argyll derby match

'I thought we played well in patches but the final pass was letting us down'

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
Campbeltown Pupils 0 Oban Saints 1

THE FIRST Argyll derby match since 2009 between Campbeltown Pupils and Oban Saints took place on a glorious sunny day before a big crowd at Kintyre Park and the players from both teams should take a great deal of credit for an entertaining end-to-end encounter.

The home side are Scottish Amateur League Premier Division One champions with Oban Saints winners of the SAFL Premier Division and Jimmy Marshall trophies last season so a cracking game was in prospect between the two Argyll league title holders.

Saints were without Jamie Graham and Scott Maitland who joined Donnie Campbell, Dene Cassells and Colin Tindall on the injured list and with the game only ten minutes old the Oban side lost central defender Alex Craig who had to leave the field with a back injury.

The game started at a frantic pace with the Premier Division One champions taking the game to Saints.

Pupils' coaches Duncan McAulay and Campbell Robertson had obviously got their players fired up for this game.

Saints weathered the early onslaught and created the first real chance of the game but Pupils' keeper Craig Lamont made a good save from an Allan MacKay shot. The young keeper came to his team's rescue again on the half hour mark when he made another good save from Craig MacEwan.

The home side were trying to get the ball forward quickly to strikers Gary Grumoli and

John McCallum, but the Saints defence with Paul Kerr, now playing as sweeper, were dealing comfortably with the long forward passes.

Saints were playing well enough but the final pass was letting them down.

Pupils got caught out when Saints took a quick free kick on the left which allowed Craig MacEwan to run into the box, but a last ditch tackle from Shaun Grumoli denied the Saints' wide man.

Referee Jimmy Litster, who had a good game, blew for half time with the scoreline blank.

The second half started with the home team on the attack and Paul Grumoli came close with a good shot which flew inches over the bar.

However, it was the visitors who took the lead in the 59th minute when Roy McLuckie won the ball in midfield before playing a great pass through the middle of the Pupils' defence to Allan MacKay who raced in on goals. Allan seemed to delay too long but eventually got his shot on target with the ball taking a wicked deflection off Shaun Grumoli and sailed over the keeper and into the net.

This goal seemed to settle the Oban side as they started to get on top and had more territorial advantage, although not troubling the Pupils goal too much.

The home side lost the services of Gary Grumoli with what looked like a nasty hamstring injury and this left the Pupils short of firepower up front.

A mix up between Daniel Cassells and Roy McLuckie almost proved costly, but the big Saints net minder made a great save to deny John McCallum getting an equaliser.



DERBY ACTION: Oban Saints goalscorer Allan MacKay holds off Campbeltown Pupils' Paul Grumoli during last Saturday's Argyll derby match played at Kintyre Park. Photo: David Paterson

FOOTBALL

Credit to the Wee Toon side they never gave up and with the clock running down took the game to Saints and were unlucky when a Paul Grumoli looping header hit the crossbar before being scrambled clear.

The game was flowing from end to end in the dying minutes and Craig Lamont did well to stop a Ross Maitland thunderbolt from 25 yards.

Saints showed their experience by playing the ball into the corners to run down the clock and pick up a valuable three away points so it is the Oban side who hold the bragging rights after the first Argyll derby of the season.

Manager Iain Jackson said: 'We were expecting a tough game and that's exactly what we got. Derby matches are normally pretty close affairs with not much between the teams.'

'Pupils lost their first two home games quite heavily so we expected them to be a lot more solid at the back which made it difficult for us to break them down.'

'I thought we played well in patches but the final pass was letting us down.'

'However, we stuck at it and managed to get the three points and at the end of the day that's what it's all about.'

Saints are at home this Saturday when they take on Busby in a premier division league match. The game will take place at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee John Scott is in charge.

The Oban side are expecting a difficult game as Busby held them to a 2-2 draw at Glencruitten last season.

BT West Division 2
Oban Lorne 31 McLaren 26

OBAN Lorne opened their 2014/15 league campaign on Saturday at Glencruitten hoping to build on the previous weekend's impressive 31-12 win over Allan Glens in the BT Shield.

The Green Machine were without Cammy and Struan Smith for the game as well as front row Andrew Johnston. Daniel Hoey made his first start of the season on the wing.

The home side scored the first try of the game. Luke Ismail broke free from his own half allowing Craig Wright to finish off a superb individual run in the right corner to put Oban 5-0 up after only a few minutes.

Oban failed to build on this early lead as the visitors hit back almost straight away with a try to go 7-5 up.

After a 10 minute McLaren onslaught in the Oban 22, the hosts sustained their own period of pressure on the away tryline but were undone mainly due to a misfiring lineup. The rhythm of Oban's backline was also disrupted with an injury to stand off Luke Ismail who switched positions with fullback Dave McCabe.

Good play

Oban regained the lead 10 minutes before half-time as scrum half Allan Wright touched down beneath the posts after some good play from Ismail and flanker Dan Hull. Oban led 12-7.

An unhappy Oban player/coach Corrie Louw demanded much more from his team during the half-time talk with Oban disappointing in front of a healthy home crowd.

Louw's half time talk didn't effect the Oban Lorne players as they conceded an early try, again from some poor work in defence as McLaren regained the lead at 12-14.

Oban were struggling in defence without the tackling powers of the missing Smith twins but managed to regain the lead again with a superb Dave McCabe pass finding Craig Wright who scored his second try of the day. Lorne led 19-14 with a successful conversion.

Just as Oban looked to build on their lead, they were stunned by a McLaren side who ran in two tries in five minutes to race into a 26-19 lead.

With 10 minutes of the match remaining, Oban Lorne welcomed Stanley Lister, Jamie MacMillan and David Hunter to freshen up a tiring pack.

The substitutions paid off for Oban as they hit back with two late tries, both from impressive

Narrow win for the Green Machine

RUGBY

driving mauls to take a 31-26 lead. Andy MacDougall touched down the first while Stanley Lister scored the second, his first try for Oban Lorne.

The Green Machine managed to hold on for the remaining few minutes and breathed a huge sigh of relief as referee Jake Wilson blew the final whistle.

While Oban Lorne produced a bad day at the office, the home side were impressed with the McLaren team who should do well in the league this season.

The result means that Oban Lorne take a maximum of five points from the game as they look forward to their first away game of the season away to Waysiders on Saturday who recorded a 12-12 draw away to Clydebank.

THE NEWLY formed Argyll and Bute RFC senior side will be playing their West Division 4 game against Shawlands at Glencruitten this Saturday, kick off 3pm.

The team was set up at the start of the season as an opportunity for players at Bute RFC, Islay RFC, Kintyre RFC, Mid Argyll RFC and Oban Lorne 2nd XV players to get competitive rugby and an incentive to continue to train within their own clubs.

