



Crowds flock to Oban for shinty showpiece

see page 56

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Teens escape 'dangerous' playpark tower collapse

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



Teenagers had a 'scary near-miss' in Oban's new £180,000 playpark, which closed in March due to unsafe flooring, when part of a tower collapsed.

Some are now calling it the town's 'white elephant'.

The parent group Friends of Oban Community Playpark had raised £334,000 to replace Atlantis Leisure's old playpark with two new ones – a big park for ages five to 15, and a smaller one for under-fives.

The big playpark opened in November 2015, but just two years later its surface began to crack and bubble as it 'sank into a swamp'. Argyll and Bute Council, which maintains the playpark, closed it following a safety inspection in March.

It was hoped that the park could reopen in May, and then July, until the council decided temporary repairs would not be possible.

But the friends group revealed last Friday September 14: "Tonight a section of the big

tower in the big kids' playpark collapsed. No-one was hurt as far as we are aware, thankfully.'

Incredulous residents reacted with anger. 'It's a good job the park is closed,' one observed, while another said children and fundraisers had been 'massively let down' by 'failing' new equipment. 'There seems to be seriously sub-standard work on the ground surface levelling, site drainage, the protective covering falling apart, and now the structure's falling to bits,' one wrote.

Others blamed the council: 'If the equipment is this dangerous, the park should have a much higher fencing preventing access before someone gets really seriously injured.' One saw 'eight to 10 teenagers' on it over the weekend.

The council has since encircled it with one-metre high railings, but some complained the barriers are not high enough.

Another person asked how the playpark had passed safety regulations. A council spokesperson responded: 'Our top priority has been safety. The site will now be fenced off

entirely until we can guarantee the park is safe to use. We will discuss the next steps with the contractor as a priority, with the aim of reaching a resolution as soon as possible.

'We once again apologise to the community for the delay and this further setback, and we thank them for their patience and understanding.'

The friends group posted a statement from the tower's manufacturer Huck, via Wicksteed, saying it would investigate on Wednesday. 'Huck has taken this issue extremely seriously and will endeavour to fully answer all questions after the investigation and we have more of an idea of what has caused this,' it said.

'The plan is to recover the support platform and climbing tunnel and bring them back for further investigation. The equipment conforms to European Safety Standards and all our materials are of the highest quality.'

'The unit is covered by warranty. We will be able to give a more detailed timescale after the inspection.'

Oban church's very own baby boom



Four young mums who are members of Oban Baptist Church have all joined the club – the baby girls' club, that is – having all given birth to daughters within a few weeks of each other. For the full story, turn to page four.

Flooring solutions by Mathesons



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OT

1,400 fight fish farm off Jura's west coast

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



Islanders on Jura are hitting back at plans for the first fish farm on its remote west coast.

Kilmelford-based Kames Fish Farming Ltd, in a pre-planning application to Argyll and Bute Council, is 'scoping opinion' for a 14-pen fin fish farm near Corpach Bay.

An online petition to stop the development, started by residents Louise Muir and deer stalker Craig Rozga, had collected 400 signatures in the first 24 hours, and more than 1,400 by Tuesday this week.

Mrs Muir, who has a background in environmental conservation, said: "There are important principles at stake. It is a place precious to many who come to seek solitude and appreciate the remote and beautiful landscape.



Corpach Bay, the site of the proposed fish farm.

"It is impossible to mitigate the visual impact. Its presence alone would remove the wilderness and scenic qualities valued by many."

The area is designated 'wild land' and 'area of panoramic quality' and lies within the Inner Hebrides and The

Minches Special Area of Conservation (SAC), she said, and is 'rich in rare wildlife', such as harbour porpoises, dolphins and minke, killer and sei whales.

"The plan shows acoustic deterrent devices (ADDs) would be used to deter seals.

Cetaceans can be displaced by ADDs at ranges of 7km. The cumulative impact will be devastating to these species.

'Impacts from lice, disease, pesticides and waste, to not only wild fish but other marine life, is unacceptable. The estates on Islay and Jura work hard to conserve and enhance their native populations.

"The proposal is flawed: there has been no consideration to the exposed nature of the site and the high potential for escaped stock and mooring instability of the cages.

"There has been no hydrodynamic modelling, no benthic (seabed) biology survey submitted, maximum stocking biomass has been increased to levels for which further investigations are needed and fallow periods are unsustainably short. Impacts to other wildlife have not been considered. A promise of six jobs, while sacrificing

a rare wild landscape and unspoiled marine habitats, is not appropriate or sustainable economic development.'

Stuart Cannon, managing director of Kames Fish Farming Limited, said it is 'an environmentally responsible company which has produced high quality, sustainable fish for more than 45 years'.

He added: 'We are very much aware there is a balance to be struck, and would not want to place a site where there would be risk to the amazing biodiversity we have on the west coast.

'We have withdrawn applications in the past where the scientific assessment of the site has suggested the site is not suitable.

'We require new sites to meet the growing demand for our product and want to place these sites in areas deemed suitable by the application process.'

1,200 sign petition to revoke Burnside's pension

Almost 1,200 people have signed a petition asking for a former Oban police officer to lose his pension.

Daryll Burnside was sentenced to eight months in prison last week after downloading 60 child porn images and videos, including one of a baby.

He will also be subject to the notification requirement of the Sexual Offences Act for a period of 10 years.

At the time of his arrest, the 50-year-old was a serving police officer in Oban but has since retired.

Andrew Sandilands started the petition, which has 1,180 signatures. He wrote: 'He should have been suspended and his pension withdrawn on a guilty plea or verdict.

'I want to protest that a convicted police officer is being allowed this pension which should be withdrawn and possibly given to a child abuse charity. No police officer should be allowed to abuse his duty and live comfortably ever after.'

Sentencing Burnside, Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'It is no exaggeration that people who are alive today would not be if not for the bravery you have shown as a police officer.

'I would have been persuaded by your solicitor but for the presence of category A images which involved the penetration of a child. These images involve the greatest amount of suffering for children. There requires to be a deterrent. Only a custodial sentence is appropriate.'

Following the eight-month sentence, a spokesman for NSPCC Scotland said: 'As a serving police officer, Burnside was in a position of great trust in the community and would have been clear on the catastrophic impact sexual abuse has on victims.

'But he ignored his responsibilities to accumulate a sickening collection of child abuse images.'

When asked if an offence of this nature could lead to a police pension being forfeited, a Scottish Police Authority (SPA) spokesperson said: 'Pension provision for police officers are set out in regulations.

'The SPA will not comment in individual pension arrangements.'

Oban man spared jail for indecent images

A 30-year-old man from Oban has been spared jail after sending indecent images and messages to four underage girls.

Donald McCormick, of 12 The Greens, Glencruitten, was fined £2,000 and given 240 hours of unpaid work.

He is also subject to the notification requirement of the Sexual Offences Act for seven years.

As well as this, McCormick is prohibited from contacting children under the age of 16 without supervision.

And his internet usage will be limited; he will be prohibited from using Snapchat and will need permission for other social media applications.

He is also prohibited from removing any internet search history or browsing incognito. He will also need permission before installing or removing any computer software.

McCormick admitted sending indecent photographs and messages to two girls who were aged 13 and 14 at the time. He also pleaded guilty to sending indecent messages to another two girls, who were also aged 13 and 14 at the time.

The offences took place on

various occasions between March 21, 2016, and July 9, 2017. The messages and images were predominantly sent on the social media application Snapchat.

Reading the facts on August 13, procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court the incidents began after the 30-year-old gave one of the girls a lift home.

Following this, he started talking to the teenager in a 'general nature', before being blocked after making the girl feel uncomfortable.

McCormick then messaged her on Snapchat and sent inappropriate messages.

He said to another 13-year-old girl: 'We should meet up. I can pick you up and we can go to Fort William.'

On a different occasion he sent the girl an inappropriate video.

Sentencing McCormick, Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'The offences that you have committed are despicable. They have caused a considerable amount of distress to four young girls.

'They have embodied the fear that any parent would have, that their child would be preyed upon online.'

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Transplant patient plans to raise thank you funds

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A woman whose sudden flu-like symptoms ended in a liver transplant just six weeks later hopes funds from a piano concert in Oban will help thank the specialist unit that saved her life.

Marie Harrower, whose husband Ken has taught piano in the town for more than 20 years, has made a remarkable recovery which she says is owed to the quick-thinking GP and other doctors, nurses and consultants who had her life in their hands.

Mrs Harrower hopes the Pianofun performance on Sunday September 30 at Oban Parish Church will also be 'a little bit of a commemoration' for her mystery donor.

Three years ago the well-known Oban couple had got back from a holiday in Sorrento, Italy, and were getting ready for a week away in Yorkshire when Mrs Harrower fell ill with what felt like flu.

'I'd been perfectly fit and healthy - walking, swimming, loving life, doing a day's work - when I suddenly felt so unwell. I thought it was flu but went to my GP to get it checked out. He sent me to hospital straight away and, six weeks later, I'd had a liver transplant.



Marie and Ken Harrower are donating funds from Oban's Pianofun recital to the Scottish Liver Transplant Unit.

'He just obviously knew something was not right. The hospital started tests straight away, which showed there was no tumour but there was something nasty. When it didn't pass, they were quick to send me to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary where I was diagnosed with hepatitis.

'I haven't a clue how I got it. I don't think they ever knew what type it was but they kept me in from my very first referral appointment on September 3, told me on September 17 I needed a transplant and it happened the very next day.

'They'd told me I might get lucky and the virus might not settle but if it didn't, then the safest option would be to have a transplant. If I got ill with it

again, it would be very dangerous so they'd signed up for the transplant just in case and casually introduced me to the transplant team and surgeons.

'I felt so awful, I was happy to sign up. I couldn't eat and was feeling worse and worse. I'd do whatever it took to get better again.'

Just nine days after the transplant, Mrs Harrower was discharged from the Scottish Liver Transplant Unit.

'It was almost a record. They'd only known one person to be discharged earlier than me and that was a 21-year-old.

'Thankfully, I'd been very fit and well before it happened and the doctors had been very keen to give me the transplant

as soon as possible before I got any weaker. The unit was very pleased with the Oban management of my illness, because they had been so quick and efficient.'

She added: 'It was major surgery but I took all the advice I was given to recover from it. No visitors, resting up, taking just gentle exercise. Ken had to fend off callers but there were cakes and meals and gifts left at the door. It was Oban at its best and contributed to me getting well again.'

There were weekly check-ups back at the unit in Edinburgh as her stamina built up again. She was soon swimming again and then, with doctors' blessing, got back to her small physiotherapy private practice and started seeing her 'patient' patients again.

'I can walk 10 miles now without a moment's hesitation,' she said.

While Mrs Harrower says she is 'rejoicing' in life, she has also grieved for the donor. 'I don't have the faintest idea who they

were or where they came from. I do feel grief for their family.

'I wrote a thank you letter sometime after the transplant and gave it to the unit. Some families like to receive them from recipients, others don't, but I will write again to let them know about our piano concert. In some way it's a little commemoration for them,' she said.

Over the past 12 years the couple have organised Oban Pianofun to showcase Mr Harrower's pupils' talents and raise funds for Oban Music Society and the parish church but this year it will all be in aid of the Scottish Liver Transplant Unit.

Mr Harrower, a graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, will also be giving a short recital at the event, which starts at 3pm.

Police files

■ At about 10pm on Tuesday September 11, a 49-year-old man was reported for driving a vehicle on Albany Street, Oban, while under the influence of alcohol. He was subsequently arrested and charged with drink driving and appeared at Oban Sheriff Court from custody on September 12.

■ At about 12.30pm on September 12, a 38-year-old man was arrested and charged with threatening and abusive behaviour following an incident at Glencruitten Drive, Oban. He duly appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on September 13.

■ A number of traffic offences have been detected over the past week. At 10.50pm on Tuesday September 11, a 31-year-old

man was reported for driving offences after being stopped on Shore Street, Oban.

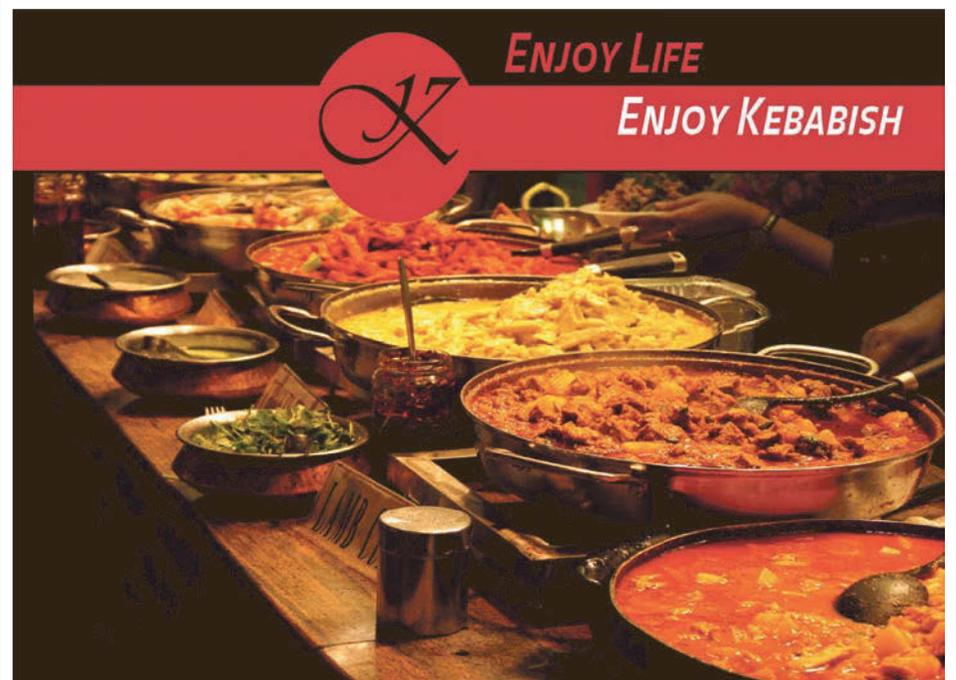
At 9.25am on Thursday September 13, on the A828 at Benderloch, a 40-year-old female was reported in relation to a number of vehicle defects.

■ Between 11am and 5pm on Friday September 14, a garden fence was damaged on McCalls Terrace, Oban. Police are appealing for witnesses.

■ Between September 12 and 14, a set of chains were removed from a shed in the Dervaig area of Mull. Officers are appealing for witnesses and are asking that residents remain vigilant of suspicious activity near sheds and outbuildings in rural areas.

■ At about 3am on Sunday September 16, police officers assisted colleagues from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service following an incident of severe flooding near to the Inveroran Hotel, Bridge of Orchy. A number of people found their campsite flooded and had to evacuate to safety. Fire service and police personnel checked the vicinity to ensure everyone was safe and accounted for. There were no casualties.

■ If any member of the public has information in relation to the above, or to any incident, they can contact their local police office on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



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OT

'Ferry disruption cannot continue'

by Sandy Neil

sneil@obantimes.co.uk



CalMac cancellations and delays 'cannot be allowed to continue, let alone happen again', an Argyll MSP has said.

Difficulties being experienced by two vessels in the CalMac fleet which serve Arran have resulted in major disruptions to the services for Islay and Colonsay.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'While everyone is aware of the problems of success that CalMac has been experiencing, including record numbers of passengers and greatly increased sailings, the recent problems have highlighted the absolute necessity of getting more vessels into the fleet and have also indicated potential weaknesses in operations and management that

need to be addressed. No-one doubts the extraordinary hard work of CalMac staff in trying to overcome current issues but equally no-one in the affected community should have to experience, once again, severe problems that are causing considerable personal difficulties for those who rely on lifeline services as well as a threat to key local, late season, tourist events. Such impacts, leading to economic and social damage, are unacceptable.

'It is good news that there are two new vessels under construction though the delay to these is unfortunate. However, CMAL has, apparently, been scouring the world for several years for a suitable additional vessel as a stop-gap and has failed to find one.

'Most people who rely on ferry services do not under-

stand that failure and want to see it overcome.

'CalMac also needs to look again with urgency at its maintenance and refit routines. It has an ageing fleet but passengers need to be assured that maintenance routines are being undertaken with sufficient regularity and that refits are being planned at times that don't impinge on busy periods. [Arran MSP] Kenny Gibson and I have requested a meeting with the relevant ministers in the Scottish Government, which would include representatives of the local ferry committees on Arran and Islay.

'We hope to make ministers aware of the huge difficulties caused by this situation and make some concrete suggestions for the future. Whatever happens, these problems cannot be allowed to continue, let alone happen again.'

A CalMac spokesman said: 'With repairs required to both the MV Isle of Arran and the MV Caledonian Isles, we are in a position where we need to reshuffle our fleet to continue to deliver lifeline service to the communities we support as best we can using the resources we have available.

'We recognise that these temporary timetable arrangements will impact on a number of communities but be assured that we have explored a wide range of options before making these changes.

'We consider these arrangements to be the best we can do with the vessels that we have available to us, taking into account passenger demand from both Islay and Arran over this period.

'We apologise for any inconvenience.'

Kilmichael forest site for planned wind farm

An Irish wind farm developer is looking to build a wind farm in the hills around Kilmichael Glen and Ford, writes Laura Maxwell.

A pre-application was submitted to the Scottish Government by Arcus Consultancy on behalf of Cork-based energy company Enerco on August 13.

The proposed Glasvaar development would involve 38 turbines, constructed close to the site of the existing 21-turbine A'Cruach wind farm in the hills at the back of Lochgair.

As submitted, the Glasvaar wind farm, involving turbines reaching 175 metres to the blade tips, would potentially generate more than 100MW

of electricity. Ancillary work would involve the creation of hard standings for cranes, site access tracks and the construction of an electricity substation.

Arcus Consultancy has begun pre-application consultation as part of the environmental impact assessment process.

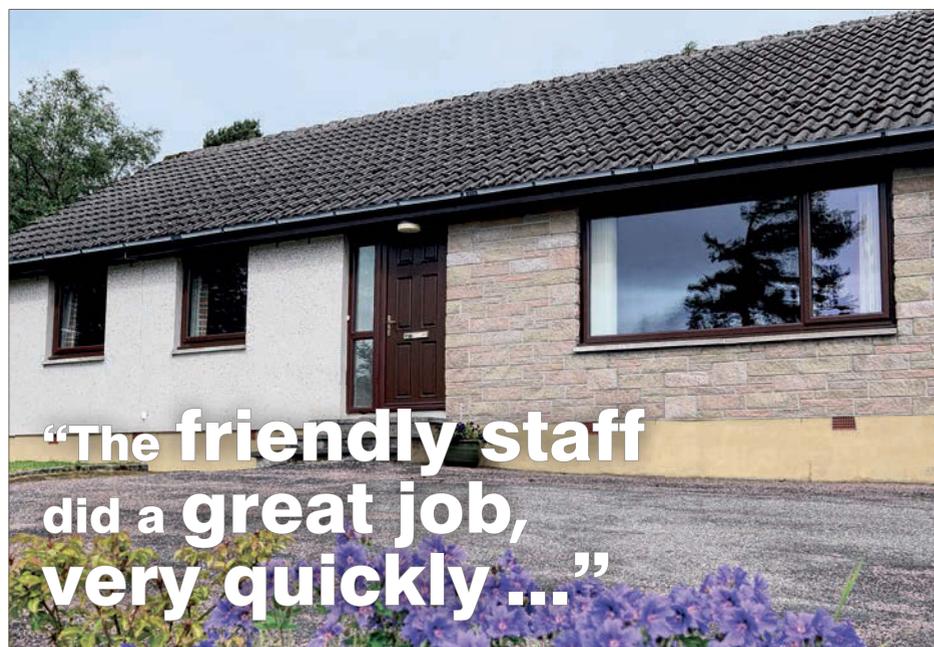
Within the application, Arcus Consultancy states: 'The aim of the scoping process is to identify key environmental issues at an early stage, to help determine which elements of the proposal are likely to cause significant environmental effects, and identify issues that can be scoped out for the assessment.'

Argyll residents win praise

Residents in Argyll and Bute have been praised by blood cancer charity Anthony Nolan for the people in their community who are registered as stem cell donors.

To mark Blood Cancer Awareness Month this

September, Brendan O'Hara MP has revealed Argyll and Bute is in the top 20 of the 650 constituencies across the UK for people on the register and he collected a certificate on behalf of the constituency from the charity.



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



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

- Alistair Gillies, Gorthleck



Four little angels with their mums: Amy Inglis on the far left with Moilla Holban, Becky Anderson and Melody McCulloch. 16_T38_baptistchurchbabies02

Oban church welcomes four little angels

Praise be! First-time mums at Oban Baptist Church have had four baby girls all in a row.

Amy Inglis had six-month-old Sofia first, followed by mum Melody McCulloch three months later with baby Lucy before Becky Anderson had Alice, now eight weeks old, and Moilla Holban celebrated the birth of Arianna two weeks ago.

The mums were all friends through church before finding out they were expecting new arrivals.

Amy, who lives in Oban, said: 'It was really exciting when we found out that our

babies were going to be born into a ready-made friendship group.'

For Melody, there was a last-minute surprise when the boy she was told she was expecting turned out to be a girl. 'It was lovely thinking she was going to be able to join the girl gang,' she said.

Becky said: 'It's great we've got each other. We can share our experiences, ask each other about things and be learner mums together.'

All of the mums moved into the Oban area with no wider family nearby but Baptist Church members have been happy to fill the gap.

'We've been well looked after. We've all had knocks at the door bringing us meals and home-baking. We've got a wonderful extended family right here in our church,' said Moilla.

Minister Stuart Lawson said the church's congregation had tripled in size in the past five years but four babies born in such a quick succession was 'quite a boost' to its numbers.

'We've got about 100 people now and under-18s make up quite a big part of our congregation.'

'Obviously four babies is quite a boost. It's lovely to celebrate new life.'



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Kay takes on outback adventure at age of 72

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban OAP Kay Simpson is on a year-long challenge trucking across Australia's outback in memory of a fellow road-tripper and soulmate.

In 2002, The Oban Times featured a photo of retired vet Kay with her partner Duncan Strachan on top of Queensland's most famous Big Red sand dune. They were travelling with Robert Cruikshank 'Cruiky', who still lives in Oban.

This time Kay is back in Oz on a solo adventure but has been joined for the most 'difficult bit' by friend Debbie Proudfoot, from Fife.

Debbie, 52, who is also taking on the challenge in memory of her late partner, is walking 10 miles a day in the dunes in aid of a cancer charity.

Kay arrived in Perth mid-April and the Toyota



Adventurer Kay Simpson on her 2018 Australian challenge.

Landcruiser belonging to Duncan, who died in a tragic accident in Spain in 2013, arrived mid-May ready for journey to start.

So far she has clocked up

12,000 miles with about another 8,000 to go.

Kay and Debbie are tackling the Simpson Desert together with more than 1,000 dunes to cross and very little else.

Kay told The Oban Times: 'I am travelling for a year alone in Australia in Duncan's old Toyota Landcruiser and Debbie has joined me for six weeks to do the hardest part of the trip – the Simpson Desert.

'We travelled from Perth to Adelaide via Alice Springs then onto the Birdsville Races through the Simpson Desert.

'There are 1,100 sand dunes to cross – no water, fuel, garages, campsites – just a few dingos and camels.

'My personal challenge is a donation to Animals Asia to help eradicate battery bear farming in China and Debbie's is for Cancer Research. She is walking 10 miles a day for the whole of 2018 and has already achieved 2,500 miles.

'The sand dunes proved quite a challenge.

'We arrived as planned in time for the Birdsville Races when the population of the small outback village increases

from 100 to 8,000 and a great time was had by all.

'This trip is continuing to be challenging for an OAP but with determination, planning and lots of tea and wine, anything is possible! I am driving mostly but climb hills when I find them. Duncan and I did a lot of travelling in Australia and I just wanted to see if I could do it on my own and also to relive past memories.'

The couple had known each other for 40 years and had travelled the world together as well as running a rare breeds farm in Oban during the 1980s and 1990s. Kay hopes to be back in Oban by April next year.

Two years ago she was in The Oban Times when she completed the 10,000-mile Mongol Rally with another friend Anne MacAskill from Skye, raising £7,500 for charity.

'I hope I'm doing my bit to encourage older women to be more adventurous,' said Kay.

Oban man to pay £750 after single punch

A 24-year-old Oban man has been ordered to pay £750 compensation and has to carry out 240 hours of unpaid work for assault.

Andrew Thwaite, of 5c Glenshellach Terrace, Oban, pleaded guilty to punching another man in the face.

He was sentenced in Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday September 11.

As well as the compensation order and unpaid work, Thwaite will be subject to a social work supervision order for 12 months.

In his defence, Thwaite's solicitor, Laura McManus, said her client was remorseful and embarrassed.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'The incident may be a one-off, but it is a serious crime of violence.'

'One punch can result in death.'

GETINTOUCH
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Murdo Masterson shares a joke with the royals after winning the silver medal.

One is very much amused

HRH Prince Charles presented Murdo Masterson from Dunbeg with a solid silver medal for winning the Braemar Royal Highland Gathering games under-25s competition on Saturday September 1.

Murdo's proud father Charles said: 'The Queen started chatting to him. They were up there for ages.'

But the 19-year-old former Oban High School pupil told his dad he couldn't recall what they talked about. 'He said: "I cannot remember. I have to go and throw." It is a mystery why they were all laughing,' said Charles.

After receiving the medal, Murdo competed in the open competition where he became the youngest competitor to

win the 16lb and 22lb hammer competitions.

The triumph crowns an incredible season for Murdo, who now holds several world records after competing at 27 games this year. The family wished to thank his coach Shaun Bate, physiotherapist Andrew Johnston and welder David Ferguson, who makes and fixes the heavy weights.

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OT

Oban High teams up with Norwegian schools

Oban High has teamed up with a secondary school from Norway to look at what can be learned from the sharing of best practice across education systems for pupils aged 16 years and over.

The school's head teacher, Peter Bain, has also been selected to lead an international project on behalf of The Scottish College for Educational Leadership (SCEL).

Mailand videregående skole in Norway was carrying out an evaluation of the opportunities available in Scottish schools for young people seeking work or further education, and got in touch with Oban High School to see if they could set up a professional exchange programme, focusing specifically on post-16 education.

Staff from the Norwegian school visited Oban last October and following a highly successful and positive trip a project plan was established.

At the same time, Gillian Hamilton, strategic director at Education Scotland, which recently welcomed the Scottish College for Educational Leadership (SCEL), learned of this collaboration and asked Mr Bain to select a team of head teachers from across Scotland, and take a delegation to Norway to carry out a wider piece of work based on the SCEL



Oban High School head teacher Peter Bain is leading the project.

learning themes. This work would benefit not just SCEL, but the whole of Argyll and Bute.

Pauline Walker, headteacher of The Royal High School, Edinburgh, and Andy Smith, headteacher of Larkhall Academy and recently president of School Leaders Scotland, both agreed to join and a successful visit to Norway took place in February.

Plans for both projects are now moving ahead, and deputy head teacher at Oban, Alex Craik, will host a visit from Mailand videregående skole staff led by Knut Kirkness

this week. The return visit to Oban High School will be followed by a visit to The Royal High School by delegates from the Norwegian schools, Wenche Kavli (head teacher of Skedsmo videregående skole), Olav Wennemo (head teacher of Bjørkelangen videregående skole) and Hege Britt Johnsen (head teacher of Frogn videregående skole).