The team started their season last weekend with a 17-3 defeat to Cowal with the game being played in Rothesay.

For more info and if you are interested in playing contact Tommy Sutherland at Oban Lorne on 07739 550300 or Sam Lawrie at Bute RFC on sam_lawrie@btinternet.com

Oban Saints youth fixtures and results

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Dumbarton Riverside 3, Under 14s 10. On target for Saints were Rory Dowd (3), Cameron Kerr (3), Joe Harper, Connor Frame, Sol Smith and Cameron Williamson. Under 15s no game; Under 16s no game; Under 19s 1. Scoring for Saints was Innes MacColl.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Baljaffray United; Under 14s v Broomhill; Wasps Community v Under 15s; Under 16s v Lochgilphead Red Star; Under 19s v Milngavie.

Mini rugby every Wednesday

MINI RUGBY

OBAN Lorne mini rugby has restarted for the season with the club running every Wednesday evening from 6-7pm at the clubhouse.

The club welcomes all players from P1-P7 with P1-3 focussing on tag and rugby skills while P4-7 players can train and play contact rugby.

Sessions are led by club volunteers with support from the local rugby development officer and Active Schools.

Lewis in line to train with Scotland squad

OBAN Saints striker Lewis Cameron caught the eye of Rex Gallagher, vice president of the SAFA, during last Sunday's match between a Scottish Amateur League Select and an Edinburgh and Lothian Select in Dalkeith.

The game ended in a 2-2 draw with Lewis netting one of the goals for the Scottish Select.

Lewis, along with Campbeltown Pupils striker John McCallum, have been recommended to international team manager Bruce McNaught who will have both players watched and then they could be asked to attend an international squad training session.

Myles McAuley and Craig MacEwan also played in the game against Edinburgh along with Keith Mitchell from Campbeltown.

Shona brings home silverware



MEDAL WINNER: Shona McCorkindale on Sefra's Blue Jewel, during the Celtic Challenge Home International Competition in which she took a silver medal as part of the Scottish team. Photo: George Michie

HORSE RIDING

A KILNINVER horse rider has won a silver medal while representing Scotland in an international competition.

Shona McCorkindale, 26, rode her home-bred, eight-year-old Arab gelding Sefra's Blue Jewel on August 30 and 31 as part of the Scottish Endurance Riding team at the Celtic Challenge Home International competition.

The event, held at Kirk Yetholm in the Scottish borders, was contested between riders from Scotland, Ireland and Wales and featured some difficult conditions including gale-force winds and soft ground on a hilly course.

Shona, who works at the Loch Melfort Hotel in Arduaine, was a member of the team of six that took silver in the event.

Heavyweight success for Murdo



Murdo Masterton

ATHLETICS

A DUNBEG youngster is showing the power of patience and practice pays off.

The 15-year-old has wiped the boards throughout the season - and finished off this year by taking a new medal at Pitlochry Highland Games.

Murdo Masterton who will be 16 at the end of the month - is technically one of the strongest young competitors in the country.

More competition

But as his father Chic explains it would be good to get some more competitions for young people in the offing in order that there is more competition in the under 18s category.

Murdo set three personal bests at Pitlochry, last Saturday: 12lbs hammer (113 feet four inches), shot put (42 feet five inches) and weight for distance (83 feet and two inches). He even put the caber over three times - describing it as 'light as a pencil'.

Winning the Barnett Trophy for junior heavy weight competitors and the Sir David Butter medal for his efforts, Murdo can rightly be pleased at his success.

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WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy
Winds light easterly
Temperatures 13°C to 19°C

Friday Sunny spells
Winds light north north easterly
Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Winds light south easterly
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, September 18, 2014 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right.

Date	am				pm			
Thur	01.50	2.7	06.54	1.8	14.06	2.9	20.51	1.9
Fri	03.03	2.9	08.20	1.7	15.07	3.1	21.48	1.7
Sat	03.40	3.1	09.25	1.5	15.39	3.3	22.26	1.5
Sun	04.08	3.3	10.10	1.3	16.11	3.6	22.58	1.3
Mon	04.39	3.6	10.47	1.1	16.45	3.8	23.26	1.2
Tues	05.12	3.8	11.20	0.9	17.19	3.9	23.54	1.0
Wed	05.45	3.9	11.52	0.9	17.52	4.0	** **	**

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

The Oban Times

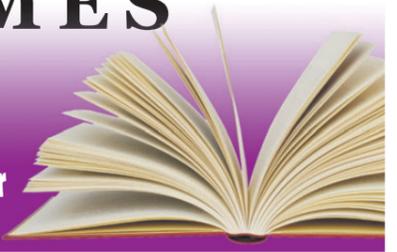
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TWO-YEAR JAIL TERM FOR VILLAGE 'VETERAN'

Fireman blazes a trail to prison

A LONG-SERVING fireman has been jailed for two years for deliberately starting two fires causing hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard on Tuesday that 40-year-old David MacKay helped colleagues fight both fires he started, one of which it was feared would engulf a village of 450 residents and took two days to extinguish.

For battling one of the fires MacKay was paid double the hourly rate because it was a public holiday but denied under questioning that the call-out cash was what prompted him to torch the forests and moorland.

Former long-term girlfriend Sheila Henderson, 31, a carer, gave evidence in court against MacKay telling police she saw his white van near the scene of one of the fires shortly before it started.

The piper and drummer is now understood to be in a relationship with female firefighter Rowena Wilkes who lives near his parents.

A member of his family confirmed outside the court that despite his fire-raising shame the pair were still an item.

Twenty-one-year veteran MacKay was a crew manager and joint second-in-command of the 10-strong band of



SENTENCED: fireman David MacKay

starting a blaze a few days later, on April 1, in nearby Glen Tarbert, the fires destroying hundreds of acres of specially planted native trees. The earlier fire threatened Strontian itself and was two miles wide.

However, MacKay of 8 Dal Nan Each, Strontian, overlooked the fact his Scottish Water van was equipped with a tracker system.

And when suspicion fell on the white-van-man police intelligence analyst Craig Allen, 35, was able to produce a map for the jury putting the transit van at the correct time and place where and when the fires started.

Carnoch Estate owner Steven Fox, 58, also told how from high on a hillside he spotted a white van leaving a layby in Glen Tarbert a few minutes before smoke and flames were seen near the layby.

The jury at Fort William Sheriff Court took only an hour to find MacKay guilty by majority verdicts on both fires.

Sentence was deferred until yesterday for a social work background report on MacKay and an estimate of the cost of the fires.

Procurator Fiscal Ruairidh McAlister told Sheriff Mungo Bovey the cost to Forestry Commission-owned woodland was £42,000.

He handed papers to the sheriff with the Carnoch Estate figure which the owner Steven Fox has already said is £750,000 of damage.

Defence lawyer Rosalyn McTaggart said her client still maintained his innocence over the fire-raising.

Due to the break-down of a long-term relationship, he was living with his supportive parents and trying to sell his house.

He had never been in trouble with the police or courts before.

As a result of the court case he had lost his jobs with both Scottish Water and the fire service.

The solicitor handed the sheriff three character references on MacKay telling how he had raised money for charity. She claimed there was 'an outpouring of local community support' for MacKay.

Jailing him for two years Sheriff Bovey said: 'I bear in mind you are a first offender and of a previous unblemished character.'

'But these two events costing hundreds of thousands of pounds carried an inherent risk to others.'

'The situation is aggravated by the fact you were paid to fight the fires.'

Afterwards a spokesman for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service said: 'Our retained firefighters do an excellent job in protecting our communities.'

'Mr MacKay was with the fire service for more than 20 years and all the good work he has done in that time has been ruined by his actions and his reputation has been destroyed.'

'He has let himself, the service and his colleagues down and has been dismissed.'

A Strontian resident said: 'He has got off quite lightly. The betting was that he would get two to four years. I feel sorry for his parents. They still believe he didn't do it.'



MEMORIES: Lochside's youngest and oldest pupils, Aaron MacLellan and Shannon Gall, get ready to bury the school's 50th anniversary time capsule

Lochside top of the class for 50 years

PAST and current pupils of a Fort William primary school have been celebrating 50 years of learning.

Children, staff and parents gathered at Lochside RC primary school on Friday to mark the golden anniversary which featured a mass, time capsule and balloon release.

The morning mass of thanksgiving included readings from Monsignor James MacNeil, Father Roddy McAulay and Father Michael MacDonald.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy also made a speech as one of the first pupils of Lochside.

Afterwards, pupils released 100 gold balloons with name cards attached. It is hoped the cards will be posted back to say where they were found.

The oldest and youngest Lochside pupils, Shannon Gall, primary seven, and Aaron MacLellan, primary one, buried a time capsule in the school grounds with photos, books, jotters and a school badge and tie inside.

Lochside was open to visitors all day, with displays of old photos and memorabilia for past pupils and staff to enjoy and the celebrations ended with a ceilidh in

the evening with music from Lochaber Pipe Band. Head teacher Violet Smith said: 'We were delighted to see many visitors throughout the day. They enjoyed looking at displays of photographs and memorabilia, visiting the classroom and a delicious buffet lunch. We were happy to answer their questions, to chat with them and to give guided tours around our school building and outdoor areas.'

Charles Kennedy said: 'Lochside primary, or St Columba's as it was known in my days, could not occupy a more special place in my heart. It was built on land given over by my grandfather from the family crofts and I was part of its first primary one intake. For five decades it has served the generations so well and the past 21 years under head teacher Violet Smith have seen it grow in Highland and national prominence. It is a credit to Scottish education.'

Pupils and staff of the school also created a celebratory magazine with photographs and memories from the 50 years. It is available to buy at the school office.

Biker, 45, dies in A82 Glencoe crash

A MALE motorcyclist died in a crash in Glencoe on Monday.

The 45-year-old collided with a 4x4 on the A82 near the Kings House Hotel at around 12.30pm, closing the road in both directions for almost six hours.

The female car driver spent the night in Belford Hospital, Fort William, for treatment to foot and leg injuries.

A male passenger was also taken to hospital but was released after treatment to a rib injury. Motorists faced an extra 60 mile journey as they

were diverted along the A85 to Oban, rejoining the A82 at the Ballachulish roundabout.

Police are appealing for information from anyone travelling in the area on Monday afternoon, particularly the occupants of a white camper van. Officers believe the driver or passengers may have seen the crash.

A police spokesman said: 'Sadly, as a result of the collision, police can confirm that the 45-year-old motorcyclist has died as a result of his injuries. Next of kin have been

informed, but have asked that their privacy be respected at this time.'

'Police Scotland are anxious to speak with drivers who were travelling on the A82 in the vicinity of Glen Etive about 12.30pm and are keen to trace the occupants of a white camper van who may have witnessed the collision. A report is being prepared for the procurator fiscal.'

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact local police by calling 101.

Legal row looms over store delay

HIGHLAND Council could be facing a legal challenge after the north planning committee voted to defer an application allegedly without legitimate grounds.

The group considered two separate applications for supermarkets on Skye but after the first was deferred pending further retail impact and peat management assessments, it was decided the second should also be deferred in what one councillor called 'the good spirit of fairness'.

An application by project developers Oatridge Limited to build a supermarket in Portree was deferred at the north planning committee meeting on Tuesday as members felt not enough information was given on how peat on the Staffin Road site would be dealt with. Concerns were also raised about a retail impact assessment and members voted to defer the decision to allow

applicants to address these issues. Afterwards, a similar application by developers Rubicon Land Limited and Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association to build a supermarket on a nearby site next to housing estate Home Farm was discussed but councillor Drew Millar suggested this application should also be deferred.

Before putting the motion to a vote, committee clerk Alaisdair MacKenzie warned members they could face a legal challenge if they deferred the second application as the council can't hold back one application because of another but the committee voted to defer by eight votes to seven.

Colin Taylor, director of Rubicon Land Limited, said his team were 'dismayed' with the decision and would seek legal advice. He said: 'We are dismayed the north planning committee chose to defer making a decision on

our application, when we have worked hard to resolve all the issues raised and had received a strong recommendation to approve. We are taking legal advice on the lawfulness of the committee's decision today, particularly given the very clear legal advice provided to the committee that there were absolutely no grounds to defer determination of this application.'

A Highland Council spokeswoman said they were unable to comment on the potential challenge.

Portree resident Johnny Campbell, who has been fighting for a new supermarket on Skye for years, said: 'This is quite frankly enraging. The stores we have are too expensive, particularly if you have young children.'

'It's like we take one step forward then half a dozen back. I just don't see why it's necessary for it to take so long.'

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Musicians celebrate festival's 40 years

TALENTED musicians gathered in Fort William to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Lochaber Music Festival, as artists from the past four decades returned to perform.

It was standing room only in the Nevis Centre as traditional music, fiddles and accordion sat happily alongside jazz trumpet and piano, as did classical oboe and violin and cello with Gaelic songs and piping.

The line up included Royal National Mod gold medalists Robert Robertson and Eilidh Davies as well as up and coming talent from Lochaber Schools Pipe Band and Lochaber Music School. Margaret Sargent, vice chairwoman of Lochaber Music Festival Association, said: 'The concert surpassed all our hopes and expectations. It was a wonderful evening and our magnificent musicians came from as far away as London to perform. They were so pleased to take part even though some could not stay to hear the whole concert.'