Mr Bain said: 'Our plan is on sharing good practice with a focus on improvement and building capacity, from the perspective of strategy and learning and teaching.'

'This partnership with Mailand videregående skole is an extremely positive move and we have a significant amount of common ground. I am certain that we will learn from each other and grow together.'

'I am also honoured to be part of a team of excellent head teachers, leading an international project on behalf of SCEL. Together we can continue to ensure that all our children have the very best start in life and are given every opportunity to succeed.'

The council's policy lead for education, Councillor Yvonne McNeilly said: 'This is a truly excellent opportunity for us to showcase some of the great work that's being done in Argyll and Bute.'

'Argyll and Bute is above the national average for the number of young people aged between 16 and 19 who are currently in employment, education or training – putting us in the top eight of Scotland's 32 local authority areas.'

'This new partnership with Norway will allow us to promote Argyll and Bute as a great place to live work and learn, but it will also enable us to exchange ideas and continue to grow to ensure our young people are given every opportunity to move on to positive destinations.'

New benefit system rolled out in Oban

Universal Credit was rolled out in Oban yesterday (Wednesday September 19), replacing six means-tested benefits payments.

Claimants who previously received Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income support, Working and Child Tax Credit and Housing Benefit will now receive one monthly Universal Credit payment.

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara previously warned that the new system will have a 'devastating impact' in Argyll.

A report by Stirling Council showed foodbank use in its area had doubled after the new benefit was introduced last year.

Mr O'Hara said: 'Universal Credit is driving more people into poverty, causing severe hardship and stress, and forcing people into relying upon foodbanks. It's an unthinking, callous approach which victimises those who simply need extra help.'

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Petition backed by thousands

by David McPhee
dmphee@obantimes.co.uk



A petition set up by a couple from Seil has been signed by almost 9,500 people.

David and Jean Ainsley, who run Sealife Adventures wildlife tours, are asking for acoustic deterrent devices (ADDs) to be banned from salmon farms.

They said: 'Porpoises, dolphins and whales are being driven from feeding grounds and can be deafened by acoustic deterrent devices (ADDs) used by salmon farms. These mammals echo-locate to find food and if deafened will starve.'

The petition is directed at Roseanna Cunningham, cabinet secretary for the environment, climate change and land reform, and has four main points.

It asks Mrs Cunningham to:

1. Enforce existing laws protecting porpoise, dolphins and whales and ban all ADDs by January 2020.

2. Refuse to allow laws protecting marine mammals to be weakened; insist on indepen-

dent, peer-reviewed scientific investigations.

3. Insist on independent, peer-reviewed scientific investigations if an ADD is claimed not to disturb or injure any cetaceans.

4. Refuse to issue a seal shooting licence after January 2020 unless a farm has double-skinned anti-predator nets.

A spokesperson for the Mull-based Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) said the use of ADDs was not justified. 'Recent published research, using data collected by HWDT, demonstrates the widespread and increasing use of ADDs on the west coast of Scotland, creating a significant source of underwater noise,' the spokesperson said.

'There is sufficient evidence that ADDs are inefficient at deterring seals but have negative impacts on harbour porpoises and potentially other species and displacement which may impact on their overall fitness.'

'The Scottish Government has a legal obligation to ensure human activities and industry do not negatively impact

the conservation status of harbour porpoises, therefore the salmon farming industry's increasingly widespread use of ADDs in Scottish waters is not justified.'

A Scottish Government spokesperson said: 'Acoustic deterrent devices are one of a number of measures used by fish farms to reduce seal predation, and, when used appropriately, can be an effective non-lethal method.'

'We are aware of concerns regarding their use and are working with Scottish Natural Heritage to consider the potential impact they have on the environment and marine mammals. We take our duty to protect Scotland's iconic marine species extremely seriously, and will carefully consider the available evidence.'

A spokesperson for the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation said: 'The primary job of salmon farmers is to rear healthy fish and keep them safe. Protecting farmed salmon from seal attacks is a challenge. The industry employs a range of techniques to protect salmon.'

£800,000 needed to fix Kerrera's new breakwater

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



At least 10 metres of Kerrera's new breakwater will have to be demolished and rebuilt at a cost of £800,000, just two years since it was finished, after it was struck by a boat.

The Scottish Government invested £2.05 million into a project, completed 'on time and within budget' in August 2016, to extend the two slipways at the ferry crossing between Gallanach and Kerrera.

A new 40-metre breakwater was also constructed on the Kerrera side to allow lifeboats to moor for medical evacuation and provide 'a more reliable and resilient ferry service' for its islanders in poor weather, making cancellations and delays less likely.

Then last year CalMac replaced the ferry MV Gylen Lady with the smallest ferry in its fleet, the 12-metre MV Carvorra with space for 12 passengers and a single car,



MV Carvorra leaving Gallanach for the new Kerrera slipway.

to operate the Gallanach to Kerrera crossing.

But that December a boat made 'heavy contact' with Kerrera's new breakwater, causing 'significant' damage, according to Argyll and Bute Council.

A spokesperson for Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL), which owns CalMac's ferries and ports, told

The Oban Times this week: 'Approximately 10 metres of the breakwater structure was damaged.'

'The impact displaced a number of the pre-cast concrete deck sections and steel sheet piles. The damaged section has been closed since the incident and a maritime engineer undertakes regular inspections to monitor its condition until

repairs are carried out. We have conducted a public procurement exercise to appoint a contractor to demolish and rebuild the damaged section of the breakwater. The works are scheduled to begin in October and be completed in January 2019.

'A project budget of £800,000 has been allocated for the rebuilding works, which will be fully recovered through our infrastructure insurance arrangements.

'All vessel collisions are investigated by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). Discussions in relation to the cause are ongoing.'

The four-mile-long island, which listed a growing population of 64 full-time residents in May, is divided into north and south communities, linked to the mainland by ferries at Gallanach and Oban's North Pier, but only joined to each other by a small dirt track.

Despite a thriving community and visitor numbers of more

than 15,000 people a year, the island has no public shop or village hall and the school closed its doors to pupils in 1997. To access fuel, banking, post office, health services and education, islanders must go to the mainland.

Earlier this year the Kerrera Development Trust was granted £19,633 from the Scottish Land Fund to look into buying the island's former school and turning it into their first gathering hall for 20 years.

The trust told The Oban Times at the time: 'Community Enterprise is now developing a five-year business plan for the former school, which will enable the community to decide whether to go for full ownership of the building.'

Last week on Mull, Argyll and Bute councillors on the Oban, Lorn and the Islands Area Committee discussed details of a 'proposed sale' of the former Kerrera Primary School to the Isle of Kerrera Development Trust.

New bin calendars are sent out

The new bin collection day calendars are being sent out to households across Argyll and Bute.

There is no change to the days bins are emptied, or how often. The new calendars are to replace the existing ones, which are due to run out. Calendars are being sent now to households to last for 12 months. Look out for them arriving in Bute, Cowal, Islay and Jura, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll and Mull, from September 19. Calendars will start arriving in Oban and Lorn, Helensburgh and Lomond, Tiree, Colonsay, Lismore and Coll from October 15.

Policy lead for roads and amenity services, Councillor Roddy McCuish, said: 'There is no change to your services. We're simply updating you with a new collection calendar for 2018/19.'

'The amount of waste being recycled continues to increase - it has grown every year and is set to rise even further this year.'



Michael and Lynne of the Courie Inn, Killin, organised a cycle ride from Killin to Callander to raise money for Killin's New Year fireworks.

Getting ready for Hogmanay fireworks

Thirty riders took part in a bike ride from Killin to Callander on Saturday raising money for Killin's Hogmanay fireworks display.

They raised £2,300 for the annual show, which was devised for the millennium celebrations. It has been organised by Charlie Grant for

the past 18 years, but he has now stepped down and a new committee has taken over, headed by Mike Beresford and Jinny Anderson.

Dunbeg's SAMS welcomes cycling initiative

More than 60 worksites across Scotland, including the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) in Dunbeg, have been awarded £600,000 funding to promote cycling as a healthy way to travel to work.

As a result, some 52,000 employees, including those at the National Library of Scotland, Glasgow Airport, NHS Highlands and Scouts Scotland, can now look

forward to a range of funded initiatives including showers, repair stations, Dr Bike maintenance sessions, hairdryers and safe cycle parking.

Dr Tom Wilding, from SAMS, said: 'As a keen cyclist and environmental researcher, I am thrilled that Cycling Scotland will be helping us make much-needed improvements to the facilities for our cycling community.'

'We have more than 300

people working and studying on our very beautiful campus, and already a good number of us cycle regularly to SAMS as public transport is limited. Cycling is one of the best ways to keep physically and mentally fit, and it reduces our carbon footprint and traffic congestion. Better facilities - especially changing and drying rooms - will encourage more of our staff, students and visitors to cycle.'

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Holyrood hears new GP contract protest

A petition protesting against 'the potentially disastrous effects' of the new GP contract had its hearing last Thursday at the Scottish Parliament.

The new contract, which came into force on April 1, was negotiated by the British Medical Association and the Scottish Government, and agreed by the GP workforce.

It aims 'to set a new direction for general practice in Scotland', improving access for patients, addressing health inequalities and reducing GP workload by expanding the primary care multidisciplinary team. Its first phase introduces a new workload allocation formula (WAF), which determines how much money GP practices get.

But many GPs from remote and rural areas, such as the Rural GP Association of Scotland (RGPAS), voiced concerns that the WAF 'seemed heavily weighted against rural communities'. Many Argyll residents are also concerned the WAF has 'the potential to reduce

services and funding in rural areas'.

A petition, lodged by Karen Murphy, Jane Rentoul, David Wilkie, Louisa Rogers and Jennifer Jane Lee, calls on ministers to 'adjust the WAF urgently in light of the new contract proposals to guarantee that both primary and ancillary services are, at least, as good as they are now in all areas so patients do not experience a rural and remote postcode lottery in relation to the provision of health care'.

The petitioners have also asked for a strong rural and remote GP representation on a working group which is being set up by the Scottish Government to 'ensure the contract is delivered in a way that works well for rural communities and look at what more can be done to support rural general practice'.

The committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government and the Rural GP Association of Scotland, and to draw the petition to the attention of the health and sport committee.

Scammers target Oban and isles

by David McPhee
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



An 84-year-old Oban man was minutes away from having his bank account drained by scammers when his daughter came to his aid.

The woman, who asked to remain anonymous, visited her father when he was on the phone to 'Microsoft'.

However, she soon terminated the call when she noticed the person on the other end of the phone had remote access to her dad's computer.

It was then she found out that he had been on the phone to a scammer for around two and a half hours.

The daughter said: 'The police and the fraud squad said they were seconds away from draining his bank account.'

The scammers claimed that the elderly man had been hacked and that they needed

remote access to his computer to fix the issue.

They then informed him he was due compensation and needed him to log on to his online bank account.

After the call was terminated, the scammers tried a different tactic.

They called back claiming to be from Clydesdale Bank and said they had heard the man had been the victim of fraud - and again tried to get his bank details.

The daughter said: '[My dad] was devastated. He just trusted the guy on the phone. He was in his own home and he was not bothering anyone. They are targeting old people.'

In the end, nothing was taken, but they got really

nasty when they realised he was nearly there. They must have phoned about 20 times after that.

'I don't want anyone else to go through this. I want people to check on their elders and make sure they are okay.'

She added: 'The girls in the Clydesdale Bank were absolutely fantastic.'

Another man emailed The Oban Times and said: 'I had a call earlier this afternoon from a guy stating he was from the RBS and was confirming that there was activity on my account for large amount of money and that someone from Spain/Belgium was trying to hack into the account.'

Earlier this month, The Oban Times reported a spate of fake bank calls targeting people on Mull.

More than 10 people across the island lost money, totalling thousands of pounds, after receiving calls from scammers pretending to be from the Clydesdale Bank's own fraud squad.

Sergeant Chris Edwards, community policing sergeant for Oban, Lorn and the Isles, said: 'If anyone does receive a phone call asking for these details or telling you about suspicious activity on your account, go into your local branch or phone your bank using a different telephone.'

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

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Supermarket blames cafe closure on drain

Tesco's cafe in Oban was shut to customers on the afternoon of Tuesday September 11 so specialist contractors could investigate a blocked drain.

Rentokil was seen on site

but a spokesperson for the supermarket chain said there were no reports of rodents and it was only a precautionary measure before the cafe opened again.

'We take health and safety extremely seriously and as a precautionary measure asked specialist contractors to investigate a blocked drain issue,' said the spokesperson.

Another hectic weekend in store

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



What a great weekend we've just had - a top level shinty match, which was televised and brought lots of people to the town, and then Motorfest, which was a fantastic day out for the whole family.

The Clan Mountain Bike Stunt Show certainly kept everyone entertained along with all the beautiful classic cars and emergency vehicles.

Now we have another hectic weekend ahead of us.

This weekend we have lots to look forward to even though one or two of the events might mean us leaving the town boundaries.

Today (Thursday) we have Irish/country singer Lisa McHugh appearing in the Corran Halls.

It is always good to have the weekend start with top-class music, as it puts you in

the right frame of mind for things to come.

On Saturday we have the fantastic event that is We'll Walk This Road Together. Sadly, this will be the last one, so if you don't have your tickets yet then get them now. It's a great event to support, especially in memory of the lovely Nonny MacInnes who started it all.

Also on Saturday, we have the start of the Bookends Festival in Benderloch, which has everything about books, writers and reading and sounds fantastic. Check out its Facebook page, Bookends Festival Benderloch, which will keep you up-to-date with all the things they have on until September 29.

On Sunday the World Stone Skimming Championships take place on Easdale Island and I always wonder how they can squeeze so many people on such a small island but it is an amazing event with people from all over the

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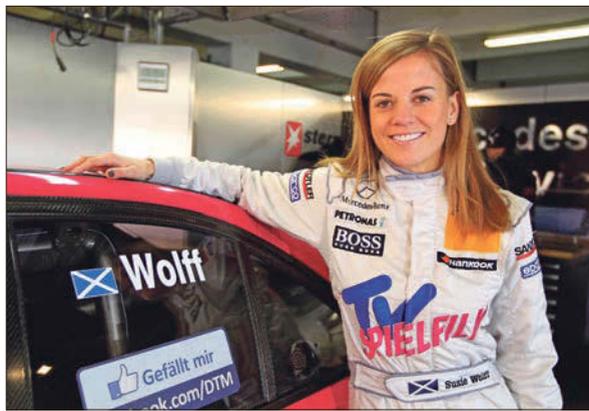


world taking part (the clue's in the title).

Competitions start at noon with registration from 10am, so if you think you're up to it, then have a go. You never know - you might just surprise yourself.

The photo last week seems to have you scratching your heads. It was taken outside The Smiddy at the top of George Street and caught my eye while I was window shopping.

Hopefully, this week's photo will be a little easier.



Susie Wolff will host a celebrity evening at Atlantis.

Susie races home for birthday at Atlantis

Oban's famous female racing driver Susie Wolff MBE is returning to her home town next week for a fundraising gala celebrating the 25th birthday of Atlantis Leisure.



An Evening with Susie Wolff and Friends also features paralympic champion in hand-cycling Karen Darke, Oban's Scottish women's rugby international Abi Evans, and motorcycle road racing driver Robert Wilson.

The three-course dinner, at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in Oban on Friday September 28 at 7.30pm, also features a charity auction.

Lots include VIP access for the Formula E race in Monaco in May 2019, a fascinating tour of the Mercedes-AMG F1 Team headquarters in Brackley for six people, and a framed championship print signed by the two Mercedes racing drivers, Lewis Hamilton and Valteri Bottas, and the rest of the top team.

Oban-born Susie, whose maiden name is Stoddart, received the MBE last year for services to women in sport. Susie's parents John and Sally own Stoddarts of Oban, a motorcycle dealership.

Susie, who now lives in Switzerland, has had a stun-

ning career in motorsport, progressing from karting to Formula 3, before being signed by the Williams Formula 1 team as a development driver.

Following her retirement in 2015, she focused on a new project, Dare To Be Different, which aims to inspire and help women working in, or who want to launch a career in, motorsport.

This summer Susie was appointed team principal of Venturi Formula E team, in charge of Venturi's preparations in the lead up to the ABB Formula E Championship, set to begin in December this year in Saudi Arabia. Formula E is the Formula 1 of electric powered racing.

Susie has thanked the town's 'inspiring' 25-year-old community-run leisure centre, where she spent a lot of time growing up learning many sports, saying she would not be where she is now without it, and wants other children to enjoy the same opportunities.



Susie with her family, who are well known as part of the Oban business community.

Self-building loan fund welcomed by Argyll housing chief

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for housing has welcomed the news that people in Scotland who want to build their own homes will now be able to apply to a £4 million loan fund.

The scheme is funded by the Scottish Government and was established following a successful pilot project by the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust.

Councillor Robin Currie said: 'The launch of this fund is fantastic news for people living in Argyll and Bute.'

'We know there's a shortage of affordable housing across the UK, and the council's Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) has already started to address this, but there are lots of people who would like to build their own home but have found it difficult to

get a self-build mortgage. This new loan fund helps to make that dream a reality and gives them the opportunity to access the finance required to create a home that meets their needs and lifestyle. This is a positive step and I hope that people make the most of it.'

The council is also proposing to introduce simplified planning zones (SPZ) at Salen on Mull and in Lochgilphead.

This means that certain homes could be built without the need to apply for traditional planning consent, making the process faster and much easier for people thinking about building their own home.

Visit: www.hscht.co.uk/scotland-self-build-loan-fund.html or for information about the SPZ email: spz@argyll-bute.gov.uk

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Tiree flag unfurled

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



The Isle of Tiree has unveiled its magnificent new flag.

A poll for Tiree Community Council in 2016 found a majority of islanders wanted a flag, so a committee ran a competition to find a design, helped by Philip Tibbetts, communities vexillologist for the Flag Institute in London.

The April contest attracted 261 entries from home and abroad, including South Uist, Switzerland and Canada, which were whittled down by a public vote and the Lord Lyon, Scotland's senior law authority.

The four finalists were shown at the Tiree Agricultural Show in July when almost 800 people at the showground voted – and there were also postal and online ballots. In total, 1,598 votes were cast.

Dr John Holliday, the flag committee's chairman, said: 'The clear winner was a design by Donald Cameron, born and brought up on Tiree, who now



The new Tiree flag was chosen in a public vote.

works as a senior strategist for a London advertising agency.

'Donald's design cleverly uses stalks of barley, referring to the island's reputation as Tir an Eòrna, "the island of barley", and the most fertile of the Hebrides, to create a yellow circle, symbolising the "sunshine isle".'

'But, ironically, as the Saturday of the unveiling ceremony dawned, a thick pall of mist enveloped the island, closing the airport. Sitting on the runway in Glasgow was the flag's designer Donald Cameron, Philip

Tibbetts and the flag for the unveiling ceremony.'

This was delayed for two hours to allow the clouds to part and the plane to land. Postman Ian Cameron, Crossapol, stayed beyond his normal hours to collect the parcel containing the flag in time for the unveiling.

Dr Holliday told the 100 people who had come to see the new flag raised for the first time: 'Tiree needs a rallying point more than most places. If there has been one thing that has been true about the island over the past 170 years,

it is this: you often had to leave. Since the potato famine of 1846, thousands of islanders have emigrated.

'Today there are around 650 people living on Tiree; there are more than a million people of Tiree descent spread out around the globe. On the hearts of many of them are engraved two Gaelic words: dualchas, a sense of heritage, and cianalas, a longing for home.'

At the ceremony, flags were presented to the school and to Rosemary Omand and Elaine Hayes, representing the Tiree Association.

Angus MacPhail, of the band Skipinnish, raised a Tiree flag at the Best of the West festival in Inveraray, and flags were also presented to the winners of the Tiree Ultramarathon the following day. The design belongs to the community, there is no copyright, and it can be used anywhere, by anyone.

Dr Holliday added: 'Tiree is a great place for flying flags: there's plenty of wind and an open landscape.'

Helping you and your baby to sleep easy

Oban's First Steps Day Nursery at Croft Road and Little Learners' Nursery at Dunstaffnage are joining together to host a safe sleep education session today, Thursday.

The free session is being led by Scottish Cot Death Trust volunteer Liz Miller.

The trust has existed for 35 years, supporting families affected by the sudden and unexpected death of an infant or child of pre-school age.

Since the Back to Sleep campaigns of the late 1980s and early 1990s numbers of Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) have drastically reduced. However, a baby still dies suddenly and unexpectedly every nine days in Scotland.

This is why the charity's awareness and education work is so important. Delivering free sessions to a range of professional and public audiences allows the charity to promote how it can reduce the risks of a SUDI occurring.

These messages reinforce and

expand the traditional Back to Sleep campaigns to include advice on safe sleeping spaces, car seats and temperature.

The charity's childcare sessions have run for many years, largely by Liz Miller.

Executive director Lynsay Allan said: 'The time Liz gives to sharing safe sleep information is remarkable. I am so very grateful to her and the nurseries that arrange for staff to have this important education.'

The trust has not received any statutory grant funding this year and relies solely on donations to continue its lifesaving work. One way nurseries and other community groups can help is by holding a Welly Waddle sponsored walk. The trust can provide all of the resources to make this fun event successful.

The charity is holding a Welly Waddle week from Monday November 12-Sunday November 18.

For more information, visit www.scottishcotdeathtrust.org

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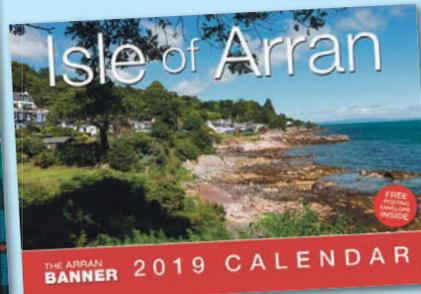
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Mystery of Mull sea eagle revealed

The history and formal identification of a male sea eagle named Star from the North West Mull Community Eagle Watch has finally been revealed after four years of detective work by rangers on the island.

Seasonal ranger Cian Burke-Brown of the Mull and Iona Community Trust has succeeded in clinching the tell-tale photographic proof to identify exactly where Star was hatched and fledged.

Ever since a new unknown male sea eagle paired up with the resident female named Hope in 2014, conservationists on Mull have been trying to work out who he was. It is thought the newcomer killed Hope's original mate in a territorial dispute as he sought to take over the nesting area.

Her original male, known



There is new evidence that Star is from Morvern.

as Yellow E, had wing tags and his identity was known. He hatched on Mull in 2006 and was paired with Hope for nearly five years.

However, following their last breeding attempt together, he was found dead. A post-mortem examination revealed

talon wounds suggesting a fight with another eagle. Shortly afterwards, Hope was seen paired with the new male.

He had a leg ring coloured blue over silver which identified him as a chick which had fledged somewhere in Scotland in 2010 but after that the trail went cold as no one was able to read the letters on the ring.

Now, photographs have shown the letters as C9 over 33, which proves Star was hatched at a nest site on Morvern and, after four years of exploring Scotland as an immature sea eagle, he returned home and then across the Sound of Mull to pair up with Hope.

They have successfully raised five chicks between them in recent years and this year have fledged a further two chicks.

Dave Sexton, RSPB Mull officer, said: 'Cian did a fantastic

job getting these shots and was determined to solve the mystery of where Star originated from. Thousands of visitors have watched Star and Hope and their two chicks this year as part of the Mull Eagle Watch experience. The hide will be open until mid October as the eagle family will remain nearby offering fantastic views.'

The chicks were named as Ulva, to celebrate the recent community buy-out of the nearby island, and Misak, honouring a Colombian tribe's visit to see the eagles this year.

Mull Eagle Watch is a partnership between the Mull and Iona Community Trust, RSPB Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forest Enterprise Scotland and Police Scotland. Trips can be booked by VisitScotland on 01680 812 556.

Fish farm refutes 'shocking' footage

A west coast fish farm says an 'unprecedented' SSPCA inspection has shown it is protecting the welfare of its salmon, after a charity released 'shocking' footage showing 'serious animal welfare concerns'.

The video, purportedly shot on Monday August 27 at Vacasay salmon farm in Loch Roag on the Isle of Lewis, run by the Scottish Salmon Company, was passed to the Scottish SPCA for investigation.

A spokesperson for campaign group OneKind said: 'The video shows salmon with the flesh on their heads exposed due to severe sea lice damage, heavy sea lice burdens, fish jumping out of the water, and severe fin and tail damage.'

OneKind campaigner Sarah Moyes said: 'It's very concerning that there are plans to double the salmon farming industry in Scotland when fish are suffering in this way. We're calling for a moratorium on further growth until the indus-

try starts putting the welfare of its animals first.'

The Scottish Salmon Company said: 'The SSPCA has now confirmed that it will be taking no further action. It was wholly satisfied that we are taking all possible steps to protect the welfare of our fish and effectively deal with the naturally occurring issue of sea lice.'

'The warmer water temperature this summer has impacted the number of incidences of sea lice. However, the video footage is both highly out of context and alarmist. If it is from our site, it was obtained by an individual trespassing.'

'We remain fully committed to responsible farming practices and stringent health management of our stock. We are working with academic and industry partners to finding long-term sustainable solutions to tackle these industry-wide challenges.'

The footage can be seen at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh2I-ZGi9pk

Brendan O'Hara MP vows to vote against Boundary Commission plan

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara has pledged to vote against the Boundary Commission proposal to cut Scotland's elected representatives at Westminster from 59 to 53, should it come before parliament.

The plan, released earlier this week, cuts the number of Highlands and Islands MPs from four to three and extends the current Argyll and Bute boundary north to take in Fort William, increasing the size of an already massive constituency by almost a third.

The proposed new constituency of Argyll, Bute and South West Highlands would cover 9,917 sq km of the west of Scotland and would stretch from Campbeltown in the south to Fort William in the north, and from Cardross in the east to Tìree in the west. It would also include a huge number of communities of varying sizes, including 23 islands.

Mr O'Hara said: 'This appears to be nothing more than a crude numbers game for the Boundary Commission.'

'In its desire to try to equalise the size of each UK constituency by population, it seems to have taken no notice of the history, geography or



The prospective MP for Argyll, Bute and South Highlands would have to cover an area from Fort William to Campbeltown and include 23 islands.

topography of this part of Scotland.

'And I am very disappointed in this proposal.'

'The people of Argyll, Bute and south west Highlands deserve better than this.'

'The three largest constituencies [Highland North, Argyll, Bute and South West Highlands and Highland Central] would cover a landmass of 33,282 sq km - equivalent to 42.5 per cent of the whole of Scotland. This is equivalent to a landmass larger than Belgium.'

'But there are no plans to re-

duce the number of UK government ministers, meaning elected members would have even less ability to hold them to account.'

'For an area covering almost half of Scotland to be represented by only three MPs is a democratic outrage - especially at a time when the unelected chamber of the House of Lords continues to increase and is currently numbering around 800.'

'For the mainland Highlands area, a geography one-and-a-half times the size of Wales, to be cut to just two constituencies is astonishing.'