'We have been overwhelmed by their generosity and enthusiasm. They are true musical ambassadors for Lochaber and we can be immensely proud of them.'

TALENTED: Sgoil Chuil Loch Arba of Lochaber Music School performed a selection of traditional songs 20_1389a101

Group seeks public views on woodland

A COMMUNITY group in Lochaber is seeking views from the public about a proposal to buy woodland in the area.

Glengarry Community Woodland Group applied to the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS) to purchase 30.5 hectares of land following massive support within the community and the plan will now go to full consultation.

The group say the purchase will allow them to use the woodland for public benefit and is open to suggestions for its use.

Grace Grant of Glengarry Community Woodland Group said: 'It would be wonderful if we could create a few new jobs and eventually build a couple of houses for local key workers.'

'Other small communities have done this kind of thing successfully and with our community fully behind us we are sure it can be done. This is not a lobbying occasion but a chance for them [the public] to question us in some more depth about our intentions and to gauge whether they think we have both the financial expertise required in place and the commitment to manage the land in a sustainable way.'

'It is also to find out what the plans are for the site and what development we envisage taking place over the next five years.'

Details of the application can be viewed online at www.forestry.gov.uk/nfls and all comments must be submitted by Wednesday October 1.

Responses and comments should be sent to Malcolm Wield, Forestry Commission Scotland, Highland Conservancy, 'Woodlands', Fodderty Way, Dingwall, Ross-shire, IV15 9XB or to malcolm.wield@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Owners defend plan to flatten old school

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

OWNERS of an 18th century school in Ardgor have defended the decision to demolish the building, despite wide opposition to the proposal.

Kingairloch Estate, owned by Susan Larson and her mother Angela Yeoman, asked the council's planning department for permission to knock down the former Kingairloch school at Camusnacroise and replace it with a modern dwelling house but objectors say it is of historic value as it is thought to date back to 1770.

In March, the owners lodged a similar application but after 11 objections the Highland Council's historic environment team said the building was of 'local and regional importance' and the application was withdrawn. Last month the estate reapplied after making slight changes to the design of the new house, to look more like the original building.

In the month since the planning application was submitted, 12 formal objections have been lodged but Ms Larson said Kingairloch Estate would benefit from a 'rebuild rather than restore' due to structural problems in the cottage, including extreme damp, cracks in the stonework and poor foundations.

She added: 'My father, John Yeoman, charged me with the



UP FOR DEMOLITION: the old school at Kingairloch

caretaking of Kingairloch. One of his stipulations was to ensure the protection and safe-keeping of Kingairloch as it neighboured the super quarry at Glensanda which he developed. Since 1999, each property has slowly and carefully been restored in line with modern building regulations to make them fit for any purpose. I plan to continue with this current planning application as this exposed beautiful site will benefit from an insulated, dry, two bed cottage beautifully furnished with access for all.'

The school is known nationally for its connection with Scottish novelist Robert Louis Stevenson,

particular significance'. The school has also been used as a manse, house and ceilidh venue over the years.

Former Highland Council leader Dr Michael Foxley was one objector to the plan.

He said: 'I am dismayed this application has been resubmitted virtually unchanged.'

'This is a historic building within the community that existed in Kingairloch until it was extinguished by the current owners in favour of holiday homes. A primary school in Kingairloch featured in *Kidnapped*, which most people would regard as a unique letting point. This is an important part of the local history of Ardgor and Morvern and deserves protection with future use.'

Local historian Iain Thornber added: 'The demolition of the existing building will be a significant loss in both historical and cultural value, not only to Lochaber but the whole Highland area.'

'Its architecture and recorded past is part of our national heritage and the case for its removal has not been made.'

'There is no reason why this small building cannot be fully restored and for these reasons I earnestly urge the planning committee to reject the application.'

Highland Council's planning committee is expected to discuss the application in October.

Kerry's delight over short film event role

A COMMONWEALTH athlete returned to her home of South Uist to host a national short film competition at her former school.

The Gaelic event, FilmG, launched recently for a seventh year at Sgoil Lionacleit on the Isle of Benbecula, by Kerry MacPhee, the first person from the Western Isles to compete in the Commonwealth Games.

This year's theme 'Gealladh', (promise, vow or wager) is something Kerry herself can relate to, having vowed to be the best she can be to get herself to the top of her sport. Kerry used her meeting with the pupils at Sgoil Lionacleit on September 5 to encourage young people to pursue their dreams so they, too, can make it to the top, no matter the discipline.

She said: 'I want to try and instil confidence in young people so they believe in themselves and follow their dreams.'

'I'd like to thank FilmG for inviting me. It's great to be part of an exciting Gaelic project for young people and I really enjoyed being a model for one of this year's theme posters.'

Since its launch in 2008, FilmG has encouraged young people and adults to pick up their cameras and explore their creative talents in conjunction with the use of the Gaelic language.

BARRY'S SIGHTS SET ON HALF MARATHON Lochaber runner defies disease to cash in for Parkinson's UK

A LOCHABER man diagnosed with Parkinson's disease at an unusually young age is to run a half marathon to set a positive example to other sufferers.

Barry Moran, 40, from Glenachulish, was diagnosed earlier this year but wants to lead as normal a life as possible and to keep his fitness up to fight the disease.

He is to run the Great Scottish Run half-marathon in Glasgow on October 5 and has already more than trebled his initial fundraising target.

Barry, who lives with his wife and two sons, explained: 'I felt weakness and stiffness in my right arm as much as two years ago but by the start of this year the stiffness had progressed to my back and

leg, as well as pain in my neck and shoulder, all on one side of my body. 'I had also developed a tremor and shaking in my right hand and arm, and muscle spasms in my leg, which prompted me to visit my GP.'

'My GP referred me to a neurologist in Inverness and brain scans quickly diagnosed Parkinson's disease, which at the time was devastating.'

Barry, who works as a chef offshore for an oil company, kept active before his diagnosis, running and cycling in his spare time, and after getting over the initial shock, decided to carry on exercising and eventually to do the half marathon to raise funds and awareness of the disease. He said: 'It was quite a shock to the system but part of the reason I'm doing this is, the neurologist said to keep active and a healthy lifestyle and I'll give anything a try.'

'I'd been running for a few years and stopped when I got my diagnosis then thought 'this is stupid' and decided to carry on.'

'I set myself a £300 target and I'm already above the £1,000 mark; my dad alone raised £850 from people at his work at Glensanda quarry so I really am going to smash my target.'

All money raised from the half marathon will go directly to Parkinson's UK, which funds support through specialist nurses and funds research into finding a cure.

Donations can be made through Barry's JustGiving page: www.justgiving.com/BarryMoran



FUNDRAISER: Barry Moran, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's at age 39, will run the half marathon to raise funds and awareness for the disease

Skye beach pontoon plan sparks worldwide protest

HUNDREDS of people from all over the world have joined a campaign to stop a proposed pontoon on a 'precious' Skye beach.

Locals and visitors to Elgol have reacted in horror to the plan, which is still at the consultation stage, and almost 500 people have signed an online petition with signatures from Germany, New Zealand and Australia adding to local objectors.

The proposal by Highland Council is to install a floating pontoon on the sandy beach to be used in the busy summer season and moved elsewhere in the winter.

Rosalind Lamond from Elgol started a social media campaign to have the plan scrapped.

She said: 'Locals and visitors will appreciate how special our wee beach is. This page has been created as a voice for people to support our community in an effort to stop the Highland Council defacing our village and precious little bit of sand.'

Iain Stephenson of Skye called the proposal 'unthinkable'.

He added: 'As a local independent walking guide and tour operator, I bring many visitors to Elgol. Most of them use the boat services there. None of them feel that the jetty is inadequate and almost all of them are amazed by the perfect little beach with its clear water. The beach is a great resource and although it's small, Skye is not over endowed with such fine sand.'

John Dargie, from Aberdeen, said anything which could spoil the beauty of the harbour should be prevented.

He added: 'The inherent nature and beauty of the west coast, especially the Isle of Skye, is a national treasure. If we over develop this area now we will look back in 30 years with sorrow.'

A Highland Council spokeswoman said: 'The council is consulting with stakeholders and the community on a proposal to install a seasonal pontoon at Elgol to relieve congestion. No definite plans or proposals are in place to progress this idea as the council is still consulting.'

Anyone who wishes to comment is asked to email harbour manager Tony Usher at tony.usher@highland.gov.uk

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Island centre plans tribute to aid worker

Tragic victim of jihadi fanatics had wanted to live on Luing

LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

A FATHER of two, whose brutal murder by Islamic State terrorists caused worldwide revulsion, had hoped to move his family to the Island of Luing later this year.

Perth man David Haines, 44, applied to manage the building project at the Atlantic Islands Centre on the isle in early 2013.

David had worked on similar projects in Croatia and in the Balkans and the centre's management board was impressed with his ideas.

The group has looked at the timings of David's initial interview and his kidnapping and it is believed he took up the humanitarian aid job shortly after applying for the job on Luing.

The island community is now considering a memorial using one of the humanitarian aid-worker's ideas for the Atlantic Islands Centre.

Atlantic Islands Centre board mem-

ber, Zoe Fleming wrote to fellow members: 'We were horrified to realise that David Haines, the British aid worker murdered by jihadists, was the same man that we interviewed for the project development manager post in early 2013.'

'With his crew cut hairstyle and earrings, he made quite an impression on us, though we were concerned that Luing was not quite ready for him.'

'He was so creative and full of exciting ideas for Luing and the Atlantic centre.'

'His vision of lots of candle lanterns floating out to sea as a spectacle will stay with us.'

David, who was married to a Croatian woman, Dragana, had been invited to apply for the centre manager's role, a job that management board members felt he would have been ideally suited to.

The couple have a daughter Athea, four, who would have attended Luing primary school. Mr Haines also has

a daughter by another marriage, Bethany, who is aged 17.

Islanders have an enduring memory of Mr Haines as he talked about his ambitions for the island's centre as a place that would bring people together.

One of his ideas was floating 100 lanterns on the calm waters of the quarry in a light show of reconciliation.

Atlantic Islands Centre treasurer, Alistair Fleming, who interviewed Mr Haines, said: 'I was very taken by him. I hoped he would come back as our centre manager.'

'He was full of ideas about Luing and bringing the community together as part of the Atlantic Islands Centre.'

'Right now, the members of the board, and I, all feel a little helpless. To have known someone whose life has been taken in such a dreadful way.'

'We will certainly be in touch with his family to invite them to come to the centre when we open next year.'

Mr Haines' brutal, cold-blooded, murder sent shock waves throughout the world.

The humanitarian aid worker was beheaded by a man believed to have a London accent, but the authorities have been unable to establish the identity of the killer.

It is understood the murderer of Mr Haines also killed two American journalists, James Foley and Steven Sotloff.

Prime minister David Cameron said: 'David has been murdered in the most callous and brutal way imaginable by an organisation which is the embodiment of evil.'

'We will hunt down those responsible and bring them to justice, no matter how long it takes.'



LASTING MEMORY: David Haines with his wife Dragana and their baby daughter Athea

SHOWTIME: it's beauty and the beasts



OBAN lads Callum Leitch, Blair Menzies and Ross Ferguson pose with Miss Scotland, Ellie McKeating, in front of Blair's stock at last weekend's annual show and sale of Blackface lambs at Dalnally mart. For more on the show and sales, turn to Farming on page 19

Church volunteer spared jail term

COURT REPORTER
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A SALVATION Army volunteer who was found to have two movies of indecent images and 50 indecent photographs of children on computers has avoided jail.

But he has been made the subject of a sexual offences prevention order (SOPO) for the next 10 years.

Henry Caffrey MacLean, 27, from Dunbeg, appeared for sentencing at Oban sheriff court on Tuesday having previously admitted that between November 24 2003 and July 30 2013 he had in his possession indecent photos or pseudo photos of children.

The court had previously heard that an internet provider had passed police information indicating MacLean had been downloading indecent images of children.

And on November 19 2012, a laptop was seized from his home

and a forensic search discovered the two movies.

In a separate incident, police in Cleveland had been investigating a number of people who were contacting a vulnerable 14-year-old girl - one of whom was MacLean.

Prosecutor Fiscal Eoin McGinty indicated that there were 18,000 messages between MacLean and the teenage girl, many of which were of a sexual nature.

A second search warrant led to a computer being seized on July 30 2013 which was found to contain 50 images, 32 of which could be traced to being downloaded on July 18. The other 18 could not be pinned down to a particular date.

Mr McGinty explained that because of that, the offences were dated back to the manufacture of the computer's hard-drive in November 2003.

Defence lawyer David Watt told the court on Tuesday that the

images were at the lowest level of the Copine scale - used to rate the severity of such images.

He said: 'Mr MacLean comes from a supportive family and a representative of the Salvation Army is here to support Mr MacLean.'

Handing a letter to the court from the Salvation Army, Mr Watt said MacLean volunteered at the Salvation Army, dealing with adults and elderly adults and had 'shown himself to be a very responsible, helpful and friendly person'.