'South of the border, the largest proposed geographic constituency is Brecon, Radnor and Montgomery in Wales, a mere 3,624 sq km.'

'That's one third of the geography of the proposed boundary of Argyll, Bute and South West Highlands.'

'The UK Government is in chaos as we continue to weather the unwelcome storm of Brexit. There is no appetite for these proposals.'

'If there is a genuine desire to reduce the cost of politics at UK level, the priority must be to abolish the unelected, undemocratic House of Lords, which has zero accountability to voters.'



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OT



Emma and Les Norris picnicking with David and Morag Paul. 15_T38_Motorfest_05



Oban Coastguard officers were delighted to welcome the service's last working Land Rover. 15_T38_Motorfest_03

Classics are out in

Almost 70 cars toured to Oban's Station Square on Saturday for the fifth Motorfest.

The prize for the furthest travelled was awarded to Ian Forbes from Musselburgh, while Drew Cowan's Mk2 Ford Escort won the best car and Mel Burnip's Ford Cortina Mk1 took best club entry.

Kevin Devine, chairman of Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club, was very pleased by the number of cars, but had to turn back 20 cars because there was not enough space.

'Most folk have decided they are going whether it is wet or not,' he said. 'It is a free day out. There are people who have been here since Friday. It is good for the economy.'

Also praising the 'excellent' turnout of cars and visitors, was BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence. He said: 'Motorfest had a significant economic impact on the town. One of the highlights was the visiting Clan Mountain Bike Stunt Team which entertained the crowd with three shows throughout the day.'



The cars attracted considerable interest. 15_T38_Motorfest_12

Iain MacKinnon, station officer for Oban Coastguard, was delighted to welcome the rescue service's 2001 Land Rover, normally on active duty in Kintyre, which featured on a commemorative postage stamp in 2013 celebrating 55 years of the off-road icon.

'There are just two [Land Rovers] left in the coastguard in the UK,' Iain said. 'We had to move heaven and earth to get it here. They are in high demand around the coast because of their reliability. It has many fans in the coastguard. They are solid workhorses. Now it has arrived I hope it will never

leave. I hope it has five years left, and will go to a museum rather than be destroyed.'

Gary and Donna Blackburn from Dunfermline brought their beloved 1971 Volkswagen Campervan, called 'Tammy', but chose to stay in a hotel overnight due to the rough weather. 'She has got no heating, so she is cold even when you are driving,' Gary said. 'It's had 13 owners - I am the last.'

Meanwhile, Emma and Les Norrie from Blairgowrie were in a 1970 VW Beetle, and David and Morag Paul from Arbroath in a 1951 Ford V8 Pilot, parked alongside one

another having a wee picnic of sandwiches and hot tea. 'I love this car,' David said. 'It is the car I always wanted. It has a top speed of 82mph. I have not had it to that speed - it would be very scary.'

Paddy and Trish McDermott serenely motored across from Crieff in a 1934 Austin 12. 'I have always been fond of Austins,' Paddy said. 'When it was new the maximum speed was 50mph. Now we go no faster than 45mph.'

'I love it with a passion,' Hazel Barry from Bonawe said of her 1966 Mark II Ford Zephyr, which is called Frank after Frank Zappa/Zephyr. 'People always come to talk to us.'

Liam Campbell of Oban also brought the show's only motorbike, a Honda VFR400 which took him five years to build.

David Hutchison, visiting again this year from Crieff with his son David in a bright green gem saying 'old Fords never die', summed up their day: 'It is a friendly show with nice cars, plenty to see.'

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'Serving Argyll and the Islands'

force at Motorfest



Classic cars came from across the country, with almost 70 in total on show in Oban's Station Square. 15_T38_Motorfest_14



Gary and Donna Blackburn sheltering with a hot beverage in 'Oor Tammy'. 15_T38_Motorfest_01



Trish and Paddy McDermott from Crieff in their comfortable 1934 Austin 12. 15_T38_Motorfest_04



Alexander Stewart with Liam MacLean, and Greg Stewart. 15_T38_Motorfest_08



David Hutchison and his son, also David. 15_T38_Motorfest_02



Oban FM DJs Len Ford and Campbell Cameron kept people's revs up with their music. 15_T38_Motorfest_19



Ian Adrian and Hazel Barry with her 1966 Mark III Ford Zephyr. 15_T38_Motorfest_18



Liam Campbell with his Honda VFR400. 15_T38_Motorfest_17



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OT

Oban mum's fix for shoes heads to US

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



An Oban mum who created a solution to loose fitting shoes has signed a Stateside deal and won a top business award.

Laura Birrell, who now lives in Glasgow, created Sticky Heelz – an anti-slip pad that helps with fitting, rubbing and blistering.

The product is on sale in 500 Superdrug stores across the UK but now Ms Birrell has signed a distribution deal with TSB Sales Service which will see her products hit the shelves of American stores.

The entrepreneur launched Sticky Heelz in 2015 after buying a pair of Christian Louboutin shoes that were half a size too big.

Last year she secured private investment from Hillington-based Wilson Imports and was part of a

trade mission to Manhattan. Ms Birrell, who also created a teardrop arch pad to make shoes comfier, got help from Business Gateway Lanarkshire. Last week Ms Birrell posted: 'Delighted to win Entrepreneur of the Year at the Scottish Women's Awards.'

'I am excited about scaling my business globally and growing a brand.'

This month Sticky Heelz also won an Innovation in Business Award at the Inspiring City Awards 2018 in Glasgow.

She told The Oban Times: 'The day I decided I wouldn't wait for someone to come up with a solution for my shoe problems was a game changer. I am excited about scaling my business globally and growing a brand.'



Laura Birrell with her Sticky Heelz entrepreneur award.

Reward is offered for Bluebelle's safe return

The owners of missing moggy Bluebelle, who disappeared from Tobermory on a sailing holiday, are offering a £100 reward for her return.

The two-year-old cat, who was last seen three weeks ago, has still not been found despite desperate attempts by Johanne and Nigel Sim from Tighnabraich.

At the weekend the couple were planning a return trip to Mull to hand out 'missing' leaflets.

On Monday, Johanne reported from Tobermory: 'Fairly positive sighting by the apartments behind distillery wooded area by river. Across from Ledaig car park.'

She added on the Everything Mull Facebook page: 'We are just desperate and will try anything to get Bluebelle home. We are happy to donate the reward to a charity of a finder's choice if that would be preferable.'

Johanne fears Bluebelle may have been inadvertently tempted away from their yacht by mackerel being gutted on another boat in the port.



Bluebelle is still missing.

After three days searching Tobermory streets and other boats, they had to leave without her but the communities of Mull and Oban have been rallying round to help.

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

Anyone who knows of her whereabouts should call 07900 511194 or 01700 811258.



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Meeting is set over dangerous school crossing

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Parents campaigning for a safer school crossing have set a date for a meeting with councillors, police and road agencies.

Last month The Oban Times reported how a near-miss between a four-year-old boy and a car outside Lochnell Primary School in Benderloch had stepped up a long campaign by the community to cut risks to lives on the A828.

So far, about 300 people have responded to an online survey about how the road could be made safer – and a huge amount of feedback has come from motorists.

The web survey is at tinyurl.com/lochnell and all the data from it will be handed over by the parent-led campaign to authorities at a meeting on October 21.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has been lobbied for action, along with Transport Scotland, BEAR Scotland, the police, Argyll and Bute

Council and Ardschattan Community Council.

DJ Barr, whose son was the child involved in the latest reported near-miss, said he hoped BEAR Scotland, the police and other relevant authorities would attend next month's meeting.

Last week some of the parents met Argyll and Bute councillors Elaine Robertson and Kieron Green, who are giving their support. The school's parent council is taking the lead with the campaign.

Councillor Robertson said: 'We are giving them our full support to help make the crossing safer.'

After the October meeting, a public meeting may follow.

Mr Barr said: 'Considering we only have 98 families in school, hundreds of responses to our survey is phenomenal. The reach that social media has given us is amazing.'

'We intend to hand over the results from the survey at the October meeting and ensure we make all the important points.'

Police have been outside the school again carrying out random speed checks, welcomed by community councillor Willie Barnett.

Mr Barnett is concerned over why Transport Scotland took no action after a speed measuring exercise revealed most vehicles passing the school were in excess of 31mph – at start and end of school days, the speed restriction is 20mph.

'Surely this should have raised a red flag in whatever office is responsible for this area. In the meantime, children's lives are still at risk,' he said.

BEAR Scotland has said it will be reviewing the approaches to the school before March next year 'to see if anything could be improved or introduced to reduce vehicle speeds and increase road safety'.

BEAR Scotland has also confirmed it will be meeting with community councillors to hear concerns. The next Ardschattan Community Council meeting is on Thursday October 4 at 7.30pm at Barcaldine Primary School.

Jura and Janie top list for volunteer awards

Volunteering takes time, commitment and a lot of hard work – so it is only right that those who provide so much support for communities are thanked.

Volunteers from the length and breadth of Argyll and Bute were honoured at this year's Volunteer of the Year awards, which were organised by Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface.

The event, on September 7 in Helensburgh, celebrated the huge contribution volunteers make – whether that is manning a charity shop counter, supporting carers, carrying out beach cleans or just being a friend to someone in need.

Out of the many hundreds of people who give up their time to volunteer, the awards recognised those who have gone over and above in categories including regional heroes, individual volunteer of the year, young volunteer of the year and health volunteer of the year.

Janie Steele, from Oban, collected the regional hero award for her work on conservation and awareness raising on issues such as palm oil.

The prestigious social enterprise of the year award



Janie Steele proudly shows off her award.

was presented to Jura Development Trust, which, among many other things, is ensuring the residents of Jura have access to council services by maintaining the service point on the island.

Gareloch Riding for the Disabled, Rhu and Shandon Gala and Strachur Hub were the three finalists for organisation of the year, with

the winners chosen on the day by a secret ballot that saw Gareloch RDA receiving £500. Both runners-up received £250.

The top award – the Sargus Memorial prize – was awarded to Fiona Donald, from Helensburgh, who will be using the prize to ensure that she takes a break and sees the world.



Join in the parkrun at Ganavan this Saturday.

Pick up the pace and join Ganavan's parkrun

Organisers of Ganavan Sands popular parkrun are inviting more people to join them and beat the sedentary lifestyle blues.

Last month the event celebrated its second anniversary and regularly has between 50 and 60 people joining them on a Saturday at 9.30am.

The highest number of participants so far has been 103, says Derek Laidler, one of the

volunteer parkrun directors.

Mr Laidler is also the professional lead physiotherapist for Argyll and Bute so is well placed to know the benefits, both physical and social, of taking part in the five-km (three-mile) event whether it is walking, jogging, running or just helping out at the start and finish line. 'There's an element of fun to this as well as the exercise and the

social side of coming along. The benefits of beating a sedentary lifestyle are many and joining in the parkrun is one way locally that people can do it,' he added.

Over the past two years people have come from all over the world, including New Zealand, Australia and America to join in.

To find out more, email gavanandsahelpers@parkrun.com.

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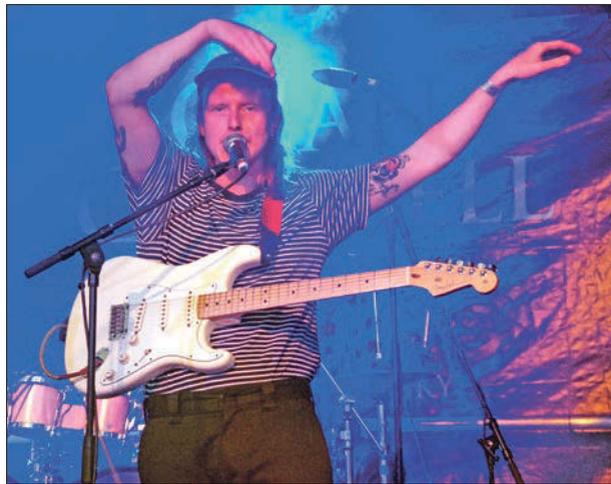
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OT



Oban's Robert Wright, Del Carson of Port Glasgow and Janice Duffy from Erskine – photobombed by a lion.

06_a37BowFest



Bwani Junction lead singer Rory Fairweather gets into a brilliant set of Paul Simon covers.

06_a37BowFest



Bar None Community Choir. Photograph: Stephen Lawson

Bowfest – music, food and lots of festival fun

by Laura Maxwell
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Organisers and attendees of the Best of the West Festival 2018 have confirmed that this year's event was the biggest and best yet with an attendance over the weekend of 5,250.

People of all ages came to enjoy the three-day celebration of the best in music, food, drink, arts and crafts – and family fun.

The weather gods were merciful for the Friday September 7 opening, featuring big crowds and a cracking atmosphere in anticipation of a great weekend of entertainment.

Eleanor, The Duchess of Argyll and founder of Best of the West Festival said: 'This year's festival has been a great success with everyone enjoying a fantastic weekend.'

'It was wonderful to see people of all ages having so much fun. We are already looking forward to welcoming everyone back to Inveraray Castle for Best of the West 2019.'

For the youngsters this year there was face painting – also surprisingly popular among mildly lubricated adults – as well as the ever-popular climbing wall, dancing tea-cups and much more.

Top-notch fare in the Food



Robert Robertson of Tide Lines and one of the band's loyal fans, Gary Morrison. Photograph: Stephen Lawson



The Bhangra Beatles were a big hit. Photograph: Stephen Lawson

from Argyll tent proved as big a draw as it does every year, while local artists showcased a myriad of crafts and artwork in their own popular marquee.

Top chefs from award-winning restaurants showed off their skills in the Festival Kitchen, including Calum Hall, head chef at Loch Fyne Oysters, Samphire chef and owner Andrew MacLugash and Masterchef Professionals 2016 winner Gary MacLean.

Music and the amber nectar poured from the whisky tent in a mellow blend of conviviality. Mid Argyll's Bar None Community Choir were excellent, as were duo Holly Renton from Inveraray and Lochgilphead's Tiegán

Holroyd bringing their soft, melodic tones to the festival once again.

The big hitters were on the main stage. Former Runrig frontman Donnie Munro delighted audience members of a certain age with songs old and new on Saturday evening. At the opposite end of the experience spectrum, Cowal outfit Heron Valley showed why they are currently home in between US tours.

The energetic Celtic sound of American band Seven Nations had the Friday night joint jumping ahead of Tide Lines, lead singer Robert Robertson all blue eyes and boundless energy.

Arguably the Saturday show was stolen by the col-

our, noise and drama of the Bhangra Beatles – with Fab Four favourites handed an Indian twist of spice.

Argyll acts held their own and more among illustrious company. The Camans, Rhuvaal, Dr Hip and the Blues Operation and Ri Cheile put on cracking performances.

The whole thing was rounded off with a bang by trad supergroup Skipinnish. The main marquee, packed with folk of all ages, was bouncing.

Warmed by Skipinnish classics including Walking on the Waves and Alive, the audience was given a 'heads up' of next year's BoW fest dates: September 13 to 15, 2019 – mark it in your diary.

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Going down a storm on Coll

The protections and comforts of the modern world render most of us immune to the changeable ways of weather.

However, for those on the west coast islands, everyday life and work still often moves at the mercy of the elements.

At the beginning of this week I had a glimpse back into the pressures of having to plan round the unpredictable whim of wild autumn weather.

More than 18 months ago, we had taken on a gig on the Isle of Coll to perform a concert as part of the Coll Homecoming.

This week-long celebration was on the same theme as the two events that had previously taken place on Tiree, where those with connections to the

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island would gather for a week and celebrate their shared heritage with a range of cultural events and meetings of kindred spirits.

The weather very nearly put a spanner in the works of the band making it to Coll and back and having to make decisions depending on weather forecasts that change constantly. This was a stark reminder of how much more difficult it is to plan life when weather is a factor. Those who live on the islands and

especially those who work on the sea have to do this day in, day out.

When I lived on Tiree, and especially during the few years when I was fishing full-time, it used to irritate me when people would say such things as: 'It must be so stress-free and idyllic staying on an island like Tiree.'

Yes, if you are on holiday, but if your life revolves around weather, tides, getting your catch off the island on time every week, getting on and

off for gigs, making sure gear is safe when away and many other untethered factors all with the over-arching pressure to make a living, it is not quite such a tranquil existence.

Our gig was on Monday night and, because we absolutely had to be back on the mainland by Wednesday to get ready for the Barrowland gig in Glasgow this weekend, the decision on whether to go to Coll or not was a difficult one.

At one point, the forecast predicted that if we did not get off Coll by Tuesday morning, we might be marooned there until Saturday and would therefore have to cancel the Barrowland gig. The financial and reputational repercussions

of that scenario would have been very serious.

Many times plans were made and then altered with a change in forecast. It is very difficult to convey to those unaccustomed to such situations that weather cannot be controlled and you act at its mercy.

One option would have been to cancel the Coll gig but, although for us that would have been much easier, it would have badly let down the people on Coll and their visitors. This was the most likely outcome at one stage but, with a weather window predicted for Tuesday morning, we decided to take the St Olave out as by the time the CalMac sailing was due on Tuesday evening there was a southerly gale forecast.

As it turned out, the weather gods were on our side and we made it out and had a flat calm sail back on Tuesday morning. This was the fabled calm before the storm, and I am writing this as we steam down a mirror-like Sound of Mull just having listened to the Coastguard forecast on the VHF predict severe gale nine to storm 10, becoming violent storm 11 later. I am very happy we will be tied up well before this comes upon us! The storm of 2,000 wild revellers in the Barrowland is now the only forecast we have to worry about.

Our reception from Colaich near and far made the whole exercise worthwhile. A great gig and a great welcome.

Hospice cashes in on shinty

Once again the Friends of Oban Hospice, the fundraising arm of the hospice based at the Dove Centre in the town's Stevenson Street, operated a wheel of fortune at shinty's Camanachd Cup final in Oban on Saturday. It was shinty's premier trophy and another successful outcome was achieved. Chairman of the friends, Iain MacIntyre, who is seen here with members of his committee - left to right, Shiralene

Cave, Karen Campbell, Morven MacMillan, Lorna Kirkpatrick, Kathleen Black and David Evans - praised the generosity of shinty people even though the bulk of the crowd was not local. In addition to the wheel of fortune, copious amounts of homemade tablet was sold, with £100 being raised from a mini lottery. The final sum raised was just short of £400 with a surplus of donated bottles available to raffle at future events.



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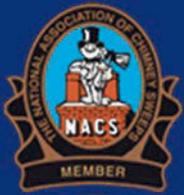


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HOW DID IT ALL BEGIN?

The first ever coffee morning happened way back in 1990. It was a rather small affair with a simple idea: guests would gather over

coffee and donate the cost of their cuppa to Macmillan in the process. It was so effective, they did it again the next year – only this time nationally. Since then, the World's Biggest Coffee Morning has raised more than £200 million for Macmillan.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO GET INVOLVED

Hosting your own coffee morning is easy. All you have to do is sign up at www.coffeeregister.macmillan.org.uk and get your kit. In the meantime there are plenty of posters and games to download from the web page.

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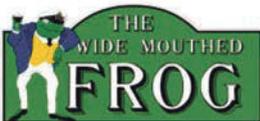
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£60 could pay for a Macmillan Grant that buys a good quality liquidiser for someone who can't eat solid food as a result of their cancer or treatment. £110 could pay for a Macmillan social worker for a day. They work with community and social services agencies to help people manage social and practical problems of living with cancer. £207 could pay for a Macmillan nurse for a day, helping people living with cancer and their families receive essential medical, practical and emotional support. £370 could pay for the hire of a room for a year so a cancer self-help and support group could hold regular meetings to support people affected by cancer in the community.

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BUSINESS NEWS

M&S to give away 100 golden tickets in Oban and Fort

M&S will give away 100 golden tickets in each of its 56 Scottish stores – including Oban and Fort William – on September 29 as part of its centenary celebrations.

The first 100 customers at each store on the day will win a golden ticket ranging from £5 to £200 money off vouchers to use towards in-store purchases.

The first M&S opened in Dundee in the autumn of 1918 – and 100 years on M&S now serves two million customers a week across Scotland and employs 6,500 people.

David Bates, regional director for M&S in Scotland, said: 'We're proud to have served Scotland for 100 years and our customers have been a massive part of our success.'

'We want them to celebrate with us so we are excited to present the first 100 customers in each of our main Scottish stores the opportunity to win big. All they have to do is peel back the golden ticket to reveal their prize.'

'We want all our Scottish customers to join us on September 29 for our biggest ever Scottish giveaway.'

The golden ticket giveaway will take place at 56 M&S clothing and home stores and foodhalls across Scotland. It excludes outlets, franchise stores in service stations, BP stations, hospitals, train stations and airports. Gift cards are redeemable in-store. Spend & Save vouchers also only apply to in-store purchases.

Mum rises to the top with village business

A former horticulturist who took over the running of Kilmelford village shop four years ago is now offering post office services to surrounding areas.

After working in the horticultural industry for 13 years and being a full-time mum to her five children, Sarah-Jane Edwards sought a new challenge.

So, when her local shop and post office was in need of rejuvenation, she jumped at the chance to build it up again.

Sarah-Jane, who received support from Business Gateway Argyll and Bute, also opened a café above the shop and, as the sole rural post office in the area, will now offer postal services to nearby villages.

She said: 'The main inspiration for the business was the fact I wanted to try something new and be my own boss. Our local shop and post office almost died, which would have been dreadful for the village, so I felt it not only gave me the challenge I wanted, but allowed me to retain an important element of the community.'

'I wanted to ensure locals and tourists got use of the shop and by opening the café in 2016, we were able to attract even more visitors.'

'In 2017, I decided to visit Business Gateway to see if there was any support available and they've been amazing. My adviser has been very supportive and has given me ideas for the future as well as building my confidence.'

The village shop and Room at the Top coffee shop provide groceries, as well as range of local produce, homemade cakes and pies.

Sarah-Jane added: 'The response to our



Sarah-Jane Edwards will now also provide post office services in Kilmelford.

cakes and pies has been really positive so my plans for the future will focus on the food side of the business. My aim is to get our food as well established as our shop and post office and continue to offer a quality service to both visitors and villagers.'

To find out more about how Business Gateway can help you, call 01546 808363 or visit www.bgateway.com/argyll-and-bute

Helping hand for business

Business Gateway is Argyll and Bute Council's dedicated business support resource, providing practical advice free and in confidence to both existing businesses and new start-ups based in Argyll and Bute.

The service offers advice from experienced business advisers, business skills workshops, information, guides, templates for key documents, networking and can signpost available funding.

Since its launch in Argyll and Bute in 2009, Business Gateway has provided support to hundreds of local businesses, helping them to start up, survive or grow. Last year more than 100 new businesses started up in Argyll and Bute and more than 250 existing businesses were supported by the team.

Business Gateway Argyll and Bute achieved top ranking for meeting customer expectations last year, according to an independent customer satisfaction survey, with 94 per cent of respondents saying that their expectations were met as well as 93 per cent saying that their business would benefit from the support provided. Overall customer satisfaction from users of the service in Argyll and Bute is consistently above the national average for Scotland.

The business adviser for the Oban area is Angela Vernel. Angela joined the Business Gateway team in 2013 and has a background in business investment, having worked for many years for Highlands and Islands Enterprise.



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Oban restaurant is put up for sale at £850,000

Oban Fish and Chips in George Street has been put on the market for £850,000.

Offering a takeaway service via a dedicated counter space to the front of the shop, allowing customers an open view of the fryer and food display area, the business also provides a 40-cover restaurant. Ancillary areas for both the restaurant and takeaway are included, with a galley kitchen, dishwashing area and prep areas.

Originally established in the early 1990s and hailed by award-winning chef Rick Stein as having some of the best fish and chips he has ever tasted in an episode of the BBC's Food Heroes programme, the business has been successfully trading under the current owner for more than 14 years.



Oban Fish and Chips in George Street.

With a prime location and strong reputation, Oban Fish and Chip Restaurant enjoys return custom from visitors and residents.

Due to retirement, the current owners Lillian Hutchison, her husband and their son decided to sell the business. They said: 'We appointed Christie & Co due to their specialist knowledge in the retail sector.'

Mark Lavery, from Christie & Co, added: 'From the outset, the business has attracted a lot of interest. Oban Fish and Chip Restaurant is currently very successful and would be a great addition to any existing buyer's portfolio or a first-time buyer looking for an extremely busy business with a healthy profit margin.'

'Due to its coastal location and great access links to the Scottish isles, the restaurant is ideally located to capture the tourism trade, while enjoying steady levels of business from a loyal, local following.'

Build your network and your skills at Business Gateway's workshops.

Free, practical advice and support to help grow your business. Call your local office on 01546 808 363 or visit www.bgateway.com/argyllandbute

business gateway
slighe gnothachais

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Funding boost for Highlands tourism

The search is on for 10 major new projects that showcase the outstanding local scenery, wildlife and culture of the Highlands and Islands.

The new Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund, led by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) will support projects that encourage visitors to experience more of the nature and culture of the Highlands and islands.

The fund also aims to benefit communities, with the projects it supports helping to retain local jobs and services. A total of £5 million is available from the fund, with each project to receive at least £250,000.

Welcoming the announcement, Ivan McKee, minister for trade, investment and innovation, said: 'Today's announcement of the £5 million Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund is fantastic news for the Highlands and islands. This money will go towards improving visitors' facilities and access to its most remote and rural areas.'

'The £5 million comes from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and will support inclusive and sustainable growth, a key part of the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework.

'Scotland's breathtaking scenery and



Mike Cantlay, chairman of SNH, said: 'The close links between nature and culture in the Highlands and islands are a huge draw for tourists across the globe.'

culture are recognised around the world, and improving the experiences for tourists in the Highlands and islands will benefit the national and local economies by sustaining jobs and creating new opportunities.'

Mike Cantlay, chairman of SNH, added: 'The close links between nature and culture

in the Highlands and islands are a huge draw for tourists across the globe, and the economic benefits are a vital way of maintaining our rural populations, jobs and skills.

'Parts of the Highlands and islands are well served, but we know there are even more out there with potential to bring benefits to rural communities in the coming years.

'We are hugely excited to find out more about projects that can make a crucial difference to visitor experience, as well as local quality of life.'

The funding comes through the Scottish Government's European Regional Development Fund programme, with match funding from other sources bringing overall investment to more than £7 million.

Throughout the rest of 2018, SNH will be promoting the fund at events across the Highlands and islands and meeting prospective applicants to discuss projects.

The funding round will open in early January 2019 and close late April 2019. Decisions on the successful projects will be announced in early summer 2019.

Further details about the fund can be found on the SNH website or by emailing nchf@nature.scot

Workers urged to have eye tests

The record number of older people in employment in Scotland are being urged to make their eye health a priority as pension entitlement ages increase.

Official figures show there are more than 83,000 people over the age of 65 working in Scotland, with a further 23,000 expected to be in employment by 2030, as people continue to live longer and healthier lives.

However, more than 20,000 of them are not getting their eyes tested regularly, making them more susceptible to glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and cataracts, which could have an impact on their life and work.

That is why Specsavers, including the Oban shop, is teaming up with sight loss charity the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), to urge Scotland's ageing workforce to take their eye health seriously.