The downloading of the two films of images coincided with the date of his grandfather's funeral, when he had been very depressed, added Mr Watt.

Sheriff Douglas Small said that as the images were at the lowest end of the scale he would not be sending the accused to prison.

Maclean, who is due to start an audio engineering college course,

was put on probation and the sex offenders register for 18 months and told to carry out 300 hours' unpaid work in the community.

Mr McGinty called for the SOPO to be imposed based on MacLean's contact with the 14-year-old girl and a previous sexual offences conviction from 2004.

The SOPO prevents MacLean from being near any child under 16 without adult supervision, being in a children's play area or school grounds and places strict conditions on ownership of any computers or mobile devices and access to the internet and social media.

The court ordered forfeiture of the seized computers.

NEWSDESK
01397 703003

'Kicked out' of group claims councillor

THE FORMER head of Argyll College says he has been kicked out of Argyll and Bute council's ruling administration group.

However, the leader of Argyll and Bute council has said 'growth' is difficult with people not willing to play by the same rules.

Councillor Michael Breslin, an independent politician, does not know the reason why he was dismissed - other than he would not 'renew his vows' with other councillors.

A set of rules including not speaking out against the council and 'toeing the line' were produced by administration members of the council last month.

Representing Dunoon, Councillor Breslin said: 'Despite numerous requests to know what the consequences would be of not renewing my vows, Councillor Walsh emailed the administration members a week ago on Monday to tell them I was now out on my ear.'

'This was a dishonest way to conduct business.'

'I will now be submitting a formal complaint to the Ethics and Standards Commissioner about the plotters because I have been unable to get the matter resolved internally.'

'They want me out, it appears, because they don't like being

challenged when that's necessary, and believe me that's more often than you might think.'

Councillor Dick Walsh said: 'It is no secret that last year, for the first time in the history of local government in Argyll and Bute, we received critical reports specifically on member behaviour.'

'This was a real wake-up call for us and it was time to face the facts. We needed to roll up our sleeves and get on with the job of restoring stability and security to the council.'

'The facts now are that for the past year, the majority of colleagues have done just that. We have been working

together positively on an agreed action plan.'

'We have sought commitment from members that they too are willing to put the interests of Argyll and Bute first.'

'We have asked them to continue to work together, always for the good of Argyll and Bute and its people.'

'This kind of commitment is vital so that Argyll and Bute can move forward and can build on its strengths and the stability already restored.'

'It is difficult to see what part in this growth could be played by anyone who is neither willing nor able to make that commitment.'

Firm stripped of operator's licence

TORLUNDY haulage firm Lochaber Transport Ltd has been disqualified from holding an operator's licence for five years by the Traffic Commissioner for Scotland.

This follows a public inquiry in May by the commissioner when a number of issues came to light as a result of investigations by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA).

The commissioner also disqualified Stewart MacCallum of Onich, who was running the business which was in his son's name, from holding or obtaining an operator's or transport manager's licence for five years.

He had previously had two licences revoked and an application for one refused.

The company's former transport manager, Gordon Campbell, who resigned in April 2013 and did not attend the inquiry, was disqualified for three years.

Matters investigated related to Mr MacCallum's personal financial position, the commissioner not being informed of changes to the company, maintenance standards, a vehicle operating without a tax disc and the firm's relationship with an operator who had been disqualified indefinitely by a deputy traffic commissioner.

Joan Aitken, Traffic Commissioner for Scotland, said, following her findings: 'Stewart MacCallum's personal insolvency and precariousness explain why his son's name was used for this company and why other persons' names were used over the years of the licence.'

'I have no doubt that this licence was used as the vehicle whereby Stewart MacCallum returned to operating vehicles in a corporate entity.'

'From previous revocations he would know that a licence holder had to be of continuing financial standing and that his involvement would draw attention.'

She added: 'Mr MacCallum has let all of us down due to his proximity to [the disqualified operator] and the failure to keep proper records of vehicles, drivers, and drivers' hours and to check if drivers were working for others.'

Heather heads up search for best green project



ONTO A WINNER: former BBC Scotland meteorologist, known affectionately by fans as Heather 'the weather' Reid, was joined by a buzzy bee and ribbiting frog to kick-off the search for Argyll's best green community idea

HEATHER 'the weather' is urging community groups across Argyll to enter A Grand Green Idea, for their chance to win £1,000 to help bring their green initiative to life.

A partnership between World Wildlife Fund Scotland and People's Postcode Lottery, A Grand Green Idea is challenging community groups, schools and social clubs to come up with an idea that will benefit their local environment.

This year's competition has two main categories, climate and energy, which could include funding a community wind turbine to insulating a local Scout hut; and wildlife and nature - which could range from clearing pondweed from a local stream, to creating an insect habitat

like a 'bee hotel'. This year will see a finalist from each category receive £1,000 to bring their idea to life and an overall winner receiving an additional £1,000.

Heather Reid, a former meteorologist at the BBC, said: 'This is a great opportunity for people to think about their local surroundings.'

The competition hopes to convey that small ideas can make a big difference within Scotland's communities. The winners of last year's competition, Fife-based Community Led Environmental Action for Regeneration wowed judges with their urban orchard project.

To enter, visit www.wwfscotland.org.uk/grandgreenidea before October 5.

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ARGYLL AND BUTE REMEMBERS

Commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War
Saturday 20th September 2014
Parade of Remembrance
North Pier, Oban—1.30pm
Commemoration Service,
at Corran Halls, Oban—2.00pm
Join military veterans, serving members of the armed forces, community groups and others from all over Argyll and Bute to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War
All welcome
Organised by the Argyll and Bute World War 1 Commemorations Steering Group, which includes representatives from the Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Royal British Legion Scotland, local community groups and businesses, and Argyll and Bute Council

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Alan Reid MP Constituency Tour
Meet your local MP
Alan Reid MP will be in your area for his Constituency Tour on the following dates:-
Wednesday 24 September 2014
Colonsay - 7.00pm - 8.00pm (Colonsay Village Hall)
Thursday 25 September 2014
Oban - 4.00pm - 5.00pm (Corran Halls)
Friday 26 September 2014
Kilmelford - 9.00am - 9.30am
Balvicar - 10.00am - 10.30am
Easdale Island - 11.30am - 12.30pm
Ellenabeich - 1.00pm - 1.30pm
Toberonochy - 3.20pm - 3.50pm
Cullipool - 4.15pm - 4.45pm
For an appointment please call 01369 704840

POLICE WILL LISTEN TO THE COMMUNITY AS THEY STEP UP CAMPAIGN

LOUISE LEE
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A PLEA from mums to give drug dealers no hiding place in Oban has been heard by the police divisional commander.

Marlene Bailey, the area's chief police officer for Mid Argyll, Kintyre, Oban, Lorn and the Islands, says both illegal and legal highs are on her agenda and every single piece of information from the community counts.

Confirming her strong commitment to listening and responding to information from the community, she said every tip-off is vital in the battle against the dealers. It may be the last piece in the jigsaw that officers need.

One mum, who spoke privately about her 14-year-old son's drug habit, said she felt that the police were finally listening.

She said: 'The thing is I know who is selling the stuff to my son. And we all know where drug users live. But we will not say anything to the police - because it seems sometimes nothing is done.'

'If this police officer is really going to change things then I am sure the whole community will get behind a shop-a-dealer campaign.'

'At the moment we are in a living hell with my son. He will use anything that is available to him.'

'For months he didn't smell of alcohol so I couldn't work it out. It wasn't until I read a story in *The Oban Times* a few weeks ago, that it dawned on me that he was using drugs. When I confronted him, he then told me they were legal.'

So-called legal highs have caused 60 deaths in Scotland last year.

Known as *Clockwork Orange*, *Bliss* and *Mary Jane*, they are available for sale in some shops.

The effect of the drug is to induce a reaction similar to that caused by cannabis or acid.

Divisional Commander Baile urged people in the community to be aware of what their children were doing.

She said: 'There has also been a lot of concern recently, particularly among parents, with regards to the availability of legal highs and the potentially fatal consequences of taking such a substance.'

'I would urge anyone not to use legal highs. Just because something



CRACKDOWN: Police aim to ram home the point that there is no hiding place for drug dealers in Oban

Plea from chief to join in fight against drug dealers

is legal does not mean that it is safe and young people in particular need to be aware of this.

'I would also ask the community to please feed in any information regarding suspected drug dealing or drug abuse in the Oban area.'

'Over the forthcoming weeks, I am

looking to launch a *Shop-a-dealer* initiative in Oban with a view to gathering further intelligence to support our on-going enforcement activity.

'The initiative will allow members of the public to give intelligence directly to their local police anonymously. Sometimes people just don't realise how important a small piece of information can be in the wider scheme of things.'

'It might just be the valuable bit of the jigsaw that we need to obtain a warrant to search a property for drugs.'

'Any information will be of benefit to us. There is no doubt that the use of illegal drugs causes significant harm to the individual user, his or her family and the wider community in general.'

'It is therefore really important that we work together to tackle this.'

'In the interim, I would ask that where anyone who has information on drug dealing, no matter how big or small they think it is, to get in contact with us immediately on 101 or through Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 where they can give information anonymously.'

A BROTHER and sister who denied to police that a missing teenager was in a house they were living in have been ordered to carry out unpaid work in the community.

Addict jailed for one year after police raided flat

A HEROIN addict who received diamorphine through the post for himself and to sell to others has been jailed for a year.

Oban sheriff court heard on Tuesday that police intelligence suggested that Ian Smith, 47, described as a prisoner at Greenock prison, had deposited a quantity of cash in the bank account of a certain individual in order to buy diamorphine.

Royal Mail in Oban was asked to alert the police if any packages addressed to Smith in Oban appeared and on June 24, such a package was received at the depot.

It was duly delivered to Smith and shortly after police searched the premises, found Smith in possession of two wraps of heroin and the packaging and wrapping from the parcel in his kitchen bin.

When interviewed Smith said he had been on a drug treatment and testing order from the court but had started using heroin again after two-three weeks.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'He told police, "I owed the guy down the road a bit of money and was sent the drugs partly for myself and partly to get the money together to send down the road to pay off the debt".'

'The total weight of the brown powder in the package was 11.45g and the value was £801 at the lowest deal.'

Defence lawyer Laura McManus said Smith had no intention of selling the drug to new users, only to those he knew as users and who came to him. Smith pleaded guilty to supplying diamorphine at a flat in Oban on June 24.

Sheriff Douglas Small told Smith: 'I have repeatedly said any person who appears in this court and who is convicted or pleads guilty to dealing drugs can expect a custodial sentence.'

He jailed Smith for 12 months.

Man panicked as missing teenager was in his house

Police had called at a house in Soroba in Oban while searching for the girl after information she had been seen in the company of Kevin Gillan, 26, of Soroba House Mews.

He was asked if he had seen the missing child, but denied she was in the house and when police returned a further twice, said again she wasn't there.

His sister, Emma Gillan, 23, of Miller Road, Oban, had told police on June 18 as she was leaving the house that the missing teenager was not there. Police subsequently received a call from the Gillans' mother later that morning to say the girl was in the house.

James Dunbar, lawyer for Kevin Gillan, said the accused had met the teenager at a friend's house and she had told him that she worked in Lochgilhead and had missed the last bus home.

'He offered her a place to stay with him in his mother's house,' said Mr Dunbar. 'The police came to the house and at this point he had no idea how old this girl was. He is not on social media and had no idea that a search was going on.'

'At first he didn't think police were looking for her because he thought she was older.'

But once he realised the girl was, in fact, the missing teenager he panicked, Mr Dunbar told the court. It was not done out of malicious intent, he added.

Both pleaded guilty to obstructing police officers searching for a missing teenager by saying she was not in the house. Kevin Gillan was sentenced to 200 hours of unpaid work in the community and put on a supervision order for a year and Emma Gillan was ordered to carry out 100 hours' unpaid work.



MOVING: Lidl's current Oban store on Lochavullin Drive. It is not yet known if this store is to close



NEW OWNERS: The Co-op store on Soroba Road, which has been purchased by Lidl

Lidl buys Oban Co-op store

STEVEN RAE
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THE OBAN Co-op store in Soroba Road has been purchased by a rival supermarket chain, which is remaining tight-lipped about future plans for the building.

Co-op staff were told on Monday that German discount giant Lidl had bought the shop, following last month's announcement that it was to close and redundancies were a possibility.

While Lidl confirmed the purchase, a spokesman released no further

information about job losses or the future plan for new building.

However, the Co-operative Group released a statement saying Lidl plans 'extensive works' at the store, and that it will be closed for around six months.

A current employee has claimed that staff were told on Monday that the building was to be demolished and a new store built on the same site.

The worker, who asked not to be named, said: 'This is awful because we are still none-the-wiser as to what's happening. We're still in limbo.'

'All we really know now is that it is now up to Lidl, but we were told Lidl is demolishing the building, so I can't see there being any work for us while the new store is being constructed.'

The Co-operative spokesman said: 'The Co-operative Group continually reviews its retail estate, and we have made the decision to focus on smaller convenience stores and sell those trading outlets that do not align with our strategy.'