Ken Macdonald, director of Specsavers in Oban, said: 'It is so important that people across Scotland look after their eyes and have regular eye tests for the detections of these conditions.'

'Our eyes are so important for our jobs and early detection means we can manage and do something about these conditions so that people can keep their jobs.'

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Donald's exhibition explores childhood in Oban in the 19th and 20th century.

Dunollie's Donald shortlisted

Argyll and Bute heritage projects have been shortlisted for the Scottish Heritage Angel Awards 2018, with Donald McDougall, museum manager at Dunollie Castle in Oban, shortlisted for the Best Contribution to a Heritage Project by a Young Person.

Donald volunteered time to transcribe letters and documents from the castle's archives and created an exhibition at the site which explores childhood in Oban in the 19th and 20th century.

Campbeltown Community Business Ltd is shortlisted for the restoration of Campbeltown Picture House, while Dunoon Burgh Hall has also been shortlisted for the Best Rescue of a Historic Building or Place (for projects under £2m).

Launched in 2014 and funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation (ALWF), and run by the Scottish Civic Trust in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Archaeology Scotland, the awards celebrate both groups and individuals who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to promote, protect and, in many cases, rescue Scotland's heritage.

Susan O'Connor, director of the Scottish Civic Trust, said: 'It really is inspiring to see such a diverse range of projects. I'm delighted we have this opportunity to recognise the passion, dedication and sheer hard-work invested by individuals and communities who work tirelessly to protect and promote our history and heritage.'

The finals will be announced at Glasgow City Chambers on October 22.

A lady killer in the hills of Kingairloch

Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

fort@obantimes.co.uk



Of all the many people I have stalked deer with, there is perhaps no other who stands out so well in my memory than Mrs Patricia Strutt of Kingairloch, who died 18 years ago aged 88.

In her day she was one of the finest rifle shots in Scotland, with the claim of killing more stags in her stalking career than any other woman in Britain.

She lived for today's date, The Day of the Roaring, which marks the beginning of the rut - although when deaf through age and the noise of all the bullets she had fired without ear defenders, she would announce: 'Not nearly so romantic now that I can't hear them'.

She was born Patricia Kebbell on October 20, 1911, the daughter of a successful New Zealand sheep farmer. Through her mother she was a descendent of Lochaber's John Cameron of Corrychoillie - Scotland's greatest 19th-century cattle and sheep drover, from whom she may well have inherited her love of walking and the hills.

She was educated at Queensgate School in London and at a Swiss finishing school, and got to know the daughters of George Herbert Strutt. They took her on holiday with them to Kingairloch where she met Arthur, Strutt's son, whom she married in 1930.

The Strutts are descendants of Jedediah Strutt of Derby (1726-1797), the cotton spinner and inventor of the Derby Rig who, with Richard Arkwright, established the cotton manufacturing industry in Britain. This helped make Britain, and the Strutts, very rich.

In 1902 George Herbert Strutt bought the 24,000-acre Kingairloch Estate on the Morvern peninsula. There he set about enlarging the old Maclean of Kingairloch house, building

miles of pony paths, several cottages, a dairy, a walled garden and an enormous concrete dam in Glengalmadale from which water could in dry weather be released into the Galma river to improve the fishing. There was also a 150-ton steam yacht, Sanda, for family cruises to St Kilda and Oban. There, she was a well-known sight anchored in the bay, dressed with flags 'over all' for the Argyllshire Gathering.

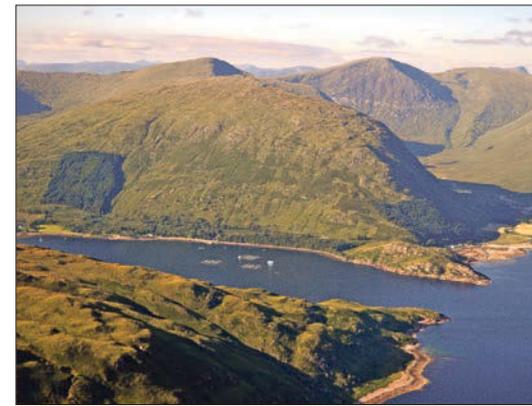
Under the expert eye of Christopher MacRae, head stalker on Kingairloch from 1917 to 1946, Pat Strutt shot her first stag there in 1930, when she was 19. She went on to account for more than 2,000 deer over the next seven decades.

Part of the secret of her skill as a shot lay in the way she would constantly remind herself of her rifle's trigger pressure and know precisely when it would go off - a tip she picked up from the old estate stalkers. She perfected her aim by shooting at a knot on an old money-puzzle near the house and having what she called "dry pulls" with the unloaded rifle prior to leaving the lodge each morning.

Of medium height and slight build she would follow the stalker's movements precisely, slipping forward to take the rifle only when beckoned. She was particular about her firing position and never took a shot unless she was entirely steady. Her favourite rest was an old leather binocular case held together with string, or the stalker's rolled up tweed jacket. She was always meticulous about having a clear line of fire, flattening the vegetation in front of the muzzle with her walking stick.

Pat Strutt kept the empty cases of every bullet where she had killed a stag with one shot and would sometimes spend hours looking for it. If more than one bullet was necessary she was not interested, and would push them into the ground out of sight.

For many years her favourite rifle was a Rigby .275 with open sights. On her 80th birthday, she had a .25-06 rifle with a telescopic sight made for her by the specialist gun-maker



Above, Kingairloch House enlarged in 1903 by George Herbert Strutt; and right, Mrs Patricia Strutt in 1992. Photographs: Iain Thorne

David Lloyd of Nottingham. She hazarded that she was probably the only woman in Great Britain who sold her granny bonds and bought a rifle with the proceeds.

Once the rifle had been zeroed for the season she seldom returned to an artificial target and always advised young shots against it, maintaining that it ruined one's aim.

In her heyday, Pat Strutt was a remarkably consistent and accurate marksman. She preferred to aim for the neck rather than the heart. On one occasion she shot in the neck within five seconds two stags which were lying down 250 yards away.

Pat Strutt excelled at skiing and tennis, and continued skiing at Davos, Switzerland, into her eighties. At the age of 84, she was still climbing the 2,500ft Kingairloch hills, spurning the use of any machinery to carry her there and scornful of a more youthful neighbouring laird who used a helicopter.

For the stalker who took her to the hill, Pat Strutt was the perfect companion, always cheerful and full of enthusiasm for the work ahead. Her long experience had taught her

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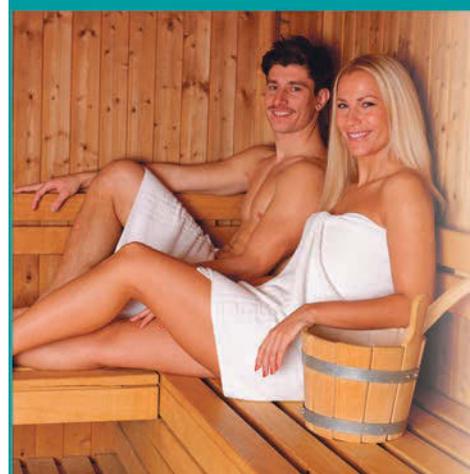
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George Herbert Strutt; Kingairloch estate and Loch Choire with its fish farm providing much-needed trout. Strutt was 82 when she was photographed with a stag, shot in the neck at Glensanda in September

how to crawl properly and to put up with the discomfort of lying motionless for long periods among bogs and peat banks under the watchful eye of an inquisitive hind. One wrong move, especially among the wild high ground stags, could mean a wasted day.

She enjoyed a story, even at her own expense. On one occasion she mistakenly shot two hinds outright with one bullet. Earlier in the day she had been telling the gardener that he would need to be more careful with his expenditure. As she rose to her feet the stalker muttered to himself: 'You said you wanted to economise, but this is ridiculous.'

In common with most stalkers she enjoyed a dram round the kitchen table after the larder work was done. Her favourite tippie was Old Inverness, one of the cheapest supermarket whiskies.

Pat Strutt loved fast cars and being driven at high speed – she drove her own car until a few days before she died – and often told a story of flying as a passenger in the co-pilot's seat of a small two-seater plane in the 1920s. She bullied the pilot into looping the loop,

unaware until they were upside down that her seat hadn't been bolted to the floor and that she was only being held in the cockpit by her seat belt.

Arthur Strutt died in 1977 during a walk in a spruce plantation at Kingairloch. His remains were not discovered until five years later, peacefully resting against a spruce tree.

Pat Strutt shot her last stag in 1999 when she was in her 89th year. She died on June 27, 2000 and her ashes were released on a stag-grazed knoll, overlooking Loch Linnhe and in sight of many of her favourite corries.

In an age which no longer encourages the individual nor one for human eagerness to climb obstacles, it was good to have known her: 'Always a little further it may be beyond that last blue mountain barred with snow, across that angry or that glimmering sea.'

Those are the sort of lines which come to mind when reflecting on the life of Mrs Patricia Strutt, deer stalker and rifle shot par excellence.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



This photograph was taken in 1963, but has no other information with it. Can anyone tell us who these young thespians are and what they were up to? Send the information to us at editor@obantimes.co.uk



Fort William's West End in bygone days. Photograph courtesy of the Roamer collection.

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LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBSafety of children
at primary school
must be top priority

There has been a remarkable level of engagement with concerned members of the public over the safety of children arriving at or leaving Lochnell Primary School in Benderloch.

As we report this week, some 300 people have responded to an online survey on ways to make the road safer at the school, which is located in close proximity to the very busy A828.

Our report follows one from two weeks ago in which we told of another near miss involving a four-year-old pupil at the school.

Worried community councillor Willie Barnett says random speed checks show the majority of vehicles passing the school are speeding, thereby putting people in danger. Mr Barnett also queried, understandably, why no action had been taken in light of these findings.

The community at Benderloch has shown dogged determination to force the authorities to act to make the road safer at the school, with its latest initiative being a meeting between parents, councillors, police and road agencies.

Unsurprisingly, among those backing the parents' campaign are Argyll and Bute councillors Elaine Robertson and Kieron Green. Indeed, it would be distinctly odd to find anyone opposed to finding measures that will keep the pupils at Lochnell out of danger.

This is an issue that is not about to go away and it is incumbent on relevant public authorities to ensure the safety of the people at Lochnell primary is a top priority.

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

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

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Searching for father's
photograph

I have been looking for many years without success to find a photograph of my father as a young man.

I think with all the publicity surrounding the centenary of the end of the Great War this may just be my last opportunity to succeed in that endeavour.

My father was born in Oban in 1882. He was a member of the Oban TA Mountain Battery prior to enlisting in the regular army in 1906. On enlistment he joined the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

From his army records he served firstly in India (1906), returning directly from there to Belgium/France (1914) and then Italy (1917). During the course of that service he was awarded two Military Medals, firstly, at The Battle of Messines. A Bar to that followed in Italy during the Battle on the River Piave. The award of both medals was mentioned in The Oban Times. They were also in the London Gazette, September 28, 1917, and March 29, 1919.

Some years ago a very kind lady, Faith Orr of The Oban Times, assisted me in researching the archives and was able to tell me that in 1919 The Oban Council presented gold watches to all Oban men who had received gallantry awards during the war. Faith found some articles on the event and my father was listed as having been there and I do recall seeing the watch.

Mr John MacPherson, during one of my visits to the Oban War and Peace Museum, was able to show me one of the presented watches which is on display at the museum, I believe donated by a recipient or his family.

I am hoping the presentation in 1919 was photographed either by someone officially recording the event or by someone whose family member was being honoured that day and that some families may still have a copy of the picture.

It is a bit of a long shot but I hope this appeal via The Oban Times may just turn one up or indeed a relative that I don't know about.

At the end of the war my father, being part of the regular army, transferred to 'K' Battery Royal Horse Artillery, serving in India.

Alex McColl,
Pendeen, Upper Castle Road, St Mawes,
Cornwall, TR2 5BY.

Congratulations on ferry
summit

I write to congratulate Alison MacCorquodale on her effectiveness as prospective Labour candidate in the Western Isles. She appears to have achieved more in the space of days than many of us have managed in years.

On September 5, Ms MacCorquodale drew attention to the latest CalMac crisis and called for 'an islands summit on ferry services to which the MSP and MP should be invited with "empty chairs" if required'.

GET IN TOUCH

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YOUR PICTURES



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

would like to see published here, simply send it to editor@obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Cran-

On September 6 at Holyrood, Alasdair Allan MSP asked Paul Wheelhouse, the minister for energy, connectivity and the islands, if he would 'commit to visiting my constituency to meet me and other stakeholders at a summit to discuss that important issue?' i.e. ferry capacity.

Until then, Mr Allan's most notable contribution to the ferry debate had been to call for a tax on campervans to deter them from coming to the Western Isles at all, so this really was dramatic progress.

On September 9, Mr Allan issued a press release stating that Mr Wheelhouse had 'agreed to visit the Western Isles' to discuss 'the shortage of ferry space' with himself and 'other stakeholders'.

I think we need early clarification of who will be involved in these discussions and what opportunity there will be for the people and businesses most affected by the ferry shambles

to be heard. Let's not lose sight of the promised 'summit'.

In the meantime, thanks are due to Ms MacCorquodale for her effective intervention. Who knows, we might even hear from the MP once he can spare time between crowdfunding for Alex Salmond and broadcasting for Russia TV.

Angus McCormack,
25 North Street, Sandwick, Isle of Lewis.

Concerns are growing over
Islay infrastructure

On my latest visit to Burnside I heard numerous concerns raised about Islay's infrastructure and its ability to cope with our tremendous growth in industrial output.

This is a concern I share and both Argyll and Bute Council and the Scottish Government

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



one justifiable complaint after complaint after another. Many of my constituents are asking when this road will be properly repaired. As ever, I will keep pressing for proper long term repair work to be done.

**Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.**

Parking fine means we will be avoiding Oban in future

Visiting Oban on August 16 with a large shopping list, we began in Argos then went to Pets at Home followed by Homebase. We then drove to Tesco car park and walked to Aldi and afterwards to Tesco for our weekly shopping.

Having finished, we drove out of the car park having stayed for just under three hours – well within the four hours allowed at most Euro car parks in Glasgow.

So I am sure you can imagine my surprise some days later to receive a parking fine from Euro car parks for £100, or £60 if paid immediately.

I endeavour at all times to support our local retail shops. However, following this hard-learned lesson, I intend to shop in Glasgow where there are more realistic timings for parking.

I am surprised that the retailers at Oban Retail Park are content with how little time shoppers are able to park. This will only be exacerbated with the arrival of M&S.

**Tom Adam,
Cairnbaan.**

Thank you to unknown rescuer

Wednesday August 29 was a fine day and I went for a walk up the old Coffin Road from the end of Loch Feochan towards Scammadale.

The track is now very overgrown and almost totally obscured with chest-high bracken. It was very hard work.

By the time I returned to my car in the layby at the end of Loch Feochan, I was exhausted and tripped (or maybe fainted), falling and cracking my head. I remember a lady who was there coming to my rescue and somehow she got me to Oban hospital – but I blacked out and don't remember this bit until I came to in A&E.

The lady disappeared before I could thank her. Judging by the blood on my clothes, I must have made a mess of her car.

It is heartening to know that such Good Samaritans still exist, and if the lady reads this – I'm most grateful to her.

I'd also like to record my appreciation of the hospital staff for their very professional, efficient and friendly care. It's a great resource we have here.

By the way, I don't recommend going near that Feochan-Scammadale track until the bracken has died down.

**Sandy Johnstone,
The Glebe, Kilmelford.**

'S e suidheachadh dòrainneach a th' ann mar a tha am fàsgadh air maoin sheirbheisean poblach a' leantainn 's gun bhoillsgeadh dòchais air faochadh, agus aig amannan saoilidh tu gum bheil dàrna suidheachadh a' magadh air fear eile nuair a chithear amasan mòra leasachaidh gam foillseachadh aig an aon àm 's a tha sochairean sheann daoine is eile gan gearradh bhuaipa.

Mar a tha an seanfhacal ag ràdh 's e obair latha tòiseachadh agus ged a tha iomairt ath-nuadhachaidh na Gàidhlig air adhartas a dhèanamh bho thòisicheadh faisg air leth-cheud bliadhna air ais tha dùbhlann mòr romhainn fhathast gus am blàr sin a bhuinnig. Ma chailleadh sinn gluasad na h-iomairt dh'fhaodadh nach gabh e cur gu dol a-rithist!

Ach tha rudan misneachail a' tachairt is treas Plana Nàiseanta Gàidhlig againn air ghluasad agus bho chionn beagan sheachdainean dhaingnich grunn bhuidhnean poblach an cuid taice agus dealas dha amasan a' Phlana aig coinneimh le Iar-Phrìomh Mhinistear Alba, Iain Swinney. Ghabh buidhnean fa leth uallach gus raointean leasachaidh

àraid dhen Phlana a ghluasad air adhart agus bidh dùil ri aithrisean soirbheachaidh air na h-adhartasan sin nuair a choinnicheas iad ri Mgr Swinney a-rithist san fhoghar 2019. Ach chan eil an obair-leasachaidh seo idir furasta agus, mar a tha sinn a' cluinntinn cho bitheanta, ged a tha seirbheisean taice gam fàs 's e misneachd agus gnìomh an t-sluaigh an rud as deatamaiche dhan Ghàidhlig. Cleachd i neo caill i! Tha sin cho fìor 's a bha e riamh, agus nuair a tha àireamh luchd-cleachdaidh cho ìosal 's a tha iad, tha an rabhadh nas èiginniche buileach!

Chaidh a dhearbhadh air feadh choimhearsnachdan mhion-chànain an t-saoghail gum bheil bogadh agus foghlam tro mheadhan nan cànan sin na dhòigh èifeachdach air cuideachadh gus mion-chànain ùrachadh. Gun teagamh sam bith cha ghlèidh sin an cànan leis fhèin ach tha e na phàirt air leth bunaiteach am measg na h-acfhainn leasachaidh air am bheil feum, agus le foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig air adhartas cho mòr a dhèanamh mar-thà cuideachd cha b' iongnadh ged a bhithe ag iarraidh gun cumadh e a' leudachadh. Tha co-luadar

poblach daonnan doirbh dha mion-bhuidheann leis gum bheil mòr-chuid (agus deamocrasaidh!) gu bhith an aghaidh an rùin. Agus tha sin fìor a thaobh coimhearsnachd na Gàidhlig, ach far am bheil aonta air luach an dualchais seo dhan t-saoghal agus taic eadar-Phàrtaidh air cùl Plana Nàiseanta chan fhaod amas mion-choimhearsnachd a chur an suarachas.

Bha eachdraidh sgioba iomain Bhaile Ùr an t-Slèibh gu ìre an aghaidh Lòbhat ann am fàrpaig Cupa na Camanachd Disathairne seo chaidh agus ged a rinn Lòbhat deagh spàirn bha am Bail' Ùr airidh air an duais.

With minorities always at risk in democratic processes, it is hugely important and encouraging to have cross-party support for the third National Plan for Gaelic, and commitment from public bodies towards achieving its aspirations. While congratulating Lovat on reaching the Camanachd Cup final there could be no doubt Newtonmore were worthy winners last Saturday.

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

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WATER

Scottish Water Customer

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nog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street, Fort William. June Raven sent this photograph of a misty morning on Loch Awe.



must do more as leaving much-needed road maintenance on the back-burner will only lead to an even greater cost when the work is finally done.

At the recent Tarbert Community Council meeting, and while speaking to directly to local business owners, I was given an update on Scottish Water's plans for addressing long-standing sewage and drainage issues in the area as well as the disruption to business that will be caused.

Back on Islay after receiving numerous complaints about the condition of the Charlotte Street bus shelter in Port Ellen, I raised the matter with our roads department which plans to replace said bus shelter once it has consulted the local community about the best possible location, whether that be the current location or another.

The continuing dilapidation of the Laphroaig stretch of road has resulted in myself receiving

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OT

DISTRICT NEWS

ARDCHATTAN

The next meeting of Ardochattan Community Council will be held on Thursday October 4 at 7.30pm at Barcaldine Primary School.

BENDERLOCH

Budding writers can share their work at an open mic Wurdplay session on Tuesday September 25 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room at the Victory Hall as part of this year's Bookends Festival, which starts on September 22. Go to bookends.scot for a full what's on.

KILMELFORD

Dates for the diary at Kilmelford Community Hall include a parish lunch and produce sale on October 3 from noon to 2.30pm. Coming up on October 31 is a Hallowe'en party from 6pm to 9pm, followed by a craft fair on November 4 between 11am and 3pm, and a quiz and supper night on November 9 at 7.30pm.

LOCHAWA

The A85 Lochawe resurfacing work will be taking place from Sunday October 14 to Friday October 19 with nightly road closures from 7pm to 7am and again on Monday November 5 to Friday November 9 with work being undertaken during the day from 7am to 7pm with convoys in place.

MULL

Grab your partners for an authentic barn dance at Pennyghael Community Hall on Mull. Pennyfest is on Friday September 28 starting at 7.30pm and running until late with music from Rock and Reel. Stevie Nick's Ulavault is taking charge of the catering. Tickets are available from Pennyghael Stores, The Creel at

Fionnphort and MacDonalds Filling Station at Salen.

EASDALE

Easdale's World Stone Skimming Championships is on Sunday September 23. Anyone of any age and any level of skill can enter. Each competitor is allowed three skims using specially selected Easdale slate skimming stones.

For a skim to qualify, the stone must bounce at least three times – and it is then judged on the distance achieved before it sinks.

Registration is at Easdale Island Community Hall from 10am until 1pm on the day or when entrants get to 350. The competition starts at noon. Go to stoneskimming.com to find out more.

TAYNUILT

Money raised at a whist night at Taynuilt Village Hall on Friday September 21 at 7.30pm will go to the Brownies group. Anyone who has never played before can turn up 15 minutes earlier to be taught. Entry is £3 for adults and £2 for children. Refreshments and home baking are included.

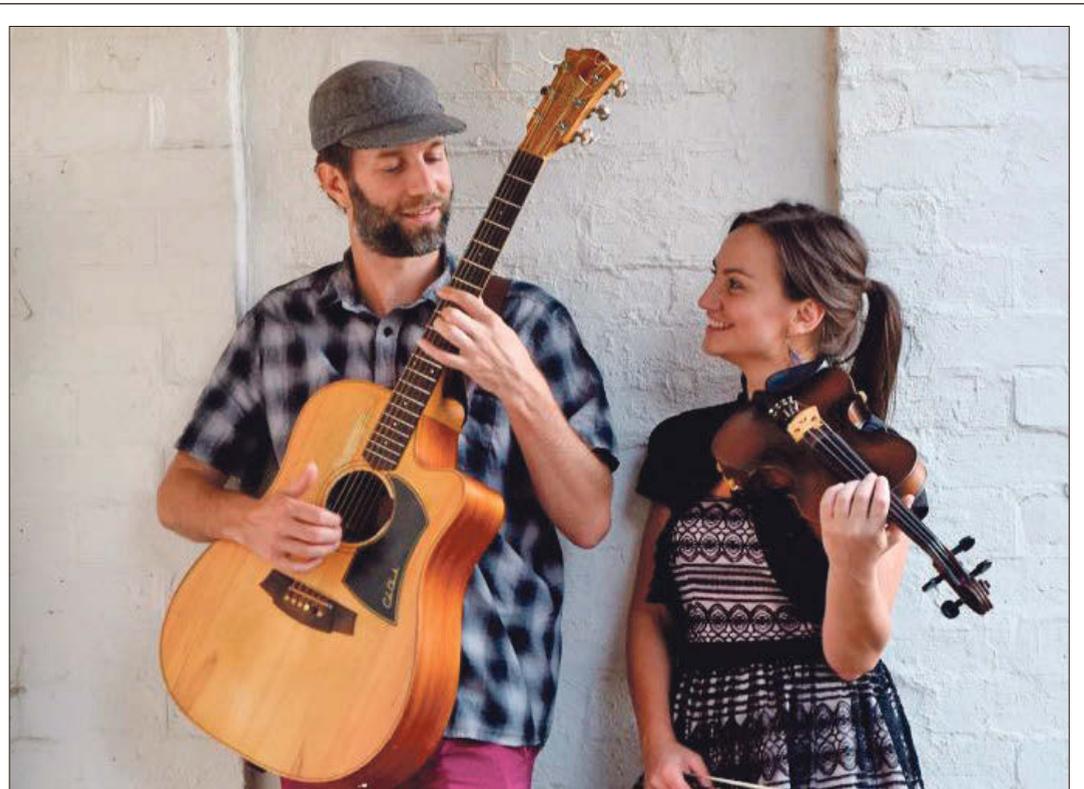
TOBERMORY

Shoppers were due to hand plastic back to the manager at Tobermory's Co-op on Saturday as part of a peaceful protest at supermarkets' excessive packaging.

FIONNPHORT

Fèis Mhuile has a meeting on Monday September 24 at 5pm at the Columba Centre in Fionnphort to organise and discuss the fundraising dance in November and Fèis Mhuile 2019. Anyone is welcome, even if they've not been to a meeting before.

Creich Community Library is now



Tall tales of life in the Australian bush blended with virtuoso guitar and violin live music from Tim McMillan and Rachel Snow comes to St Conan's Kirk on October 5. Tickets are £10 (£8 for Friends of St Conan's). Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Tim was voted by Australian Guitar Magazine as one of the country's top 25 guitarists.

open every Wednesday at Creich Hall in Fionnphort from 4pm to 6.15pm.

CONNEL

Connel Community Children's Parties Committee is holding a bingo night tomorrow (Friday September 21) to raise money for this year's Hallowe'en and Christmas parties for the children in the village. The event starts at 6.30pm (eyes down 7pm) in Connel Village Hall and the entry price includes refreshments. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more details check out www.facebook.com/connelcommunitychildrensparties

STRATHFILLAN

Strathfillan Community Council has been told there were more than 30 calls made to the police in the area in the past month.

The breakdown of figures show that 11 calls were made for road traffic collisions, while another six were received for other road-related incidents.

There were three calls for assistance, four for concern calls, three regarding fires, one mountain rescue, two for animals, one for theft and one for found property.

The one theft, which has since been resolved, happened when someone drove off without paying for fuel. It was amended over the phone.

The figures were revealed at the monthly Strathfillan Community Council meeting.

The police representative said: 'There has been a high number of foreign tourists in hire cars on the roads, as I am sure you will be aware.'

'The unusually high number of road accidents has been the result of unfamiliarity of the roads and being on the opposite side.'

'There have been a large number of wing mirror strikes which, albeit minor, are still classed as a road accident.'

The police officer added: 'Outside the area, we have had a couple of thefts of diesel from remote areas so can I ask you to be vigilant re strange vehicles in forests.'

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Get to know the Argyll beavers

The Scottish Wildlife Trust and Royal Zoological Society of Scotland are hosting a public event in Tayvallich Village Hall at 6pm on September 25 to give an update on the Scottish Beavers Reinforcement Project.

People will be able to meet project staff, find out more about the first year of work to reinforce beaver numbers in Mid Argyll and have their questions answered by the team. Light refreshments will be provided.

Over the past 12 months, the project has released six adult beavers into Knapdale Forest to bolster the population released during the Scottish Beaver Trial. All animals were screened by vets prior to release to ensure that they were healthy and disease-free.