'All of our 38 staff in Oban will transfer to the new operator, and it will continue to trade as a Co-operative store until it transfers

to Lidl. However, we understand that following completion of the acquisition Lidl intends to undergo extensive works at the store, after which it will be six months before it re-opens.'

'Regrettably, this means that all staff are at risk of redundancy. The consideration to sell the store is in no way a reflection on the hard work and commitment from colleagues working at the Oban store.'

There is currently a Lidl store at Lochavullin retail park, but the chain has not made any statement regarding the staff there or the building.

John's off to a flying start

ADVENTURER and businessman John Forteith has been overwhelmed with the kindness of people after starting a fundraising campaign for the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Oban.

Planning to visit 14 countries in four weeks to raise much-needed cash for the Mossfield-based treatment centre, the well-known businessman has now had 90 pledges, after featuring in last week's *Oban Times*.

A woman in Fort William even chased one of Forteith's delivery vehicles to hand over £20 cash.

John, whose son Guy was diagnosed with the debilitating illness when he was 16, says the support of the centre has been invaluable to his whole family.

His European motorbike challenge, a solo trip, is being funded by John in order that every penny raised goes to the centre.

John will mount his motorbike on Monday November 3 travelling more than 6,000 miles.

To donate <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/johnforteith> or of course, safely, chase a Forteith van.

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Fort William turn in a poor performance against high flying Brora

'I was disappointed with my side's overall performance'

FORT William Football Club's manager told players their 'poor performance' must improve if they are to move up the league table. The Fort side went down 6-2 at



Scorer of Brora's six goals, Colin MacLean heads for Fort's goal pursued by Andrew Hardwick f38football1no

FOOTBALL

home to reigning SHFL champions Brora Rangers on Saturday despite Fort's Nick Stein opening the scoring early on.

Brora's 18 year-old striker Colin MacLean stunned the crowds by scoring all six of the away goals in his first start for the club.

Sean Grant scored a late consolation for the Fort but manager MacLean said it's not enough to stop his team finishing bottom of the league.

He said: 'I was disappointed with my side's overall performance. No team has really opened us up to score this season, it has all been down to our own poor play.'

'We really need to start improving if we want to move off the bottom of the table.'

On Saturday Fort William will welcome Fortmarine United to Claggan Park.



Kingussie captain James MacLean lifts the 2014 Camanachd Cup

Bikes and banter this weekend

CYCLING

THE ANNUAL Tour de Ben Nevis mountain bike event is set to attract 350 bikers to Lochaber from all over the world this weekend.

The 70km race starts from Fort William High Street on Saturday (September 2) and takes cyclists along the West Highland Way to Kinlochleven, then back to the town via Nevis Range at Aonach Mor.

Local bikers Joe and Hannah Barnes are to compete along with Kinlochleven triathlete Gary MacDonald.

Fiona Beattie of organisers No Fuss Events said: 'The start of the race at Cameron Square is a great spectacle to see. The winners will be expected back in around three and a half hours, with the last few coming in up to nine hours after the start.'

'As riders come back from their adventure, stories will be compared, as will stage times, making for a social and friendly atmosphere in the square. Come along to support our local hopefuls and for a fun filled day of bikes and banter.'

Bikers will set off from Cameron Square at 10am

Isle of Skye

GOLF

ISLE of Skye Golf Club Three-man Scramble played on September 13 and 14:

1 Danny Steele, Euan Forrest and Will Cowie 54.0; 2 Alex Munro, Andy Shaw and Jamie Beaton 56.3; 3 John Finlayson, Willie Cowie and Willie Urquhart 58.4.

Fort William

GOLF

FORT William Golf Club par competition played on Tuesday September 9: 1 Hazel Cameron, two up; 2 Kathleen Leitch, all square; 3 Iona Cameron, three down.

The Budget Trophy played on Saturday September 13: 1 Hazel Cameron, net 67; 2 Kim Topping net 73 (bih); 3 Rosemary MacIntyre 73.

Lochaber Welfare League draws to a close with three finals

THE FINAL whistle blew on Lochaber Welfare League on Sunday after three games over the weekend.

On Friday night a single goal from Liam MacDonald was enough for Lochaber to win the Uisdean MacDonald Memorial Cup over Mallaig and on Sunday Mallaig faced further disappointment

WELFARE FOOTBALL

as Ballachulish won 5-3 to lift the Duthie Cup.

Also on Sunday, Inverlochly steamrolled over the newly-formed Strontian team, winning the Kinloch Shield in an 11-0 victory.



Yvonne MacDonald presents the Uisdean MacDonald Memorial Cup to Lochaber captain Andrew Gibb



Inverlochly's 11-0 defeat of Strontian earned them the Kinloch Shield. f38welfare3no



The victorious Ballachulish team won Duthie Cup

Lochaber youngsters win Ben Nevis race shinty tournament

LOCHABER under 12 shinty team were delighted to win the Ben Nevis Race shinty tournament.

Traditionally held during the

race, the event was round robin with teams from Inverlochly, Bannavie, Ardnarnamurchan, Mallaig and Ballachulish.

In a close final Lochaber won

YOUTH SHINTY

2-0 against Ballachulish and Max Campbell of Lochaber was named player of the tournament.



Riders set off on the Lochaber 100 charity cycle f38cycle1no

Charity cycle raises £1,100

A LOCHABER cycling event raised £1,100 for both local and national charities.

Riders set off on a 100-mile route last Saturday, fundraising for Fort William Baptist Church and Christian relief charity Tearfund.

CYCLING

Gary MacDonald from Kinlochleven was first home of the Lochaber 100 field, in five hours and five minutes. First lady was Hannah Melville from Edinburgh, who was fifth overall.



Winners of the Ben Nevis Distillery pairs competition were Martin Keenan (left) and Tommy Campbell, both of the Railway Bowling Club. Club secretary Christine Kane presented the duo with their shield at the Inverlochly green. Runners up were Agnes Boyle and Eddie Downs.

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WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy
Winds light easterly
Temperatures 13°C to 19°C

Friday Sunny spells
Winds light north north easterly
Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Winds light south easterly
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, September 18, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right.

Date	am				pm			
Thur	01.50	2.7	06.54	1.8	14.06	2.9	20.51	1.9
Fri	03.03	2.9	08.20	1.7	15.07	3.1	21.48	1.7
Sat	03.40	3.1	09.25	1.5	15.39	3.3	22.26	1.5
Sun	04.08	3.3	10.10	1.3	16.11	3.6	22.58	1.3
Mon	04.39	3.6	10.47	1.1	16.45	3.8	23.26	1.2
Tues	05.12	3.8	11.20	0.9	17.19	3.9	23.54	1.0
Wed	05.45	3.9	11.52	0.9	17.52	4.0	**	**

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-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