The Scottish Beaver Trial began a time-limited, five-year project to test the reintroduction of Eurasian beavers to Knapdale in 2009. Then, in November 2016, the Scottish Government announced that Eurasian beavers would be granted European Protected Status and that the populations in Tayside and Argyll would be allowed to expand naturally.

The beaver families participating in the trial were all caught in the Telemark region of Norway and transported to quarantine facilities in Devon and Scotland. They all completed a statutory quarantine period before being released in the trial site. The beavers, and their effects, will continue to be monitored at Knapdale.

The project is led by Scottish Beavers, a partnership between the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and the Scottish Wildlife Trust. It is taking place on land managed by Forest Commission Scotland and has been licensed by Scottish Natural Heritage.



The band members pose for a striking photograph aboard The World.

Mull and Iona Pipe Band are on top of The World

Mull and Iona Pipe Band were invited to perform for the residents and guests on board The World cruise ship on September 14.

They were the first pipe band ever to perform on this prestigious vessel. Members were taken by tender to the ship where they performed by the swimming pool.

They were then invited into the officers' mess for a meal and refreshments. After performing on The World, they played on board the tender all the way back to the pontoons in Tobermory Bay and waited for the second tender to berth. Once it had disembarked, the band led the residents and guests along to the Tobermory Hotel where they enjoyed music by Robert MacLeod. Performing on The World has

been a highlight of the year for all the band members, who were made very welcome by everyone. They said it was an absolute pleasure representing Mull and Iona on such a prestigious venue.

The band has had a busy year performing at Highland games and shows, both on and off Mull and Iona. They have also been playing in the Isle of Mull Hotel on Tuesday nights, and will be doing so until October 9. They will then be having a short break before resuming practises over the winter. Once the practises have started, the band will resume learners' lessons, held in Craignure and Creich. For any inquiries, contact the band via email calummac@msn.com, neilang37@btinternet.com, bruntonmull@gmail.com or via Facebook.

At random

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Trust is the way forward

One of the local stories that will simply not go away is the attempt by CMAL to take over the running of Oban Bay.

CMAL (Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd) has been trying to wrest control of the bay for some months now but there has been a dogged and consistent opposition to the proposal from across the marine and public sectors.

This issue has hugely caught the public interest. As we reported last week there was a large attendance at the public meeting organised by the Oban Bay management (OBMG) and stakeholder (OBSG) groups, the very large turnout manifestly reflecting the high level of concern across the region.

In a public vote, the vast majority (63 per cent) supported the creation of an independent trust board to assume control of the bay. I agree.

There are very many companies, organisations and individuals with vested interests in Oban Bay and it is only right that they should have a say in its running. This matter is of far too great importance to be left in the hands of a single commercial enterprise.

It is surely high time that CMAL realised its proposal is dead in the water. In the face of such determined resistance, CMAL's senior officers must read the runes and withdraw.

Well done to sports teams

The start of the winter sporting seasons is always welcome for me, despite the fact that I'm also a cricket fan and this summer saw a highly successful World Cup in Russia.

So it is especially pleasing for me to see how well our local teams are faring in these early stages of their respective seasons.

In football, Oban Saints posted their fourth straight win in the SAFL Premier Division, while Oban Lorne won the opening three fixtures of their rugby campaign and are sitting joint top of the Tennent's West Division Two, as are the women with four from four.

Let's hope the success continues. And check out our sports pages for upcoming fixtures so you can go along to cheer on the local teams.

What do you think?

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



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OUTDOORS

Argyll wildlife projects soar

Five Argyll projects have been shortlisted for the RSPB's Nature of Scotland Awards at Holyrood, writes Jack MacGregor.

The finalists range from conservationists saving bees on Tiree to a Dunbeg biotech company turning fish waste into plastic.

The Tiree Great Bumblebee Project, which is up for a community initiative award, gets islanders involved in helping to conserve the species by counting their numbers over the summer. The RSPB said: 'Through the endeavours of local people it is well on its way to securing the future of this species on Tiree.'

Vying for the Innovation Award is CuanTec, a Dunbeg-based biotech company making compostable, antimicrobial bioplastic from waste in the fisheries industry, providing an environmentally responsible alternative to polluting packaging and reducing the burden of food waste in landfill.

Three Argyll projects are competing for a Nature Tourism Award, including Nature Scotland, which runs educational and ethically sustainable wildlife tours on the island of Mull, and Hebrides Cruises, which is anchored in Oban Bay, and is the only wildlife cruise company on the west coast with a wildlife specialist on board. The final project in that category is Knapdale, Scotland's Natural Treasure Chest.

'The environmental interpretation centre in Knapdale's Celtic Rainforest was inspired by the beavers,' an RSPB spokesperson explained.

'Fuelled by Mid Argyll's amazing natural spaces and the plants and animals that have made it their home, the centre was created to ensure that wildlife and humans continue to benefit from their shared 5,000-year history.'

The winners of each category will be announced in November at a formal dinner and will be hosted by TV presenters and wildlife experts Kate Humble and Euan Mcllwraith.

Marcus's mammoth mountain climb

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



Nine-year-old Marcus Tinley from Bearsden in Glasgow has taken on a mammoth challenge, scaling Scotland's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, via the long and technical climb of Tower Ridge, in a climb that took a total of 12.5 hours.

Tower Ridge is one of the longest and most sought-after ridges in Scotland, and a challenge for even the most experienced of mountaineers. Marcus has tackled it head on, roping up with his dad and a small team, striking a line right up the middle to reach the summit following a 24km route and 1550m ascent.

Marcus said: 'I love nature and mountain climbing is fun, it challenges you and makes you fit. It doesn't ever scare me because I'm on the end of a rope which will save me if I fall! I'd love to climb Everest and Mont Blanc one day, and maybe K2 but that is more dangerous.'

Marcus is no stranger to mountain climbing. Having started with the dumpling at Gartocharn aged two, he then moved on to Dumgoyne, Conic Hill and Ben Aan. He climbed his first Munro, Ben Lomond, when he was four years old. More recent climbs include Ledge Route, Aonach Eagach and Curved Ridge.

One of his favourite things about climbing is consuming lots of food for energy: 'After the Tower Ridge climb, I had 20 chicken nuggets, fries and a medium strawberry milkshake - I was so hungry after 12 hours on Tower Ridge. I also ate half a chicken and mushroom pizza in Fort William.'

'My favourite hill snacks are massive cakes like chocolate log.'

Marcus, who attends Bearsden Primary School, is now planning a presentation for his school assembly on his climb, and hopes to inspire some younger and older people to take up outdoor adventures.



Young climber took on Tower Ridge on Ben Nevis to raise money for children's charity, Variety.

Asked if he had any advice for would-be climbers and anyone inspired by his achievements, Marcus responded: 'Keep on trying and never give up.'

Marcus's dad Simon Tinley, a keen mountaineer himself, said: 'I'm very proud of Marcus and all he has achieved to date. He's very enthusiastic and wants to develop, so we'll tackle a few more famous Scottish routes such as A Chir Ridge, An Teallach Traverse, Liathach Traverse, and Cuillin Ridge. Next summer might also be his introduction to the Alps.'

'This challenge was especially important as he wanted to raise money for the children's charity, Variety.'

'Marcus chose the charity himself, which funds specialist equipment and fun days out to help disabled and disadvantaged children, because he agrees with their aims - that all children should have an equal opportunity to reach their potential, regardless of their circumstances.'

If you would like to donate to Marcus's just giving page for Variety, visit: justgiving.com/fundraising/marcus-tinley

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Arduaine Gardens to axe trees in bid to stop rot

Workers have started to axe 900 trees at Arduaine Garden to tackle the spread of sudden oak death, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The £250,000 move is the latest step in the National Trust for Scotland's conservation plan to manage the damaging disease which has affected a number of forests across Scotland.

The trust has been managing the disease at the coastal paradise garden near Craobh Haven since it was first discovered in 2007 but is now moving into full-scale operation.

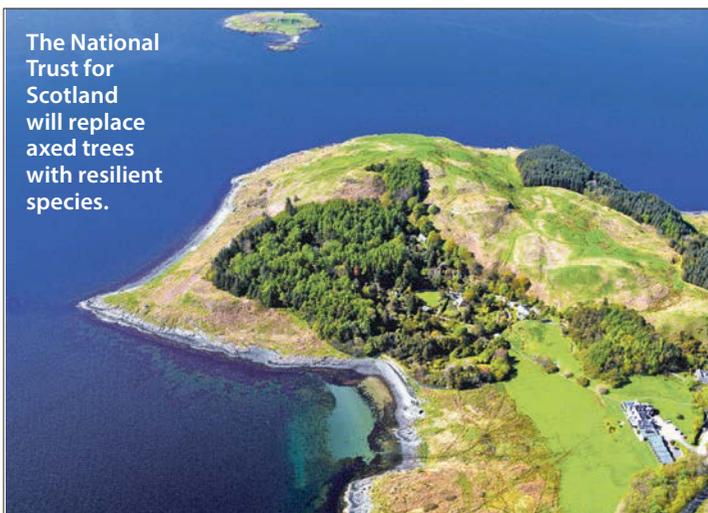
The work is part of an innovative four-year plan to protect the 20 acres at one of Scotland's most special gardens, while boosting its biodiversity and resilience, said Simon Jones, who is gardens and designed landscapes manager at the National Trust for Scotland.

The larch species which makes up much of the shelter belt that enables Arduaine Garden to grow its unique mix of plants, is particularly prone to disease.

In 2007, several of the garden's Japanese Larch were diagnosed with the first cases of sudden oak death in Scotland and were earmarked for removal. The disease spread and, in 2016, a statutory notice for the trees' removal was issued.

Trust arborists and horticultural experts will uproot, process, and then mill the affected trees on site. This will kill disease in the wood, allowing it to be recycled and transported for other purposes without fear of spreading infection.

Among a variety of uses for the felled wood will be the creation of



an organic, Queensferry Crossing-inspired, windbreak to replace the larch shelterbelt.

In the area where the larch will be removed, the trust intends to plant a variety of new tree species which are more resilient to disease, including black pine, birch, western red cedar, goat willow and sycamore. The conservation charity expects the initiative to be completed by the end of March 2022.

Mr Jones added: 'We're doing what is scientifically and morally right for the state of plant health in Arduaine Garden and beyond. While we can't be definitive about removing disease from the property altogether, this innovative approach will go some way towards helping us protect this historic garden from future outbreaks of sudden oak death, by creating a more diverse and resilient arboretum.'

The project at Arduaine Garden is part of the trust's programme to invest almost £60 million over the next five years. It is also an example of the '100 Ways' the National Trust for Scotland is protecting Scotland's heritage.

Mr Jones said: 'These are the first steps in what will be a long and thorough process - it's important that we get this right for the future of the garden. It's another example of how we're investing significantly in Scotland's natural heritage, to maintain and enhance the way we celebrate its history and culture for current and future generations.'

'We very much see the project at Arduaine Garden as an exemplar of what we do for the love of Scotland and what a designed landscape could look like in the future. It will also go some way towards forming how the trust goes about conserving many other parts of our natural environment.'

This week's walks

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

Sunday September 23: Beinn Bhreac-liath and Beinn Udlaidh

Start on the A82 at the layby near the NP obelisk NN328330, where ample parking is available.

Cross the road at the forest boundary and head W up Sron Gharbh, turning SW to Beinn Bheag, 653m. Descend W to a broad col then climb NW to the summit of Beinn Bhreac-liath, 802m.

Descend steeply SW to a col and continue up W to the summit plateau and N to the cairn of Beinn Udlaidh, 840m. Head down its N ridge then follow a prominent line of quartz rock NE down towards the Allt Ghamhnain.

Just before the burn, take a forest track to the B8074 at Invergaunan.

Transport required. Grade: M+; distance: 11km; height to climb: 821m; map(s): LR50, EX 377.

Meet at Longsdale CP Oban NM862307 at 0830, Glencoe Village CP NN098587 at 0850. Start of walk at 0930.

Leader: Kate Willis 07899 783279.

Thursday September 27: Barcaldine to Benderloch

Start from Sutherlands Grove CP, NM965421. Head S on the cycle track and follow it around the fenced caravan site, past the entrance to Barcaldine House and on the reach the B845 road. Cross the road and head W on track across open ground and into the forest to Achacha. The track turns S. Follow it S for about 3km, ignoring the next three junctions, after which it curves W to reach a fourth junction at NM932383.

Turn right and head NW at first, but soon curving W to reach the head of an escarpment overlooking

Benderloch Village, the Eagle's Eyrie. Retrace steps a few hundred metres and turn down a good path that zig-zags down to the CP at Benderloch, NM905381.

Transport required.

Grade: L; distance: 12km; Height to climb: 250m; map(s): LR49, EX376.

Meet at: N. Ballachulish Sch NN053603; Longsdale CP, Oban NM862307 at 0930. Start of walk: 1000. Leader: Toril Frantzen 07788 264007.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

Saturday September 22: Glen Shiel, The Saddle and Sgurr na Sgine

Start at the lay-by off the A87 at NG971138, where ample parking is available. Follow the A87 NW for 500m, then take the stalkers' path up to the col, 496m, between Biod an Fhithich and Meallan Odhar.

Climb S to Meallan Odhar, 610m, then continue SW to the foot of the Forcan Ridge. Scramble up W to the summit of Sgùrr na Forcan, 963m.

Descend its steep NE ridge and reach easier ground and continue W along the ridge to the summit of The Saddle. Descend SE from the trig point to the lochan on the Bealach Coire Mhàlagain.

Climb SE to reach the crest of the ridge forming the rim of Coire Toteil and follow it S over the Top (942m) to the summit of Sgùrr na Sgine. Return around the rim of the Coire and continue E to Faochag 909m. Descend its steep NE ridge and cross the fence into the plantation where a faint path may be found. This leads to a gate in the lower fence at NG969134, 100m E of which is a bridge over the Allt Mhàlagain. Follow the path back to the start.

(13km, 1500m ascent) Suggested by Chris Tracey and Gerry Gilbert; coordinated by Chris Tracey



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Gas Safety Week.co.uk

Keeping our nation safe

17-23 September 2018

The eighth annual Gas Safety Week will see organisations from across the UK working together to raise awareness of the dangers of poorly maintained gas appliances, which can cause gas leaks, fires, explosions and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

GAS SAFETY WEEK GAS POISONING

THIS Gas Safety Week (17-23 September) Dr Ranj Singh is supporting Gas Safe Register to raise awareness of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and its symptoms as a third (32 per cent) of people would not recognise them, misdiagnosing symptoms for other illnesses.

CO poisoning is known as the 'silent killer' as it has no smell, taste or colour, and all the symptoms associated with CO poisoning can easily be mistaken for something else as today's research shows.

Worryingly, one in 10 (nine per cent) don't know CO poisoning symptoms at all. These symptoms which include headaches, nausea, breathlessness, collapse, dizziness and loss of consciousness, would be misdiagnosed by many as:

Concussion (37 per cent)
Meningitis (36 per cent)
A panic attack (27 per cent)
A stroke (22 per cent)
Flu (19 per cent).

Gas Safe Register is urging people to learn the symptoms of potential CO poisoning, and what action to take if they suspect they or someone in their family may be suffering from it.

Dr Singh said: 'You can't see, taste or smell CO, so it's really important that people become more aware of its poisoning symptoms. As Gas Safe Register's research has found, many confuse CO poisoning for other illnesses such as flu, but CO poisoning can be fatal so it's important that we raise awareness this Gas Safety Week so that families can take the right precautions and stay safe.'

Jonathan Samuel, chief executive of Gas Safe Register, said: 'CO can leak from badly fitted or poorly maintained gas appliances. We recommend proactive prevention as the first line of defence against CO poisoning by getting your gas appliances checked every year by a Gas Safe Registered engineer to make sure they're working safely and efficiently. To provide peace of mind, a CO alarm is a great second line of defence to alert you to a potential leak.'

Gas Safe Register recommends taking the following action if you suspect you might be suffering from CO poisoning:

- Leave the house and get fresh air immediately
- Open doors and windows
- Turn off gas appliances
- Call the Gas Emergency Helpline on 0800 111 999
- See your doctor or go to hospital

If suffering from CO poisoning, most people know to open the windows (68 per cent), leave the house to get fresh air (74 per cent), and contact a Gas Safe Registered engineer to come and see if there's a problem (42 per cent).

Gas Safety Week 2018 is taking place from 17 September. Search #GSW18 on social media for more top tips.

To find out about dangers, visit www.StayGasSafe.co.uk and to find a Gas Safe registered engineer call 0800 408 5500 or visit www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk.



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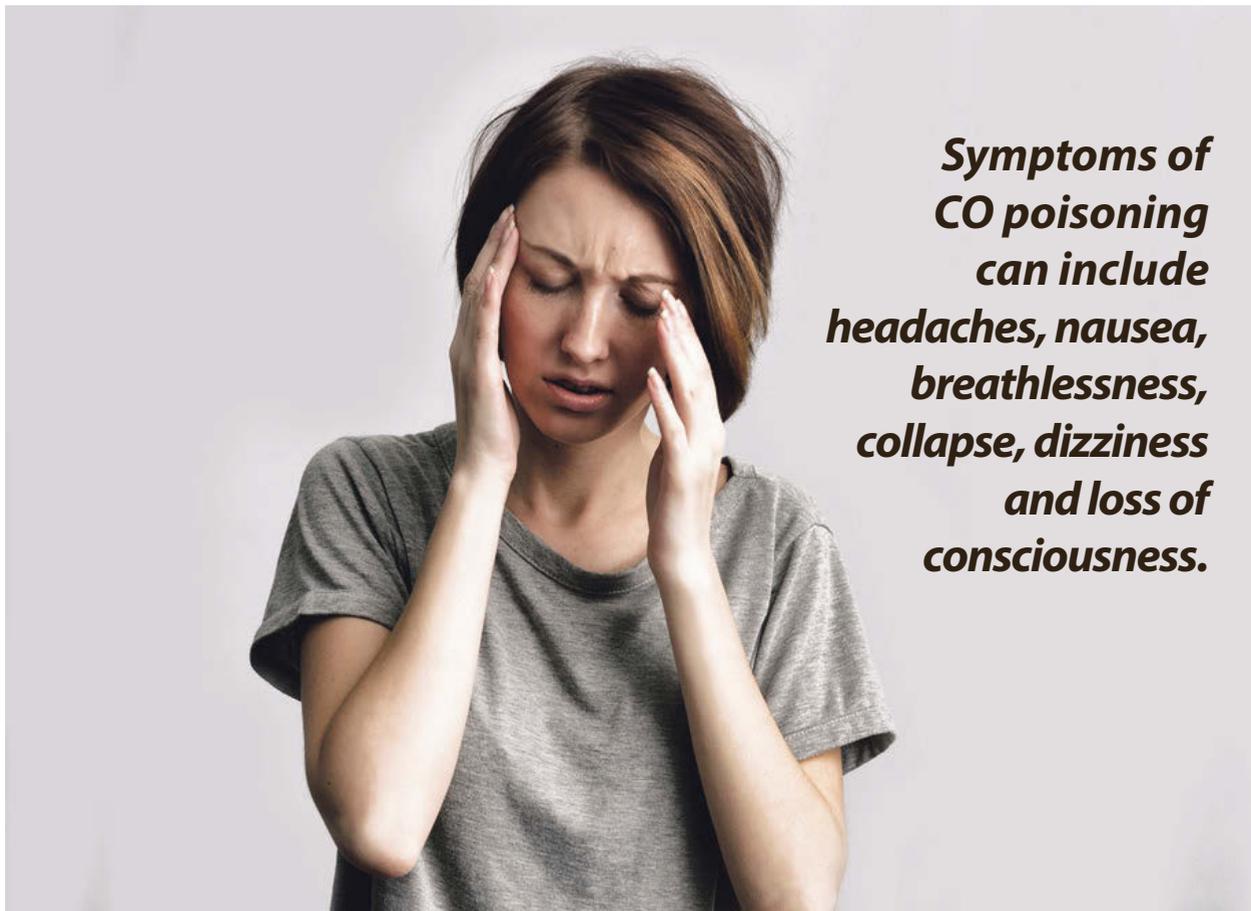
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EEK: BEWARE OF G MISDIAGNOSIS



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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER



No limits for 'cool runner'

Audiences will find out what it is like to push themselves to the physical limit later this month, when Lauren Hendry brings her solo show to at Comar Arts on Mull.

The tetra-decathlon is a gruelling 14-event track and field competition, requiring a unique combination of skills to complete. Having never set foot on a running track in her life, Lauren Hendry decided to sign up for the

event, joining only a dozen other women in the World Championships.

A one-woman's 'Cool Runnings', this amusingly audacious show charts Lauren's journey as she trains for and competes in this most taxing of sporting events, while asking pertinent questions about the psychology of sport and what drives people to compete.

The show premiered at

Glasgow's Festival 2018 celebrations, before heading to the Edinburgh Fringe, where Lauren was nominated for the Filipa Bragança Award for emerging female artists.

Tetra-Decathlon is a celebration of coming last, and then coming back for more.

The solo show is on September 29 at 8pm, in Comar Arts, Tobermory.

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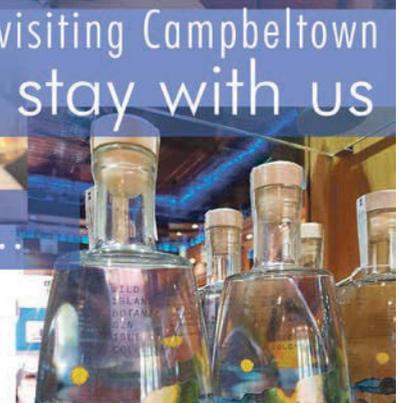


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Bookends kicks off this weekend

Lighten the load on your book shelves by taking a handful of good reads to Bookends Festival.

Organisers of the two-week celebration of the written word, which kicks off in Benderloch at 3pm on Saturday (September 22), are waiting with open arms for readers and their donations.

The Reading Room at the village's Victory Hall has been dressed up for the third annual Bookends bonanza.

On Saturday, storyteller Alasdair Satchel from Dervaig is offering free sessions for younger children and stories for all at 3.30pm and 4.15pm. Booking is advised.

Tobermory Mainstreet Players bring music and poetry to the festival on Wednesday September 26 at 7.30pm. Entry is by donation and will go towards Home-Start Lorn.

All of the above events are at the Victory Hall.

Bookends Festival Benderloch Facebook has more details or go to bookends.scot

World films shine at Hebridean festival

Winners of top prizes at Cannes and a contender for next year's Oscars sit alongside short films from Lewis and many others in this year's Hebrides International Film Festival, taking place throughout the islands from Wednesday to Saturday this week.

This year's films include Iranian drama Lerd - A Man of Integrity, which won the Un Certain Regard Award at the Cannes Film Festival, and American film The Rider, which won the Directors' Fortnight Art Cinema Award - again, from Cannes.

The Un Certain Regard Award is given to the best high-quality film that resists easy classification, as they tell their stories in non-traditional ways.

Lerd is about a gold fish farmer in a village in northern Iran, whose attempts to make an honest living come up against a corrupt system,



where money and power beat environmental concerns.

American drama The Rider tells the story of a rodeo star who faces a bleak future being unable to ride again, after a devastating accident.

Another award-winning film on this year's programme is What Will People Say. Set in Norway and Pakistan, it traces how a Pakistani immigrant family deals with its teenage daughter's affair with a local boy in Norway - taking her back to Pakistan and portraying the cultural shift between the two countries.

The core of the festival is the screening of current environmental documentary features - Blue from Australia, A Plastic Ocean, A River Below about pink dolphins in the Amazon and many more.

Leave No Trace is another film with a strong political message, about a father and daughter trying to live off grid in the forests of Oregon but being frustrated from doing so by social services.

These are among the 'big ticket' films, the ones from the best of current world cinema. However, there are

MS, Mexico and Me: Aileen's Story, Aileen Hunt who travelled from her home in Uig to Mexico for stem cell treatment.

other films in the programme which are much more local.

Two of the shorts - Cianalas and MS, Mexico and Me: Aileen's Story - come from Lewis and the film festival is also showing Mar a Thachair Do Dh'fhear a Sgur a Dhol Eaglais, winner of the FilmG award 2018, and Fish in the Sea, a documentary about sustainable fishing in Scotland.

Cianalas, by Zoe Paterson Macinnes, was chosen because it focuses on a sense of belonging to the place, while MS, Mexico and Me tells the story of Aileen Hunt who travelled from her home in Uig to Mexico for stem cell treatment, in a bid to halt the progression of multiple sclerosis.

Only films made within the last three years are eligible to be included in the programme and must fit within the festival's broad theme of 'islands, environmental issues and indigenous peoples'.

Lovers of outdoor pursuits are catered for. Feature film Mountain has been celebrated for its beautiful cinematography and musical score, while short film Under An Arctic Sky follows a group of surfers as they catch waves against the backdrop of the Aurora Borealis.

There is a particular focus on the 'ocean' theme this year - and a look at the plastic pollution crisis - but the programme always includes a variety of genres, so there is art, comedy and children's film as well as drama and documentary.

The programme of around 26 features and 13 short films are on the festival's website.

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Stone skimmers set sail for Easdale and world championships

This weekend, hundreds of people will descend upon Easdale Island for the annual World Stone Skimming Championships.

The event takes place this Sunday September 23, with skimming getting under way at noon.

Last year's winner was Keisieke Hashimoto from Japan. He made the 5,689-mile trip after winning an event in his home country in order to become world champion. He was up against tough competition and had to overcome a nine-man final to do so.

Continuing with the international winners' theme: the women's event was won by Nina Luginbuhl from Switzerland.

Nina's home village of Ermatingen set up a stone skimming competition after it was regarded as 'the most boring holiday resort in Switzerland'.

To counter that tag, the

village come up with an usual event - stone skimming.

However, the most memorable moment of the event took place at the prize-giving ceremony. Organiser Donald Melville proposed to his partner Maggie, who was dressed as an Oompa Loompa, on stage.

He said: 'It was just something I had been planning for a few weeks. I decided this would be the perfect occasion to do it.'

If anyone is interested in taking part - just show up and register. There are no qualifying rounds, however, there is a maximum of 350 people allowed to compete.

There is also a pre-skip party at Easdale Community Hall, where there will be a licensed bar, live music, and where children are most welcome. There will also be a barbecue running between 7-9pm. Return ferries run after the show at 11pm and midnight.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

Alasdair Gillies' 80th birthday

I have never covered the Blas festival in the Glasgow Letter before for the obvious reason that it is, by definition, a Highland festival and, therefore, none of its events are based in Glasgow.

Alasdair Gillies' 80th Birthday Concert, however, caught my eye as something which, although taking place in Portree, had unique relevance to Glasgow.

A resident of Milngavie, a regular attendee of ceilidhs and concerts down here, and having been born in Glasgow, Alasdair is a very well known man in the city and, of course, was a household name throughout the country during an illustrious singing career.

When I asked Alasdair how he had enjoyed the night in the Aros Centre, he referred to it as one of the most enjoyable evenings of his life.

'From the first moment the audience was like one big

Pictured are Allan Campbell, Donald Black, Christine Primrose, Alasdair Gillies, Alastair MacDonald, John Carmichael, and Griogair Labhruidh.



family and quite obviously ready to enjoy their evening,' he told me. 'They had come from all corners of the island, but some had travelled a distance.'

'I was delighted to see a contingent from Plockton and especially delighted to have Neil Sinclair and his wife Sheila and friends from Connel making the trip to support me.'

I was particularly interested to hear the thought process behind Alasdair's choice of guests for the evening - as I know he has a significant list of musical friends and collaborators from his long career.

He said: 'First I chose my

supporting musicians, John Carmichael and Alastair Macdonald, each having worked with me over many years on TV and stage, home and abroad.'

'Donnie Black I have admired over the years and it was great to have him join me, not only for his own spot but to have him roll up his sleeves - figuratively speaking! - and join the boys in backing me.'

'Christine Primrose guested with me on STV in the '70s and to know her as a friend and admire her as a singer made her an obvious choice.'

'Griogair Labhruidh, I had worked with on TV ALBA a few years ago and, again,

I admire his commitment to researching traditional Gaelic songs and his connection with Trotternish made him a natural choice.

'I was extremely fortunate to have Allan Campbell agree to join me to act as fear an tìghe and add his natural warmth, as only he can, to the whole event.'

'I've been fortunate to have had many highlights over the years; not necessarily in the "glamour" venues, but often in the most simple of environments when the audience enjoyment factor has been palpable.'

While reflecting on his career as a whole, Alasdair also keeps a keen eye on the current Gaelic music scene - referring to its present state as 'enormously exciting'. His parting words were: 'The future for the songs and music of the Gael is in good heart and in good hands.'

We all owe a debt of gratitude to singers like Alasdair and his generation. I wish him a very happy 80th birthday.

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WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

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THURSDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

Oban Health Walk
Oban Congregational Church Hall
10am - 11.30am

Oban Walking Tours
Oban, i-centre
2.00pm - 3.30pm

FREE Tourism Informative Evening
Argyll College
5.30pm-7.30pm

Lisa McHugh
The Corran Halls, Oban
7.00pm - 10.00pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
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FRIDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading
Glencruitten Church Hall
All Day

Friendship Club Heritage Blether
The Rockfield Centre
2.00pm - 4.00pm

Life Drawing Class Starts
The Rockfield Centre
6.00pm - 8.00pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
Tartan Paint
Open till 2am

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban
From 9pm
Free Entry

SATURDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
Disco with Steve
Open till 2am

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban
From 9pm
Free Entry

Master Builders Lego Club
The Rockfield Centre
10.00am - 12.00pm

Bookends Festival
The Reading Room, Victory Hall
3.00pm- 10.00pm

Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading
Glencruitten Church Hall
All Day

Hill Walk
Glen Shiel, Kyle of Localshe
All Day

Oban Walking Tours
Oban, i-centre
10am - 11.30am
2.00pm - 3.30pm

parkrun
Ganavan Sands, Oban
9.30am

SUNDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

Bookends Festival
The Reading Room, Victory Hall
3.00pm- 10.00pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm
£1 per person, max of 6 per team
Win £20 bar voucher

MONDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

Slimming World
Union Street/Argyll Street, Lochgilphead
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Rhona 07880 878906

Highland Hustle
Cathedral Hall, Oban, 6.00pm

Bookends Festival
The Reading Room, Victory Hall
3.00pm- 10.00pm

Scottish Country Dancing Class
Church of Scotland Centre, Oban
7.30pm - 9.45pm

TUESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

Oban Walking Tours
Oban, i-centre
10am - 11.30am
2.00pm - 3.30pm

Accordion Demonstration
The Rockfield Centre
4.00pm - 9.00pm

Bookends Festival
The Reading Room, Victory Hall
3.00pm- 10.00pm

WEDNESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

Slimming World
Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban
9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban
Lorne Pub Quiz
Starting at 9pm
£25 bar voucher prize and free pizza at half time

Bookends Festival
The Reading Room, Victory Hall
3.00pm- 10.00pm

Events may charge.
Please visit
www.obanwhatson.co.uk
for more details.
To list your event,
please call
01631 568000

The Benderloch stone and other traveller's tales

Review: Campbell Cameron

Adrian Nation is a grand storyteller. An imposing fella, he plays guitar. That's a bit like saying Messi or Ronaldo are no bad with a football.

What Mr Nation achieves with the six or 12-string variations, electric or acoustic, is generally only achieved when you put a trio together.

Over the weekend he captured the hearts of audiences in Benderloch and at Duart Castle on Mull while on a short tour of Scotland having recently wowed audiences in Canada and Norway.

His latest album is Anarchy and Love, and it featured during the evening along with the back catalogue contained in three previous pressings – but back to the stories.

Each song was given an introduction, a feature of a live concert that I and others really appreciate.

Adrian's stories, by his own admission, are becoming longer and more involved the further he travels. Some are longer than the songs.

On Friday in Benderloch



Adrian entertained with songs and stories.

the packed Victory Hall enjoyed tales of the Yukon, Greek democracy, and Italian travel. I can report that much laughter ensued.

His lyrics tell of that laughter, of the joy of travel and of love of the people he meets on the way. His future looks like taking a Canadian turn as his popularity grows in Northern America following successful festival tours in the last few years. He has the Yukon in his heart.

But oh, the guitar skill. Five Finger Rapids and Carpe Meridianus show those talents to the full.

The Dying of Democracy

and The Benderloch Stone are lyrical masterpieces. The former describes an Athens riot in some detail. The latter describes stories of travel, fatherhood and the ripples of love that spread through our lives.

Inspired by Creagneuk beach and enhanced by cross Atlantic friendships, it is a gem. It tells the story of a growing friendship between folk of Argyll and Alberta and the connections we feel to a group of friends we have yet to meet. It's a long story.

Anarchy and Love is out now and available at www.adriannation.com

WHAT'S ON AT YOUR LOCAL CINEMA THIS WEEK

Tel: 01631 562905 or see www.obanphoenix.com for more details



FRIDAY 21 14:00 & 18:15 16:00 16:15 18:15 20:15 20:30	PUZZLE 15 CHRISTOPHER ROBIN PG TEEN TITANS GO! TO THE MOVIES PG LUIS AND THE ALIENS U BLACKKKLANSMAN 15 THE NUN 15	16:45 18:15 19:00 20:45	SCRATCH N SNIFF: CURSE OF THE WERE-RABBIT U THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY 12A PUZZLE 15 BLACKKKLANSMAN 15
SATURDAY 22 11:30 13:30 & 15:30 14:15 11:30 & 16:30 17:30 18:30 19:45 20:45	INCREDIBLES 2 PG TEEN TITANS GO! TO THE MOVIES PG CHRISTOPHER ROBIN PG LUIS AND THE ALIENS U PUZZLE 15 THE CHILDREN ACT 12A THE NUN 15 BLACKKKLANSMAN 15	TUESDAY 25 NO SHOWINGS	WEDNESDAY 26 14:00 & 16:00 16:15 18:15 18:15 20:15 20:30
SUNDAY 23 12:00 12:30 & 14:30 14:30 16:30 17:00 19:00 19:00	CHRISTOPHER ROBIN PG TEEN TITANS GO! TO THE MOVIES PG THE CHILDREN ACT 12A PUZZLE 15 LUIS AND THE ALIENS U BLACKKKLANSMAN 15 THE NUN 15	THURSDAY 27 14:00 16:00 17:00 18:00 19:00 20:45	PUZZLE 15 LUIS AND THE ALIENS U TEEN TITANS GO! TO THE MOVIES PG BLACKKKLANSMAN 15 NT LIVE: KING LEAR TBC THE NUN 15

MONDAY 24
14:30 & 21:15
16:15

THE NUN 15
TEEN TITANS GO!
TO THE MOVIES PG

Web: www.obanphoenix.com
Tel: 01631 562905

Oban Community Singers are five!

Oban Community Singers celebrated their fifth anniversary on Monday September 3.

Back in 2013 the newly formed Oban Winter Festival committee got a choir together to sing at the

first Oban Winter Festival. Under the baton of Janet Fergusson the community singers were formed.

After the success of the winter festival, the singers decided to continue, led by Janet and have gone from strength to strength, currently having 30 members.

The singers have sung at many events including winter

festival events, entertained the elderly living in care and sung with other choirs as the Commonwealth Games Baton came through Oban.

The singers always welcome new members to join them in the Undercroft at Glencruitten Parish Church Hall on Mondays 10-11am for a joyful and fun singing time.



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Some of the makers from Argyll – work on display ranged from jewellery to furniture design, printmaking to textiles, music to theatre.

Wild About Argyll and CHArts join forces for foodie festival

Culture, heritage and Arts Assembly Argyll and Isles (CHArts) recently joined forces with Wild About Argyll which was working with Food from Argyll to showcase some of the best Argyll makers and producers during its first Argyll Food and Drink Festival in Glasgow.

Held at the Briggait on August 19 it is hoped this will be the first of many events showcasing the food, drink, cultural, creative and heritage assets of Argyll and the Isles.

Talking after the event, Wild About Argyll's development manager Carron Tobin said: 'There are not many areas of Scotland with their food and drink, creative and tourism sectors working so collaboratively. This is a real showcase of what Argyll has to offer across tourism and food, design and drinks.'

'This first event certainly felt like it has legs and we look forward to exploring doing more in the future.'

CHArts invited 11 makers, artists and producers to showcase their work alongside Argyll's food, drink and

tourism offer, with a catalogue created and bound by Gillian Stewart of Juju Books (www.jujubooks.co.uk).

Helensburgh artist Sarah Selman, of Design in Harmony, said: 'I am a new member of CHArts and was really impressed by the quality of work from the other makers showcased, reflecting the diversity of our work. For me the benefit was without doubt the opportunity to speak with the other makers, our shared experiences in business and the challenges of working remotely.' www.designinharmony.co.uk.

CHArts is a growing network that brings together creative people and organisations who live and work in the region, aiming to promote itself through local and national platforms and providing real opportunities for growth for culture, heritage and arts.

The Argyll Food and Drink Festival was the first in a long line of up-coming opportunities which the network can benefit from, promoting Argyll as a must-visit Scottish

destination, as told by the people who know it best.

Makers and visitors alike were impressed by the quality and diversity of work on show, reflecting the skill and passion of those working in, and being inspired by, Argyll's unique heritage and landscape.

David Price, Three Wee Crows theatre group, said: 'The venue was visually stunning, and the quality of the products and services on display was very high, an excellent showcase for Argyll.' www.threeweecrows.co.uk.

With work on display ranging from jewellery to furniture design, printmaking to textiles, music to theatre, there was great engagement with the makers' work and exciting new connections made between them, allowing everyone to take home their own piece of Argyll.

Find out more by visiting www.chartsargyllandisles.org; www.facebook.com/CHArtsArgyllandIsles; twitter.com/CHArtsArgyllandIsles and www.instagram.com/chartsargyllandisles

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 20 AN T-SULTAIN / THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
- 19.00 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
- 19.50 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 **UR | NEW:** Dreach Ùr
- 21.00 Tarrainn nan Tonn (rpt)
- 22.00 **UR | NEW:** Func
- 22.30 Bannan S5 (rpt)
- 23.00 **UR | NEW:** Fo Ghlas
- 23.50 Dhan Uisge (Gaylet Pot) (rpt)

DIHAOINE 21 AN T-SULTAIN / FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
- 18.35 Machair (rpt)
- 19.00 An Là – News
- 19.25 **UR | NEW:** Is Mise Courgette
- 20.30 Fuine S5 (rpt)
- 21.00 **UR | NEW:** Tommy Burns
- 22.30 Hinterland S3 (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 22 AN T-SULTAIN / SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
- 17.45 An Là – News
- 18.00 **UR | NEW:** Scottish Premiership
Hamilton Academical v St Mirren
- 20.00 Machair (rpt)
- 20.30 An t-Eilean (rpt)
- 21.00 **UR | NEW:** Port S4
- 22.00 Iùl a' Chiùil (rpt)
- 23.00 Scottish Premiership
Hamilton Academical v St Mirren (rpt)

DIDÒMHAICH 23 AN T-SULTAIN / SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
- 18.15 An Là – news
- 18.30 **UR | NEW:** An Là aig Deich
- 19.30 Alleluia (rpt)
- 20.00 Dreach Ùr (rpt)
- 20.30 Iùl a' Chiùil – An Ceòl (rpt)
- 21.00 Tommy Burns (rpt)
- 22.15 Belladrum 2016:
Cridhe Tartan – C. Duncan (rpt)
- 22.30 Hinterland S3 (rpt)

DILUAIN 24 AN T-SULTAIN / MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
- 19.00 An Solus Buan (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
- 19.51 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 **UR | NEW:** Fuine S5
- 20.30 Ceann an Rìgh (rpt)
- 21.00 **UR | NEW:** Bannan S5
- 21.30 Steòrnabhagh gu Serbia
Smàladh an Teine (rpt)
- 22.30 Obair Ealain (rpt)
- 23.30 Func (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 25 AN T-SULTAIN / TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
- 19.00 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 **UR | NEW:** An t-Eilean

- 21.00 **UR | NEW:** Iùl a' Chiùil
- 22.00 Steòrnabhagh gu Serbia
Smàladh an Teine (rpt)
- 23.00 **UR | NEW:** Iùl a' Chiùil – An Ceòl
- 23.30 Alleluia (rpt)

DICIADAIN 26 AN T-SULTAIN / WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
- 19.00 An Solus Buan (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
- 19.52 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 DIY le Donnìe – An Dùbhlain (rpt)
- 21.00 **UR | NEW:** Talamh Torrach
- 22.00 Bannan S5 (rpt)
- 22.30 Ceòlhor@Piping Live! (rpt)
- 23.00 Tarrainn nan Tonn (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 27 AN T-SULTAIN / THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
- 19.00 Cuirim@Celtic – Moving Hearts (rpt)
- 19.10 An Là – News (rpt)
- 19.20 **UR | NEW:** Champions League
Glasgow City v Somatío Barcelona
- 21.26 **UR | NEW:** Belladrum 2017:
Benjamin Francis Leftwich
- 21.30 **UR | NEW:** Uisge ar Beatha
- 22.30 **UR | NEW:** Func
- 23.00 **UR | NEW:** Fo Ghlas
- 23.50 Dhan Uisge (Falls of Acharn) (rpt)



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Hogmanay at The Nevis Centre

Bring in 2019 with music from Fergie MacDonald and a piper to bring in the bells

31st December 2018

Doors 8:30pm

Show 9:30pm - 1:00am

Over 18s only*

Smart Dress Code

Tickets £25

Tables of 8 Available

Phone 01397 700707 to book



*16-18s may be permitted if accompanied by parent/grandparent, please ask reception for more info



Blas ending's a blast

Nearly 1,000 young musicians impressed a Highland crowd with an incredible showcase of Scottish music and culture, alongside the top names in traditional music, at the Blas Festival finale Òran Mòr on Saturday.

Meaning Great (or Big) Song, the musical extravaganza took place at a packed out Northern Meeting Park in Inverness and featured young musicians from fèisean and various youth initiatives from across Scotland, including the Highland Council Youth Music Groups, the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music and City of Inverness Youth Pipe Band.

The audience was also treated to performances by some of the biggest names in tradi-

tional music, including Trail West, Mischa Macpherson, Brighde Chaimbeul, Breabach and Skipinnish – all of which were selected by the young musicians taking part on the day.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the Year of Young People ensemble: a brand new Gaelic song written by up-and-coming young Gaelic songwriter, Glasgow-based Gaelic student Robbie MacLeòid. His song, Bèo an Dòchas (Living in Hope), was written specifically for Òran Mòr and was sung by all the young people, under the musical direction of Donald Shaw and led by young Gaelic singer Annia MacGillivray from Tain, who impressed the audience with her beautiful voice.

Irish Stars set to shine at the Nevis Centre

Join four of Ireland's top country music stars all on one forthcoming Stars of Irish Country Show when it rolls into the Nevis Centre, Fort William on Sunday October 7 for an un-missable night of toe-tapping and hand clapping Irish country magic. The show now in its third year of touring the UK, it will feature a fantastic array of talent that includes the supreme vocals of Anthony Mc Brien, the multi-talented Stephen Smyth, Ireland's Tipperary Country queen Louise Morrissey and the hugely popular Curtis Magee, who each will perform their biggest hit songs in the company of the fabulous Keltic Storm Band.

This is a rare chance to see so many top stars in the one show, which has received standing nightly ovations and rave reviews. Tickets for the show are now on sale from the Thainstone Centre on 01397



700707. So keep Saturday October 6 free in your diary as all Country roads are Fort William bound.

To win a pair of tickets and a CD bundle worth more than £60, please answer this simple question. What year is the show in? Then fill in the entry form below and post your entry to The Oban Times, Irish Stars Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

Name.....
Address.....
.....
.....
Postcode.....
Tel No.
Email.....

Terms and conditions: Over 18s only. Winners will be selected at random after the closing date. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Entry data will be deleted/disposed immediately upon the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations.

The closing date for entries is midnight, September 24, 2018.

Stephen Smyth (The Boy from Donegal, visit / you.tu.be/YPOKTn0Kj9c); Curtis Magee (The Wheels

fell off the Wagon, visit you.tu.be/Q8WxCsB351M); Louise Morrissey (September Sky, visit you.tu.be/f7anfG-2bRo), Anthony Mc Brien (Mothers Song) Anthony McBrien Mothers Song.

Eveline McKinnon joined Slimming World on 23rd May 2018 and has lost 3st 2lb to date!

You can do it too.

“ Since joining Slimming World I've been enjoying eating. I'm eating healthier, I'm eating more varied and I can even enjoy my favourite treats. My group has encouraged me to try new recipes and to get more active. Losing weight when enjoying food makes you feel amazing!

I've still got a bit of weight to lose to get to my personal target, but seeing results and enjoying my new lifestyle certainly encourages me to get there.



OBAN

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Glencruitten Road
Wednesday 9.30am, 11.30am,
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Gillian 07796 040 803

LOCHGILPHEAD

Lochgilphead Baptist Church
Union Street/ Argyll Street
Mondays 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Rhona 07880 878 906

CAMPBELTOWN

Masonic Recreational Lodge
St John Street
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Jimmy Shand story comes to Oban

The highly-acclaimed and award-winning show The Jimmy Shand Story is coming to the Corran Halls in Oban.

This show is a celebration of the life and music of the late Sir Jimmy Shand, prolific composer and band leader, an international star and legend of Scottish music.

His tunes continue to feature in the repertoire of most traditional accordionists and dance bands today, and with a wealth of accordion players, followers of Scottish and traditional music in Argyll this is sure to be a sought-after event.

Angus MacPhail of Skipinnish said: 'Jimmy Shand's influence on Scottish accordion music has been greater than any other individual in the history of that instrument. Although from Auchtermuchty on the east coast, his influence in popularising accordion music reached every corner of the country including Oban and the west coast.'

Every now and then a rare talent emerges that stands head and shoulders above their peers. In the accordion world in his time that person was Jimmy Shand. In this generation it is Brandon MacPhee. How better to salute both than with a show celebrating the life and music of



the late Sir Jimmy Shand.

Angus agrees: 'There is no better accordion player alive today to portray the Jimmy Shand Story than Brandon MacPhee. Playing the three row Shand Marino button accordion with skill and virtuosity akin to the master himself, Brandon is once again bringing the music of this legend of Scottish Music alive again. Jimmy Shand, I'm sure, would be very proud of the show that Brandon is performing in his honour.'

'I first heard MacPhee play when I judged the open accordion competition at the National Mod held in Inverness in 2014. I was astounded by the level of his performance. It was totally flawless and delivered with a charisma and magic that only a chosen few in the world of entertainment are blessed with.'

'Jimmy Shand brought accordion music to the world

in his time and Brandon MacPhee is following in these great footsteps.'

On stage, the music is provided by the Brandon McPhee Scottish Band.

Brandon explained: 'We all know his famous tunes, but do we remember the man who did so much for our musical heritage?'

Senior Scottish accordion champion Brandon, winner of the highly coveted Jimmy Shand Shield, not to mention numerous titles he was awarded while still in his teens, is recognised across Britain and Ireland through his music and his many appearances on stage, radio and television.

In this show, he looks back at the life and music of his idol, playing many of his favourite tunes, such as Bluebell Polka, Whistling Rufus and Shufflin Samuel.

This great selection of music will be complemented by visual images and stories narrated live by acclaimed stage film and TV actor Dave Anderson, known for roles in the film Gregory's Girl, TV roles in Scottish Sitcom City Lights, appearances in early episodes of Dr Who, Taggart and Still Game.

Dave remembers: 'Like every other Scot of my generation, I grew up with Jimmy Shand, on the wireless. The

music was meant for dancing, but we listened because it put a smile on our faces. I now know from working on this show it was the same right across the UK and Ireland.'

Proof of this is reflected in the fact that in his time Jimmy Shand sold millions of records in his 70-year career.

The seed for the idea behind this show came during Brandon's tour with Hot Country TV in Ireland. Country Music Star Michael English, also a fan of Jimmy Shand, saw an opening for this young virtuoso to develop a Jimmy Shand Show.

'It's wonderful that this show has come to fruition,' said Michael. 'Jimmy Shand is a favourite of mine and I'm delight that a talent like Brandon is bringing the show to the stage. I wish Brandon and the show every success.'

Don't miss your chance to see another legend in the making, join Brandon and his Band to experience 'The Jimmy Shand Story' the way it should be told.

The Jimmy Shand Story takes place at the Corran Halls, Oban, Saturday October 6, 7.30pm.

Tickets, priced £19.50, are available from the Corran Halls by calling 01631 567333 or visit www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

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

MONDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down

TUESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darling's Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2

WEDNESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre

THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen

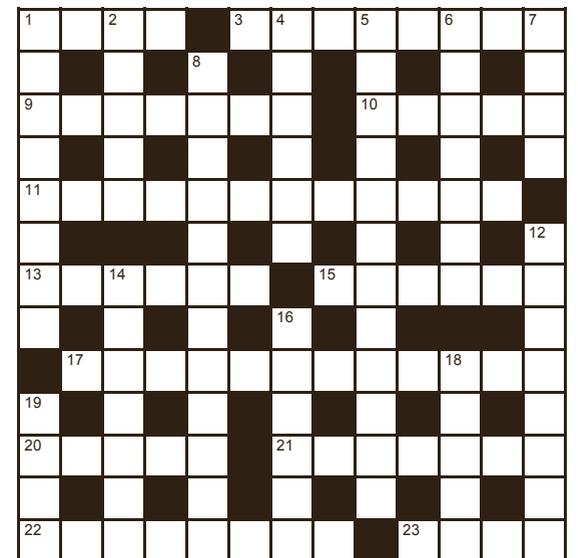
McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight, 11.00 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rainnie

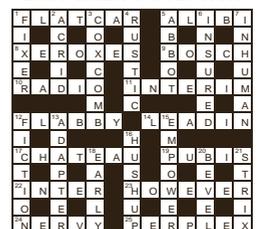
SATURDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Stephen
10.00 Sat Morning Live, 11.00 Saturday Morning, 12.00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowsher, 12.03 Sat Morning Live, 12.05 Saturday Morning Live, 13.30 Clyde, 18.00 Sports View - Dream Team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight

SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breege, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Ken's Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

Crossword



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Across

- 1 Insect stage (4)
- 3 Of the lily family (8)
- 9 Uneasy (7)
- 10 Looks (5)
- 11 Being partial (3-9)
- 13 Freehold tenure of land (6)
- 15 Sheets (6)
- 17 Redirection of emotions to another (12)
- 20 Vernacular (5)
- 21 Episode (7)
- 22 Hanger-on (8)
- 23 Woodworker's tool (4)

Down

- 1 Sea creature similar to a dolphin (8)
- 2 Ski trail (5)
- 4 Scandinavian country (6)
- 5 Helper of people (12)
- 6 A long way down in the ocean (4-3)
- 7 Verdant (4)
- 8 Insincere (12)
- 12 Without ties (8)
- 14 Investigator in a sudden death (7)
- 16 Small trimmed part (6)
- 18 Well-known (5)
- 19 Raindrop sound (4)

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

If you would like to advertise in the Oban Times
Community Noticeboard please call 01631 568000

World Stone Skimming Championships 2018

Sunday 23rd September
On Easdale Island
Registration in the hall from 10am
See www.stoneskimming.com for all info.
Live music, merchandise, BBQ, stalls.
Ferries from 9.15am

World Stone Skimming Championships 2018 Pre Skim Dance

with live music from Sheelanagig
Saturday 22nd September
Easdale Island Community Hall
Doors and Bar Open 7.30pm
Raffle, Auction, BBQ 7pm-9pm
Late Return Ferries 11pm & Midnight
Tickets £12/£10 available www.easdaleislandhall.org

RSCDS Oban and Lorn Branch Scottish Country Dancing Classes

Mondays excepts school holidays
Starting
Monday 24th September
Church of Scotland Centre, Oban
7.30pm - 9.45pm
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**NATIONAL FOREST ESTATE –
COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER SCHEME**

Forest Enterprise Scotland wishes to notify Community and Environmental groups that it is proposing sale of the following property:

Type of Property: Land
Name: 3 Plots of land at Torinturk
Area: Kintyre
Grid reference: NR 8130 6441, NR 8138 6442, NR 8141 6462
Location: Torinturk, Argyll

Enquiries to Forest Enterprise Scotland at communities@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or see our website for more information on the Community Asset Transfer Scheme.

www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 –13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
18/01969/LIB	Internal alterations to form two shower rooms	Bonawe House Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1JQ
18/01491/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, garage and installation of septic tank	Croft 1 Caolas Land North West Of Harbour House Caolis Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute
18/01590/PP	Erection of timber dwellinghouse	Bunessan Wood (Land Approx 260M East Of Achamore Farm) Bunessan Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
18/01803/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 3 Land South West Of Lephain Dervaig Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
18/01701/PP	Change of use from dwellinghouse to house of multiple occupation	Cruachan House Taynuilt By Oban PA35 1HP
18/01862/PP	Installation of 3 antennas on support steelwork and associated works	Dervaig Village Hall Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
18/01653/PP	Subdivision of dwellinghouse to form two dwellinghouses, demolition of two sheds and erection of two garages	Culdahm Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute PA76 6SP
18/01760/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, storage/plant room and shed	Land North Of Ardstruan Croft Road Oban Argyll And Bute
18/01899/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land East Of Creag Ard Ulva Ferry Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA73 6LX
18/01774/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land North East Of MacNicol's Croft Bruichladdich Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute
18/01768/PP	Installation of 10 metre high pole with antennas and ancillary works	Land At Octomore Farm Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute
18/01964/LIB	Alterations to provide office in existing attic storage space	Bruichladdich Distillery (Warehouse 1) Bruichladdich Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA49 7UN

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



**CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
DECROFTING APPLICATION**

A Macconnell
Colnatarun, Colonsay
0.0991 ha – Existing house site,
89395

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 19/10/2018. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot

The Crofting Commission takes the protection of your privacy seriously. To safeguard your personal data and make sure that it is accurate, we only collect and/or store the data necessary to carry out our functions as a regulatory body. You can find a copy of our Privacy Notice at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/openness-and-customer-care.

DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

D A Rodgers
1 Murlaggan, Kilmonivaig
Case 89116
0.082 ha
Reason – Existing croft house site & garden ground
Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Argyll and Bute Council

Councillor Kieron Green (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)

Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on **Thursday 27th September 2018** in **Lismore Village Hall** from **7.00pm – 9.00pm**. He can be contacted by email – Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 562 444

PROPOSED LET OF A CROFT

Mr Robert D M Smith is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at 1 Port Ramsay, Lismore & Appin to Mr Robert S Smith of Tirfuir, Isle of Lismore, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5UL.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail: info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of this advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

www.highland.gov.uk



**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> ; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
18/04201/FUL	Nevis Range Torlundy, Fort William	Snow Production Shed
18/04092/FUL	Path West Of Arisaig War Memorial, Arisaig	Erection of stone plinth and sign

Time period for comments is 14 days

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Alistair Campbell trading as Alistair Campbell of 22 Lyon Road, Killin, Perthshire, FK21 8TE is applying for a licence to use Glen Mor, Invergarry, PH35 4HN as an operating centre for 3 Goods Vehicles and 4 Trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

APPLICATION FOR APPORTIONMENT OF COMMON GRAZINGS

John Morrison is applying for an apportionment of part of Corpach, Banavie, Camaghael and Lochyside Common Grazings extending to 4.827ha for the purpose of stock and land management. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8N, info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk by October 18, 2018.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Proposed Let of a Croft

The Isle of Rum Community Trust is applying to let the tenancy of the croft at Kinloch, Isle of Rum, Small Isles (2.46ha contiguous to Croft No3), to Nicola Goddard of Croft No3, Kinloch, Isle of Rum PH43 4RR. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot within 28 days from the date of the advert.

PROPOSED ASSIGNATION OF A GRAZING SHARE

I, Mr Robert D M Smith am applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the grazing share pertaining to the croft at 1 Port Ramsay, Isle of Lismore to Mr Robert S Smith of Tirfuir, Isle of Lismore, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5UL.

If you have any comments, you may submit these in writing to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or e-mail: info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk within 28 days from the date of publication of this advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES



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Marketing under the spotlight at Lochaber meeting

The meeting of the Lochaber monitor farm on Thursday October 11 – rescheduled from September 18 – will explore a variety of market options for lambs on the west coast of Scotland.

Chris and Malcolm Cameron run Strone farm, Lochaber's monitor farm near Fort William, and, like many farmers in the area, are keen to explore the options for finishing the lambs they produce.



Chris Cameron, left, will welcome fellow monitor farmer and store lamb buyer Rory Stodart to the next Lochaber monitor farm meeting on October 11. Photograph: Alan Richardson

The Camerons run a flock of 550 North Cheviot ewes and a herd of 40 Limousin cows on their 1,200-hectare farm and recently took on a tenancy on an extra 42 hectares of grazing land at Fassfern, which is where the meeting on October 11 will be held.

'How hill and mountain farmers like ourselves improve the light lamb product they currently offer was one of the issues highlighted at the Vision of the Hills and Mountains meeting we hosted earlier this year,' said Chris.

'The event gave us food for thought as to how we can do things differently at Strone, and the extra grazing land we have rented certainly gives us more options for managing our stock.'

At the meeting on October 11, Rory Stodart from Mill of Inverarity Farm in Forfar (the Angus monitor farm) will

talk about what he, as a store lamb buyer, looks for when buying lambs to finish.

The Stodarts began buying store lambs in 2016 and in August 2017 bought 208 of Strone's wether lambs to finish in addition to their own lambs.

'We were looking for long-keep lambs as we have found there isn't much of a margin in shorter-keep lambs,' said Rory.

'We were keen to explore different breeds of hill lambs, including Lleyns and Cheviots,' he added.

Although the partnership between the two monitor farms was declared a 'win win' by both farming families, now that the Camerons have taken on a tenancy of an extra 42 hectares of grazing land and

some sheds just 11 miles from the home farm at Strone, they have decided to trial finishing all their own male lambs this year.

The progress of the lambs, including their weights, has been monitored over the summer and an update on their progress will be shared at the meeting.

The meeting, which begins at 11am and ends at 3.30pm will be in a shed at Fassfern, not at Strone Farm. Use postcode PH33 7NP for directions. A cold lunch will be provided.

To book your attendance, contact Niall Campbell on 01631 563093 or email fboban@sac.co.uk. For more information about the monitor farm programme visit www.monitorfarms.co.uk.

Around the markets

Dalmally – United Auctions sold 2,797 lambs and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart on Saturday September 15. Lambs levelled out at £38.57 recording a rise of £2.38 on the year. Lambs consisted of second and third draws and sold to a good ringside of buyers. Principal lots and prices:

Top prices per head:
Lambs:
SUFFx: £64.50 – Auchnasaul.
TEXx: £66.50 – Stonefield Farms: £58.50 – Barguillean.
CHEV: £56.50 – 83 Borve: £56.00 – Balnaha: £53.50 – 15 Ardmhor, Barra: £52.50 – Stonefield Farms.
CROSS: £62.50 – Stonefield Farms: £59.00 – Keppochan.
MULE: £58.00 – Achalic.
BF: £50.00 – Littleport: £46.50 – 83 Borve: £45.00 – Littleport: £44.00 – Achnaba: £43.50 – Blarmafaldach: £43.00 – Barachander: £43.00 – Castles Estate: £42.50 – Ardchnonnel, Connel: £42.00 – Achalic.

Ewes:
TEXx: £49.00 – Stonefield Farms.
CHEV: £44.50 – Stonefield Farms: £43.50 – Rhynachulaig.
MULE: £49.00 – Stonefield Farms.
HAMP: £49.00 – Hill Cottage, Colonsay.
BF: £39.00 – Castles Estate: £39.00 – Stroneskar: £37.50 – Brenchoille: £37.00 – Glenmassaon: £37.00 – Cluaran: £36.00 – Blairmore.

Rams:
BF: £550, £380(2) and £300 – Castles Estate.
Top prices per kilo:
Lambs:
SUFFx: 176p – Balnahard, Colonsay.
TEXx: 181p and 179p – Brenchoille: 179p – Branault: 178p – Barguillean: 176p – Silvercraigs: 176p – Balliemeanoch, Lochgilphead.
CHEV: 186p – 83 Borve: 178p – Keppochan: 176p – Castles Estate: 174p – Balnaha and Castles Estate: 171p – Balnaha: 170p – 83 Borve, Barra.
CROSS: 171p – Rhynachulaig and Blarachourinn Estate.
MULE: 170p – Achalic: 163p – Stonefield Farms.

BF: 160p and 153p – Littleport: 148p – Achnaba: 146p – Castles Estate: 144p – Blarmafaldach: 143p – 83 Borve: 141p – Meallagie and Benmore Farm: 140p – Bragleenbeg.

Tiree – United Auctions sold 100 cattle at its recent sale held at Tiree Auction Mart. Bullocks sold to average 206 pence per kilo (+ 1 p per kilo) while Heifers averaged 200 pence per kilo (- 2 pence per kilo). Bullocks sold to £1,180 for Charolais Crosses from Heylipol Farm while Croish sold AA Heifers to £1,100.

Principal lots and prices:

Top prices per head:
Bullocks:
AAx: £1,150(2), £1,050, £1,000(6) and £960 – Croish.
CHARx: £1,180, £1,120, £1,080(2), £1,000 and £970 – Heylipol Farm.
LIMx: £960(2) – Ruaig.
SALx: £800 – 5 Balevullin.
SIMx: £950 – Ardeas.
Heifers:
AAx: £1,100(2) and £1,020 – Croish.
CHARx: £1,050(2) and £990(3) – Heylipol Farm: £980(2) – Ruaig: £930(2) and £920 – Heylipol Farm.
GALx: £950 – Croish.
LIMx: £980 and £970 – Heylipol Farm.
SALx: £820 – 5 Balevullin.
SIMx: £730 – 10 Crossapol.
OTM cattle: £940 – Greenhill: £900 – Drumagla.
Top prices per kilo:
Bullocks:
AAx: 205p(2) – Croish: 204p(3) – 31 Balephetrish and Croish(6).
CHARx: 229p, 219p(2) and 216p – Heylipol Farm.
LIMx: 284p(2) – Ruaig.
SALx: 217p – 5 Balevullin.
SIMx: 233p(3) – Lochphuill: 229p – 2 Heylipol: 220p – Ardeas.
Heifers:
AAx: 210p(2) and 202p – Croish.
CHARx: 258p(2) – Ruaig: 230p(2) and 228p – Heylipol Farm.
LIMx: 243p – Heylipol Farm.
MULE: 200p – Ardeas.
OTM: 166p – Greenhill: 163p – 5 Balevullin: 130p – Middleton Farm: 124p – Drumagla.

United Auctions also sold 1,363 sheep at its recent sale on Tiree. The sale incorporated the annual breeding sheep sale. A feature of the sale was a Texel cross gimmer which was sold for My Name's Doddie Foundation which realised a fantastic £420. Lambs averaged £46.21 (+ £4.19). Cast ewes averaged £50.20 (+ £1.05). Gimmers averaged £106.78 (+ £4.78). Ewe lambs averaged £72.36 (+ £7.77).

Principal lots and prices:
Top prices per head:
Ewe lambs:
SUFFx: £140 – Mannal
MULE: £100 – Mannal: £100 – Braeside: £85.00 – Mannal
TEXx: £85.00 and £75.00 – Lochside: £75.00 – 7 Balinoe and Heylipol Farm.
Gimmers:
MULE: £150 – 2/15 Balevullin: £130 – Greenhill: £120 – 2/15 Balevullin.
TEXx: £140 – 2/15 Balevullin: £120 – 5 Kilmoluaig: £110 – Drumagla: £110 – 5 Kilmoluaig: £100 – Middleton Farm.
SUFFx: £100 – 5 Kilmoluaig.
CHEVx: £120 – 10 Kilmoluaig: £120 and £110 – Middleton Farm.

CROSS: £120 – Middleton: £110 and £100 – 10 Kilmoluaig.
BF: £85 – Mannal: £80 – 2/15 Balevullin.
Breeding rams:
SUFFx: £360 – 2/15 Balevullin.
BELTEX CROSS: £400 – Drumagla Lambs.
SUFFx: £78.00 – 4 Kilkenneth: £75.00 – 4 Gott: £68.00 – Braeside: £67.00 – 4 Kilkenneth: £63.00
– Scarinish Farm: £61.00 – Whitehouse: £61.00 – Croish: £61.00 – Garaphail.
TEXx: £73.00 and £70.00 – 2/15 Balevullin: £68.00 – 8 Kilkenneth: £63.00 – 3 Middleton: £63.00 – Benview: £62.00 – Salum.
CHEV: £71.00 – Vaul.
CROSS: £58.00 – 4 Gott
MULE: £44.00 – 3 Balevullin.
Cast ewes:
SUFFx: £81 – Garaphail: £71 and £61 – Lochphuill.
BELT: £94 and £78 – Heylipol Farm.
TEXx: £106 – 2/15 Balevullin: £87 and £82 – Heylipol Farm: £81 – Dunbeag: £73 – 6 Crossapol: £72 – Heylipol Farm: £70 – 2/15 Balevullin: £68 – Druimasaidh: £66 – Braeside: £64 – 15 Crossapol and Hillcrest: £63 – Ruaig: £62 – Heylipol Farm and 4 Kilkenneth: £61 – Braeside and Benview: £60 – Garaphail.
CHEVx: £97 and £90 – 6 Crossapol: £81 – 4 Heanish: £80 – Braeside.
CROSS: £77 – 4 Gott: £75 and £69 – Drumagla: £63 – 2/15 Balevullin and 6 Barrapol: £61 – Cnoc Gorm.
MULE@ £73 – Hillcrest: £68 and £64 – Heylipol Farm: £63 – Sandaig.
ZWA: £65 – Braeside.

Fort William – Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on September 15 sold 513 weaned calves and store cattle, six OTM cattle and one adult head of breeding cattle. Bullocks (295) averaged 249.8p (-27.8p on the year) and sold to 319.1p per kg for a pen of 235kg Charolais crosses from Dunlichity Farm, Farr, and £990 gross for a pair of 440kg Limousin crosses from Fersit, Roy Bridge. Heifers (216) averaged 221.7p (-40.5p on the year) and sold to 275.0p per kg for a pen of 200kg Simmental crosses from Kilfinichen Farms, Mull, and £880 gross for a 435kg Limousin cross from Fersit. Young bulls (2) sold to £620 gross for a 325kg Limousin cross from Dunlichity Farm. Breeding cattle (one) sold to £1,050 gross for a Luing cross cow with a male calf at foot from Culmill, Kiltarlity. OTM cattle (6) sold to 100.8p per kg and £670 gross for a 665kg Luing cow from Isle of Muck Farms, Isle of Muck.



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If you can't prepare for Brexit - get ready for winter

As the UK unhitches from the EU, it's impossible to plan ahead with much certainty.

But what you can prepare for is to get through these cold, dreich months in good shape for whatever lies ahead.

High winds, rainfall, snow and freezing temperatures can threaten farm sheds and buildings. Identify buildings that may be vulnerable to snow or storm damage and repair or upgrade these before winter.

Repairs and renovations can be challenging, so be confident you have the right contractor to meet your needs. Using a tried

and trusted firm can give you peace of mind.

Have you made provision for fuel and heating oil going into winter, and how is your storage? Farm thefts are a problem, so make sure your fuel tanks and stores are secure. And it is handy to have an emergency generator in reserve.

Another consideration must be feed and bedding supplies to see livestock through the winter – no matter how expensive these are after such a dry summer in many parts.

Have a think as well about how you will get feed to animals in bad weather. It might be worth considering accessible areas to which isolated stock may be moved in poor conditions.

Machinery maintenance is essential, so create inventories for machinery and equipment and prioritise what needs to be done and when, then keep equipment inside, away from frost.

A bit of preparation to ensure water supplies to stock are reliable in the event of hard

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frost could prevent big problems. Think about contingency arrangements such as water bowsers.

How are you going to ensure access and exit points are open in bad weather? Establish early on how snow can be cleared, either with your own equipment or nearby machinery – and have sufficient stocks of salt/grit.

These days rain is more likely than snow, so have you ensured no surface water is entering slurry stores? Where possible, empty slurry stores in preparation for winter in

order to avoid the need to spread during unsuitable conditions.

Another important consideration is insurance. Have you reviewed your insurance, and does the policy include a cover for severe weather or storm damage?

On a wider scale, joint planning with neighbouring farms is something to consider, to ensure critical business activity can be sustained.

With just a few basic checks, you will be able to get on with doing what you do best – farming.



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ALL-NEW SUBARU XV RECEIVES COMMENDATION AT 2018 WHAT CAR? AWARDS

- The all-new Subaru XV highly commended in the Safety category
- All-new XV received maximum five-star overall rating in the Euro NCAP safety test
- Awarded accolade due to integrated EyeSight driver assistance safety technology
- All-new XV now available in UK dealerships



Birmingham, 26 January 2018 – Subaru UK is pleased to announce that the all-new Subaru XV has been selected as one of the safest cars in the UK, having been highly commended in the Safety category at the 2018 annual What Car? Awards. The combination of Subaru's bespoke EyeSight safety technology

and the recent 2017 Best In Class accolade from Euro NCAP, aided in the commendation for the all-new XV which went on sale in the UK earlier this year.

EyeSight technology uses cameras to detect the car's surroundings, highlighting any potential threats, issues or impending collisions, aiding

in a safer drive on and off road. The all-new XV is also praised for its passenger and child safety credentials, topping the findings as the safest car for child occupancy in the 2017 results.

Torbjörn Lillrud, Automotive Development Director Subaru UK, said: "We are delighted the all-new

XV has been Highly Commended by What Car?, Our customers buy our cars because of their safety credentials and EyeSight technology is a part of that reason too. We're delighted that the XV has got off to such a good start. Test drive the new 68 plate today from S&S Services 01292 880080.

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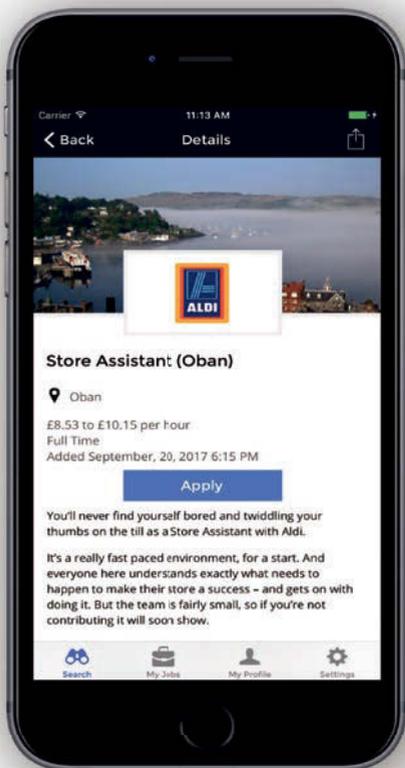
The great news is that we now offer not only the best print based recruitment platform in our circulation area but can now pair that with HIJOBS, Scotland's fastest growing online jobs platform.

Wyvex media's advertising director Nicky Murphy ex-

plains "Our newspapers have always been the number one recruitment platform for local businesses and one advert will reach around 50,000 readers. Adding HIJOBS to that package doubles that reach to over 100,000 people" Nicky goes on "working with us really gives you the best of both worlds. You get the trust of local communities in Argyll, Lochaber and the isles in a traditional print medium plus the added bonus of a new, digital savvy audience through our partnership with HIJOBS - you really can't lose.

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- Salary depending on experience

Please submit a full CV and covering letter to **Ashley Bichard, Office Manager** at office@pdkshellfish.com or **2 South Pier, Gallanach Road, Oban PA34 4LS** by **4th October, 2018**.

FOOD SERVICE MANAGER



We currently have a vacancy for a Food Service Manager at our Inveraray Woollen Mill store.

This is a high paced catering unit requiring a high standard of capability to ensure there is a safe and smoothly run operation. Experience of commercial catering would be advantageous

The ideal candidate must be experienced in kitchen and front-of-house management, Level 3 / Intermediate Food Hygiene qualification preferred but not essential. An understanding of an EPOS till system would be beneficial. You must also have an understanding of cooking skills & food presentation, with good margin control and a passion for customer service in a restaurant environment as well as business management skills.

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This will be delivered by ensuring there is an appropriate menu offering at all times, with a high level of presentation within a hygienic and safe environment.

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Assisting with social activities & personal care to maintain an independent life. Previous care experience is not necessary but good understanding of social model of disability would be useful. Own car essential.

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For further information and to apply please call Becs on 07766925388

Quarriers Enhanced Clinical Care Service works in partnership with NHS Highland to provide at-home care for children and young people with complex health needs.

We are recruiting for two Health and Wellbeing Practitioners (Support Workers) to provide either day or overnight support to a preschool child whose needs include breathing support, tracheostomy care, suctioning and gastrostomy feeding. You will work on your own within the family home.

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Health and Wellbeing Practitioner

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ACHA Housing & Neighbourhood Services Officer

Lochgilphead

£28,320 - £33,317

35 hours per week

This post requires:

- Basic Disclosure Scotland check
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To apply visit the recruitment section of our website at www.acha.co.uk

If you cannot access the website, please contact the recruitment team:

01546 605817 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

For more information, please contact Sarah Campbell on **01546 605800** or email sarah.campbell@acha.co.uk.

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 28th September 2018.
Interviews will be held on Friday 26th October 2018.



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New poll shows strong public support for greater investment in housing

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Electricity included.

Would be suitable for workshops or secure, dry storage.

07733017776 for more information.

A new opinion poll shows strong support for the Scottish Government to continue to invest in housing.

The exclusive poll, commissioned to coincide with Scottish Housing Day, shows that 46 per cent of Scots think that the government is responsible for ensuring everyone has a home to live in, compared to 29 per cent who think

it is the responsibility of either housing associations or local authorities.

Carried out by YouGov, the poll asked 1,066 Scottish adults a series of questions on issues such as the government's housing policy priorities, factors relating to their ideal home, and perceptions around choice and affordability in different tenures. The results are weighted to be representative of the Scottish population as a whole in terms of age, gender, education level, social status and geographic location.

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YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

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6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

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by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

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10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

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from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

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The poll also found that:

- 62 per cent of those aged 50-64 identified increasing the supply of social housing as the most important housing policy area for government, compared to just 12 per cent of young people aged 18-24.
- The most important issues identified by this age group (18-24) were helping first time buyers with the cost of their first home and limiting rent increases in the private rented sector.
- When thinking about their ideal home, 41 per cent of those questioned identified location as the most important factor to them, followed by affordability or maintenance costs at 36 per cent, and space at 28 per cent.

Commenting on the poll, CIH Scotland national director Callum Chomczuk said: 'Despite facing a number of challenges, including an ageing population, cuts to welfare, and the as-yet-unknown impacts of Brexit, this new poll, commissioned for the third annual Scottish Housing Day, shows that housing remains a top public policy priority for many Scots.'

'Published on September 4, the Scottish Government's Programme for Government set out some of the challenges facing housing now and in the future, and committed to developing a vision for how our homes and communities should look and feel in 2040 and the options and choices to get there.

'It is clear from this poll that the people of Scotland are looking to the Scottish Government to provide leadership and to continue to invest in all tenures of housing to ensure that everyone in Scotland has a home that is warm, affordable and accessible in a place they want to live.'

Scottish Housing Day will take place on Wednesday September 19.

The day is organised by the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) Scotland, the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA), Homes for Scotland, Shelter Scotland, the Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers (ALACHO), the Scottish Association of Landlords (SAL), the Tenant Participatory Advisory Service Scotland (TPAS), Regional Network of Registered Tenants Organisations and the Scottish Government.

Its purpose is to raise public awareness of the latest developments in housing and to give people the resources that they need to make informed decisions about their housing options.



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2 DOOR PINE WARDROBE 3' X 2' X 6'. May be viewed at Rockfield Centre Charity Shop, Stevenson St. Oban, £40

2 SEATER SETTEE fawn with floral pattern. May be viewed at Rockfield Centre Charity Shop, Stevenson St. Oban, £60

3 DRAWER chest of drawers 3' x 1.5'. May be viewed at Rockfield Centre Charity Shop, Stevenson St. Oban, £20

BEDSIDE TABLES 2 matching with single drawer. Wood with white tops. E-mail: mail@fionaw.co.uk £20 Tel 01852 200227.

CHEST OF DRAWERS with 2 full width and 2 half width drawers. May be viewed at Rockfield Centre Charity Shop, Stevenson St. Oban, £40.

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CIRCULAR DINING TABLE 4' diameter with 3 chairs. May be viewed at Rockfield Centre Charity Shop, Stevenson St. Oban, £40

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Garden

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PERSONAL

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Love From Lee and Ellis xx

DEATHS

ACKERLEY - Michael, formerly of Kellan Old Farm, Isle of Mull died peacefully on September 17, 2018. A true gentleman, friend and neighbour; much loved by those who knew him.

DOUGLAS - Anne. Sadly at Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Larbert on Saturday, September 15, 2018 after a courageous battle with cancer, Anne Stewart, of Broomridge, Stirling. A much loved and loving daughter of the late Norman and Nora Douglas (formerly of Glenlyon), a very dear cousin and friend to many. Funeral service will be held at Falkirk Crematorium on Thursday, September 27, 2018 at 3.15 p.m. to which all friends are respectfully invited. No flowers please, but donations for Strathcarron Hospice most welcome.

FORBES - Sadly but peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on September 15, 2018, in his 66th year, William, will be greatly missed. A graveside service will take place at Pennyfuir Cemetery, Oban, on Friday, September 21, 2018 at 1.00 p.m. to which all friends are respectfully invited.

FRASER - Peacefully at the Belford Hospital in Fort William on September 13, 2018. Maureen Fraser aged 58 years, daughter of Derek and Elma Fraser, sister of Rhona and aunt to Fraser. The funeral will take place on Tuesday September 25 at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church, The Parade, Fort William at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Lochaber M.S. Society and Moss Park Care Home, Caol.

GEOGHEGAN - Gerard "Gerry" died peacefully at home after a short illness, on September 16, 2018, aged 89 years, a dearly loved husband, dad, granddad, great granddad and father-in-law. Will be sorely missed by all the family.

NOBLE - Helen (Royal Mail), died peacefully at home in the arms of her husband John after a 23 month long battle with cancer. We would both just like to say thanks to the doctor on Tیره, Glasgow Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Oban Hospital and to all our friends in Oban, many thanks to Grant and Sue, Seamus and Myra for all your kind words. Helen's funeral will take place on Wednesday, September 26 followed by cremation at Countesthorpe Cemetery, Leicestershire. On this day please just take a moment to remember Helen. If you want to make a donation then could you please make it to Cancer Research Oban Branch. Thanks and Rest in Peace Helen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - The family of the late Captain Kenneth Cameron would like to thank all family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy and support. Also, cards, flowers and telephone calls following Kenny's death. We would also like to thank Mr MacPherson

for his service at the Free Presbyterian Church, Fort William and at the graveside in Lochaline. We would also like to thank all staff at Jura Ward, Ailsa Hospital for their excellent care over the last two years. Thanks also to Jamie and Kevin at McFall's Funeral Directors for their excellent service. Thank you all who attended the Church and graveside. Many thanks to Sally and Charles at Lochaline Hotel. Donations of £439 were collected for the Fisherman's Mission.

MACDONALD - Betty, Peter and the family would like to thank friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy following the death of our beloved Mum, Chrissie. Special thanks to doctors and community nurses at Lorn Medical Centre for their care and kindness to our Mum. Many thanks to Rev. Dugald Cameron for his comforting service and to Ian and staff at D&A Munns for their caring and efficient handling of the funeral. Thanks also to everyone who paid their respects at the church and graveside. Finally sincere thanks to Colin, Joan and staff at the Olive Garden for providing us with a lovely buffet. The sum of £222.53 was donated to Erskine Home, Bishopton.

MACLEOD - Betty, Shona and families would like to thank everyone who came to pay their last respects to Mum at the church and graveside, to Catriona and all at Hamish Hoey, the Rev Chris Fulcher for a lovely service, to Moreen Gracie for the lovely flowers, Soroba House for the lovely buffet, to all the staff at The Lynn of Lorne for the wonderful care they gave Mum. Thank you all. Retiring collection for Alzheimer Scotland was £302.

MENZIES - Elizabeth, David and Isla, would like to thank all their family and friends for their kindness and support following the death of our dear mum and granny, Betty, on September 11, 2018. Special thanks to the CAU at Belford Hospital for their kindness and care given to Mum during her short illness and to the doctors and nurses from Dalmally Surgery, for their care over the years. Many thanks to Rev Margaret Millar for her comforting service, Ian MacInnes of D&A Munn for his help and support, Petals for beautiful flowers, Alasdair MacDonald for music in church and Dalmally Community Centre staff for the catering. Gratitude to all those who came to pay their final respects and who generously donated the sum of £765 to North Argyll Volunteer Car Fund.

MEMORIALS

BLACK - In loving memory of my dear husband Hughie, who passed away September 21, 2017. Forever in my thoughts. - Helen.

BLACK - Remembering our dear dad and papa, Hughie, who died September 21, 2017. Always in our thoughts. - David and Sharon, Kirstin and Callum, David, Danielle, Chloé and Lyra.

BLACK - Fondly remembering Hughie, father and grandpa who died on September 21, 2017. Sadly missed. - Mary, Lauranne and Cameron xxx

BLUE - In loving memory of our sister Lilian, who died September 22, 2011. Too dearly loved to be forgotten. - Mary, Jim, and Donnie.



HUNTER
Betty - 22-9-2013
And while she lies in peaceful sleep
Her memory we shall always keep
- Love from Monica, Brian, Emma, Steven, Danielle and Sarah xxx

KILCULLEN - In loving memory of Finlay Kilcullen, Bonawe Quarries, died September 20, 1988. Missed and remembered. - Margaret, Margot, Fiona and families.

MACDONALD - Remembering with love our beloved father and pappa, Douglas MacDonald who passed away on September 18, 1991. Also remembering loved ones gone before and after.

We keep in our hearts the love of the past
For there it was planted forever to last
Too deep in our hearts for death to divide
Each day of our lives you walk by our side.
- Inserted by his ever loving daughters Maryflora, Sandra, May Margaret and families.

MACDOUGALL - In loving memory of Betty, my dear wife, died September 25, 2012. Much love. - Jim xx

MACDOUGALL - Treasured memories of Callum, a dearly loved husband, dad and grampy who died September 19, 1997. Loved and remembered always. - Freena and family.

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, Bunessan.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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MACDOUGALL - In loving memory of Linda - you were a very special person in our lives. Not a day goes by when you are not loved and missed. - Murdoch, Christine, Susie and Mikey

MACKINNON - Treasured memories of my beloved wife Edith, who passed away September 21, 2017.

If roses grow in Heaven Lord please pick a bunch for me, place them in my dear wife's arms and tell her they're from me.

Tell her I love her and miss her and when she turns to smile, place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for a while.

Because remembering her is easy, I do it every day but there's an ache within my heart that will never go away. - Your loving husband Peter xx

MACKINNON - Precious memories of our much loved mum, mother-in-law and granny Edith, who sadly left us September 21, 2017.

Things we feel most deeply are the hardest thing to say, Dearest Mum we loved you in a very special way.

If we could have one lifetime wish, one dream that could come true, We'd pray to God with all our hearts to spend more time with you.

- Alan, Diane and Douglas xx
You left us beautiful memories, Your love is still our guide, Although we cannot see you, We know you're by our side. - Lauren, Dougie, Callum and Eilidh xx

MACKINNON - Remembering with love a very special lady, Edith (Dede) who passed away on September 21, 2017.

I miss our little daily chats
The way you'd listen to me moan
And how you'd always cheer me up
Whenever you would phone
So although I'm sad without you
And wish that you were here
Within my heart your lovely smile
Still shines bright and clear.
- Lots of love - Carol and Norrie xx
We love and miss you Dede xxx
- Carolyn, Claire, Andrew and families.

RAMSAY - Still thinking of you, through the years! Janette Ramsay, who died September 24, 2015, also remembering dad, James Ramsay, died June 12, 1990.

- Love families Lochgilphead, Killin, Oban and Edinburgh.

Oban Times
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

GRADUATIONS



ETHAN CAMPBELL

Graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a Masters degree in Chemical Engineering. Ethan is the son of Clark and Anne Campbell, brother of Sophie, grandson of Margaret and the late Alec Fletcher, Oban and Archie and Ann Campbell, Connel. Ethan is a former pupil of Achaleven Primary and Oban High School.



CATRIONA McINNES

Graduated from the University of Glasgow with an MA (Honours) degree in Primary Education. Catriona is the youngest daughter of Ian and Rhoda McInnes, Oban, and granddaughter of the late John Hill and Barbara Hill and the late Roy McInnes and Marie McInnes. Catriona is a former pupil of Park Primary School and Oban High School and is continuing her studies at the University of Glasgow with a Masters degree in Education.


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In memory of Dawn Joyce

Live Literature sails in to island primary school

Gigha school has been chosen to receive an author residency from the Scottish Book Trust

Author and illustrator John Fardell will work with Gigha Primary School on a specific creative project.

The Scottish Book Trust (SBT) announced nine schools will receive funded author residencies this academic year to inspire a lifelong love of reading and writing and support learning professionals with their practise.

The residencies will run across the 2018-19 terms and finish by Easter 2019. As well as an author residency, schools will receive a resources grant of £500.

The Live Literature School Residencies programme, now in its third year, is funded by Walter Scott Giving Group and delivered by the SBT, the national charity changing lives through reading and writing.

Schools across the country were invited to apply to the programme, which enables professional authors to build a relationship with pupils and engage them in a project. Each school taking part will receive 12 fully-funded residency sessions carried out by an author from the Scottish Book Trust's author database. This directory includes almost 800 professional writers,

poets, playwrights, illustrators, performance poets and storytellers.

Each school's project will be showcased on the SBT's website, alongside suggested learning resources and helpful tips to make the most of the residency sessions.

John Fardell is the author of children's novels, including *The Seven Professors of the Far North* and *The Secret of the Black Moon Moth*. He also works as a freelance cartoonist, illustrator, designer and puppeteer.

John has won the Scottish Children's Book Award twice, and in 2009 won the Royal Mail Children's Book Award for *Manfred the Baddie*. He is married with two boys and lives in Edinburgh.

John said: 'I'm very excited about being author-illustrator in residence at Gigha Primary School, and really honoured to have been asked. I'm greatly looking forward to travelling to Gigha and working with the pupils at this terrific school on their imaginative and creative ideas.'

Julie Wilson, head teacher at Gigha Primary School, said: 'What a great gift to have John Fardell come and work with us to craft a series of tales from our isle of stories.'



Author and illustrator John Fardell.

'We are so excited for this opportunity to learn from him and be inspired through his residency to create and illustrate our own picture books on the themes of nature, growth and learning for sustainability.'

Marc Lambert, CEO of the Scottish Book Trust, added: 'The Live Literature programme gives

those in education settings the opportunity to collaborate with professional writers, storytellers and creators from all over Scotland.'

'We're pleased to offer nine fully-funded residencies, which will help pupils to foster a love for reading and writing that can last a lifetime.'

THOUGHT for the week

A hug is the perfect expression of love.

The experience of being held, of holding, brings the warmth of human affection and that most precious of gifts, security. The security of feeling that one person has your best interests at heart.

Paradoxically, the hug is also the moment when we are most vulnerable. The being held, holding, may be moments when we may feel manipulated, used, powerless.

The human story of Jesus Christ is the perfect expression of love, love that proves human love is of God. The human need to love and to be loved, the need for warmth, affection, to be held.

Just think of pictures of Mary holding the baby Jesus on her shoulder, warm, secure, fulfilled, at peace. Human and paradoxically divine, speaking to us of our human needs and experience and yet of love which bring peace, fulfillment and security.

That is the promise of love which lifts the veil between earth and heaven and shows us that one person who has our best interests at heart is Almighty God, who is love.

**The Right Reverend
Kevin Pearson
Bishop of Argyll
and The Isles**

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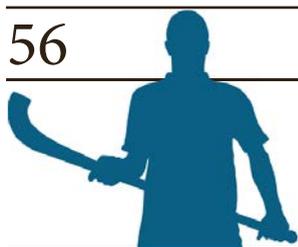
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SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Three in a row as Newtonmore

Newtonmore lifted shinty's most coveted prize, the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup, for the 33rd time and the third year in succession and Skye Camanachd's top flight survival chances were dealt a blow following the shinty action on Saturday 15 September 2018.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup - final Lovat 0 Newtonmore 3

Newtonmore secured shinty's top prize for the third season in succession when they beat Lovat 3-0 in the 111th Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final at Mossfield.

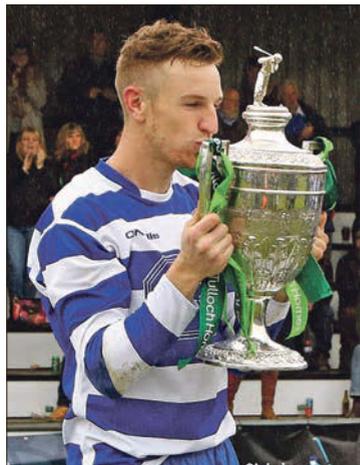
This was only the second time these teams have met in a Camanachd Cup final but the sides were the competition's most recent winners over the last three years.

Lovat have only ever tasted success twice in shinty's most famous tournament whilst Newtonmore went into the final on the back of a record-busting 32 Camanachd Cup successes.

Lovat's last win was only in 2015 whilst Newtonmore were going for three in a row having lifted the trophy in 2016 and 2017.

The players, led by presidents John MacRitchie (Lovat) and Norman MacArthur (Newtonmore), and the match officials were led on to the field by Oban High School Pipe Band before being introduced to eight-times Camanachd Cup winner George Fraser from sponsors Tulloch Homes, Roddy MacCuish from Argyll and Bute Council and Camanachd Association vice-chieftain Alex McNaughton and president Keith Loades ahead of throw-up.

This was a repeat of last year's final. Lovat made three changes from the squad that day with Graeme MacMillan starting three years after a horror leg break. Marc



Newtonmore captain Andy Mackintosh gives the Camanachd Cup a wee kiss. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Newtonmore captain Andy Mackintosh receives the Camanachd Cup from George Fraser of Tulloch Homes, himself an eight-times winner of the handsome trophy. Photo: Neil Paterson

MacLachlan and Duncan Davidson were also given starting slots after being substitutes a year earlier. The missing players were the injured Scott MacKenzie as well as Ryan Ferguson and Calum MacAulay. Martin Mainland started last year but was a substitute this time around.

Newtonmore made five switches from last year's pool with Paul MacArthur, Ackie MacRae and the injured Fraser MacKintosh not involved from the starting line-up. Conor Jones and David Fraser were also missing. Scottish international Steven Macdonald, who was ruled out last year through suspension; Andy MacKintosh, who was denied a place in 2017 through injury; and 48-year-old keeper Kenny Ross, in his first Scottish final, all started whilst there were places on the bench for former Boleskine and Aberdeen University player Ewen Fraser and second team skipper Stuart Mitchell.

'More's Steven Macdonald, who missed last year's final through suspension, lined up against Lorne MacKay in the middle of the park whilst Lovat danger-man Greg Matheson was again picked up by Rory Kennedy.

Despite the morning rain, Oban groundsman Ian Hay had the pitch

in great condition.

Lovat won the toss of the coin and opted to play into the wind in the first half.

Newtonmore went on the offensive from the throw-up and Iain Robinson's low shot was saved by Scotland and Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonald with Craig Mainland playing the rebound out for a corner. Lovat soon responded with Duncan Davidson's effort deflected for a corner.

A long ball from Daniel Grieve dropped into the 'More danger area and Kenny Ross did well as he came off his line and keep out Marc MacLachlan's flick from the left with the ball rebounding out of play off the Lovat man.

It was a tense opening spell and a surging Michael Russell run forward on 10 minutes questioned the Lovat defence. Russell slipped the ball to the left to Evan Menzies in space but 'More's top scorer tugged his shot wide of target.

When Craig Mainland was penalised for a challenge on Evan Menzies, Michael Russell rolled the free-hit inside to Iain Robinson but his snap-shot went low past the keeper's right post.

There was always going to be a physical element to the final and goal judge Alex MacVicar drew

referee Deek Cameron's attention to an off-the-ball tussle between Drew Howie and Glen MacKintosh ahead of a Lovat goal-hit. Both players received a ticking off and a handshake defused the situation.

The first serious strike on goal came seconds later, on 15 minutes, when Michael Russell's backhand strike drew a brilliant save as keeper Stuart MacDonald stretched high to palm the ball over the bar with his left hand.

At the other end, Duncan Davidson chested Graeme MacMillan's lofted ball from the right down to Greg Matheson but well-timed Rory Kennedy challenge got the ball away with Matheson requiring spray after sustaining a hand injury.

As the match moved into the second quarter, Lovat applied some pressure and Lorne MacKay managed to find Lewis Tawse but Kenny Ross palmed his shot away safely for a corner.

Lovat continued to press and, from the resultant corner, Craig Ritchie blocked a fierce Lewis Tawse drive.

Glen MacKintosh had by now moved to buckshee forward and he made enough space to shoot on his right side but his effort lacked power and Stuart MacDonald again saved with his hand.

Iain Robinson's back-hand strike

from distance on 29 minutes was deflected for a corner but a Newtonmore breakthrough was coming.

And it arrived on 31 minutes. David MacLean intercepted a Lovat clearance following Norman Campbell's massive goal-hit.

MacLean played a straight ball forward to Glen MacKintosh who turned and passed possession to Evan Menzies.

Menzies, last year's match winner, controlled the ball with his feet before darting to the 'More left, across the penalty spot with marker Craig Mainland in pursuit. Menzies then turned on a sixpence and forced a shot between keeper MacDonald and his right post to make it 1-0.

The goal sparked Lovat into action and they spurned an immediate chance to level when Graeme MacMillan's corner from the right fell for Marc MacLachlan but Norman Campbell got his left leg in the way to deflect MacLachlan's shot to safety.

Greg Matheson had the ball in the net on 34 minutes when he got on to Marc MacLachlan's cross from wide to the right but goal judge Lachie Wood spotted that Matheson was marginally offside and the effort was correctly ruled out.

There was a flashpoint for referee Deek Cameron to deal with when Lorne MacKay and Michael Russell exchanged jabs to the mid-rift with the end of their sticks and, as Russell fell wounded, Callum Cruden ran into the grounded player, kneeling him in the process. The incident was spotted by fourth official Robert Baxter and Cruden was shown a yellow card for his part.

Kenny Ross did well to save with his feet from Marc MacLachlan on 41 minutes after the Lovat full forward was able to bring down a high ball from Lorne MacKay's free-hit from the centre circle.

The save was all the more important given what happened next.

Jamie Robinson's shy from the left was scooped on by Evan Menzies and Glen MacKintosh got away from Drew Howie before sweeping the ball low into the net, beating an unsighted Stuart MacDonald inside his left post.

And if that wasn't bad enough for Lovat, disaster struck just 14 seconds later. Steven Macdonald won the ball from the restart and found Glen MacKintosh who held off Drew Howie before playing the ball into space on the right. Evan Menzies ran out and shot early. Scotland keeper MacDonald seemed to have the effort covered but it squirmed through his feet and into the net and 'More led 3-0.

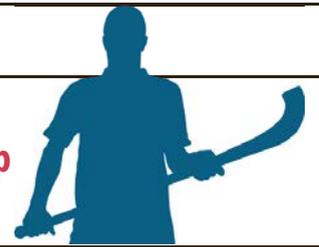
Steven MacDonald was booked for diving into a challenge as Greg

**Camanachd Cup
Macaulay Cup**

**MacTavish Cup
Celtic Society Cup**

**Sutherland Cup
Balliemore Cup**

**Strathdearn Cup
Bullough Cup**



More lift Camanachd Cup



Matheson got away from him in first half stoppage time.

With a couple of minutes' stoppage time played, referee Deek Cameron brought the first half to a close.

Lovat, now playing with the wind, had it all to do but Newtonmore, who didn't leave the pitch during the interval, went back on the offensive from the restart with Iain Robinson flashing a shot wide.

Stuart MacDonald then palmed down a long ball from David MacLean before clearing his lines.

Lovat suffered another blow just a couple of minutes into the second half when full forward Marc MacLachlan landed awkwardly whilst challenging for a high ball with Norman Campbell, twisting his left knee in the process. MacLachlan was left writhing in agony and was helped from the field by Campbell. It was later confirmed that he had suffered a dislocated knee. Bailey MacKay came on in his place.

The MacLachlan injury coupled with Newtonmore's three-goal cushion seemed to knock the stuffing out of the final for the next 10 minutes or so.

Glen MacKintosh blasted the ball over the junction between post and bar when a Craig Mainland knock-down fell into his path just after the hour.

The rain started to fall and Lovat made a second change on 64 minutes as Martin Mainland replaced Graeme MacMillan. Mainland went to wing centre with Lorne MacKay pushed into the attack.

Lovat desperately needed a goal but the closest they came were a couple of scrambles in the 'More goal area. Newtonmore made their first change on 68 minutes as David MacLean, on his first start following

injury, was withdrawn in favour of Drew MacDonald. When Jamie Robinson played in Evan Menzies with 20 minutes remaining, the 'More forward looked sure to complete his hat-trick as he fired in a blistering shot from the right but Stuart MacDonald made a breath-taking reflex save with his club.

Just seconds later, Kenny Ross blocked a Duncan Davidson shot and he then palmed the dropping ball away for a corner.

Craig Ritchie needed attention after a trip on Lewis Tawse, with the Lovat player's trailing stick catching him on the knee. Referee Cameron signalled that time would be added on with Lovat keen to get the match restarted.

Steven Macdonald then required treatment before continuing his role in the middle of the park.

Evan Menzies went close again, jinking to make space on the left, but his effort went just over the top.

Menzies seemed to pull up just a couple of minutes earlier as he chased a ball to the left. With two crucial league games on the horizon, manager Paul John MacKintosh took no chances, taking Menzies off with Ewen Fraser taking over. Neil Stewart also came on for a limping Michael Russell.

The closest to a goal during five minutes of stoppage time was when a long Drew MacDonald ball from the right dropped nicely for Jamie Robinson but keeper Stuart MacDonald spread himself to keep Robinson's chip out with the side of his face.

Newtonmore didn't have a failure in their ranks. Norman Campbell strolled through what seems likely to be his last Scottish final as he plans

to step down from first team shinty at the end of the season. Young defender Craig Ritchie turned in one of his best performances in a Newtonmore shirt whilst Steven Macdonald controlled the midfield for log spells. Up front, Evan Menzies starred with two goals and an assist, and his all-round performance earned the coveted Albert Smith medal for man of the match which was presented by Fort William first team manager Victor Smith; Albert Smith's grandson.

Lovat will look back at the final with regret. They never really got going, or perhaps were not allowed to get going, and they seem to find goals hard to come by against a mean Newtonmore defence.

This Newtonmore squad know their way around a celebration and whilst they'll mark this success in the traditional manner, they also know that a win against Oban Camanachd at the Eilan this coming Saturday will add the Marine Harvest Premiership to the trophy cabinet.

Lovat from: Stuart MacDonald; Drew Howie, Craig Mainland, Daniel Grieve, Callum Cruden; Danny Kelly, Lorne MacKay, Lewis Tawse (captain); Duncan Davidson, Graeme MacMillan, Greg Matheson, Marc MacLachlan; subs Martin Mainland, Thomas Fraser, Bailey MacKay, Chris Johnston

Newtonmore from: Kenny Ross; Norman Campbell, Rory Kennedy, Craig Ritchie, Andy MacKintosh (captain); David MacLean, Steven Macdonald, Jamie Robinson, Michael Russell, Iain Robinson, Evan Menzies, Glen MacKintosh; subs Drew MacDonald; Neil Stewart, Ewen Fraser, Iain Richardson, Stuart Mitchell

Match referee - Deek Cameron
Goal judges - Lachie Wood and Alex MacVicar

Fourth official - Robert Baxter
Linesmen - Des McNulty, Graham Fisher, Jim Innes and Neil MacDonald

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kingussie 7 Skye Camanachd 1

The only scheduled Marine Harvest Premiership fixture of the day was the 11.30am throw up between Kingussie and Skye Camanachd at the Dell.

This match was rescheduled at Skye's request as the original date clashed with Runrig's final concert in Stirling. Kingussie manager John Gibson had Savio Genini free of suspension but he was unavailable for this one. Louis Munro was also missing whilst Lee Bain joined



Newtonmore's Michael Russell dives into this challenge with Lovat's Callum Cruden. Photo: Stephen Lawson

Owen Reid and the returning Fraser Munro on the bench. Ryan MacWilliam, James Hutchison and Rory MacGregor made up the midfield.

Skye manager John MacLeod was without keeper Iain MacLeod so Ryan Morrison took over between the sticks. Jordan Murchison, Stewart Grant and John Gillies were also missing. Martin Pringle started in defence with Iain Nicolson in midfield alongside Kenny Campbell and Ally 'Cleodi' MacLeod.

It was an even opening and Skye had a chance on 12 minutes when Ruairaidh MacLeod went through one-on-one with Kingussie keeper

Craig Dawson but the youngster sent the ball past the post.

Skye's Iain Nicolson was booked by referee Calum Girvan a minute later for a challenge on Rory MacGregor.

Roddy Young followed up his hat-trick in the previous week's league win over Lochaber with the opening goal in this contest. Young collected the ball by the penalty spot and he turned his marker with his shot looping over the keeper and into the net to make it 1-0 with 14 minutes played.

Skye's Ruairaidh MacLeod sent another effort wide just three minutes later but it was Liam Borthwick who

Continued on page 58



Newtonmore's Steven MacDonald bites the dust after this tackle from Lovat's Greg Matheson. Photo: Stephen Lawson.

Fixtures

Marine Harvest Premiership

Newtonmore v Oban Camanachd
Kinlochshiel v Kingussie - 3pm
Kyles Ath v Glenurquhart - 3pm
Lovat v Skye - 3pm

National Division

Inveraray v Kilmallie - 3pm
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Fort William

North Division One

Kinlochshiel v Glenurquhart - noon
Fort William v Kingussie

South Division One

Inveraray v Lochside Rovers - noon
Kyles Athletic v Aberdour - noon
Col Glen v Kilmory
Ballachulish v Taynuilt
Bute v Tayforth

North Division Two

Lovat v Caberfeidh - noon
Strathspey v Lochcarron
Beaulv v Lochaber
Kilmallie v Lewis
Strathglass v Inverness

Throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated

Results

Saturday September 15

Camanachd Cup Final
Newtonmore 3 v 0 Lovat
Mossfield Stadium, Oban
Throw-up - 2pm
Deek Cameron

MacMaster Cup Final - Under 14s

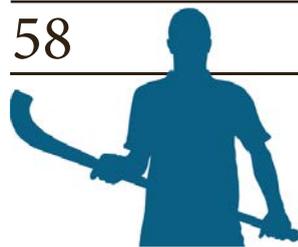
Beaulv 2 v 0 Fort William
Mossfield Stadium, Oban
Throw-up 11am
Graham Fisher

Premiership
Kingussie 7 v 1 Skye
Archie Ritchie

North Division 2

Strathspey P v P Lochaber
John Wood
Rescheduled for October 6
Caberfeidh 2 v 1 Kilmallie
John Matheson

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SHINTY NEWS

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Continued from page 57

added a second Kings goal on 24 minutes. The ball came in to Roddy Young at full forward and Borthwick made a run off him. Young slipped the ball through to Borthwick and he hit a first time shot past the keeper.

James Falconer added his name to the scoresheet on 34 minutes. Liam Borthwick sent the ball in low and hard from out wide and it touched off Falconer's club and went up into the air and over the goalie's head before resting in the net to make it 3-0.

Liam Borthwick got his second just five minutes later. There was a melee in the box with Roddy Young and Liam Borthwick both having shots cleared off the line before Borthwick eventually squeezed the ball home to make it 4-0 at half-time.

James Falconer got his second with a fine solo goal just four minutes after the restart. Falconer beat his marker on the wing before getting past the full back and taking the ball around the keeper and tucking it into the bottom corner of the net as he entered the D. Kingussie extended their advantage on 53 minutes. Liam Borthwick switched play to Roddy Young on the wing. Young turned his marker and cut in but was brought down at the edge of the D. Referee Calum Girvan played advantage and the ball bounced out to the edge of the box where an unmarked Ruaridh Anderson had run into the middle and he fired a back-hand shot though a group of players and through the unsighted keeper's legs to make it 6-0.

Skye were allowing the Kingussie forwards too much space and Roddy Young got his second on 59 minutes. Liam Borthwick played a ball inside and from a similar position to his first goal; Young turned his marker twice before shooting home.

Skye got some consolation on the hour when Ross Gordon sent a knee-high rocket shot from the left into the net to make it 7-1.

Kingussie have found goals hard to come by this season but their seven goals during the first hour of this game will give confidence to their young forward line of Ruaridh Anderson, Roddy Young, Liam Borthwick and James Falconer.

Kingussie will finish the season with home and away matches against Kinlochshiel whilst Skye are still four points behind eighth placed Caberfeidh with three matches remaining – away to Lovat, Caberfeidh and Oban Camanachd.

However, they will have to play these fixtures without manager John MacLeod who stepped down after the game. His assistants Donnie 'Digg' MacDonald and Iain 'Dowel' MacLeod will take the team for the remainder of the season.

Marine Harvest North Division 2 Caberfeidh 2 Kilmallie 1

A late Paul Ross goal gave the Caberfeidh seconds a 2-1 win over



Two-goal hero Evan Menzies, left, was voted man of the match and received the Albert Smith Memorial Medal holds the Camanachd Cup with Andy MacKintosh, Newtonmore club captain. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

the Kilmallie seconds in an entertaining match at Castle Leod. Ian MacColl, who normally plays in goals for the Caberfeidh reserves, gave them the lead on 15 minutes but Kilmallie's Struan Ross equalised just three minutes later.

And that's the way it stayed until four minutes from time when Paul Ross popped up with the winner.

Strathspey Camanachd P Lochaber P

The match between Strathspey Camanachd and the Lochaber reserves at Grantown Grammar School has been rescheduled for Saturday October 6.

WCA Round Up

With the North and South trails taking place at the Jubilee Park and Ganavan, and the North U14 and South U14 trials happening at Ganavan and Craigard, there was just one top flight Women's Camanachd Association fixture on Sunday September 16.

Marine Harvest National Division 1

Badenoch & Strathspey 22
Ardnamurchan 0

Badenoch and Strathspey had a big win over newly promoted Ardnamurchan in their 2pm throw up at the Dell.

This was Badenoch's game in hand on league leaders Skye and they took full advantage against their less experienced opponents.

Kirsty Deans scored six times with Mairi Stewart getting four goals and Rona Stewart, Elizabeth McGregor and Jeanette McGregor all grabbing hat-tricks. Roma Fraser, Sarah Caird and Katie Falconer got the others.

This was Badenoch's second successive victory since their recent Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup final win over Skye whilst Robbie Gordon's Skye side has still to play since that day.

Badenoch now trail Skye by just two points. Skye have a 100 per cent record in the division whilst Badenoch's only defeat was a 3-1 reverse against the islanders at the Dell earlier in the season. Both sides have just two league fixtures remaining. Both Skye games are at home.

Indeed they have only played twice at home this season – against newly promoted pair Ardnamurchan and Strathspey – as Aberdeen, Fort William and Glasgow Mid Argyll failed to travel to Portree and forfeited the points as a consequence.

In the remaining matches, Skye host Lochaber on Saturday September 22 whilst Badenoch welcome Glasgow Mid Argyll to the Dell a day later. Skye Camanachd and Badenoch and Strathspey are then due to meet at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree in what could be a title-decider on Saturday October 6.

WCA Scotland U18 Development Squad

The Women's Camanachd Association coaching team has announced this year's Scotland U18 Development squad.

They will play a challenge match against the Scotland Development Squad at Braeview Park on Sunday October 21.

Throw-up is at 1pm and the game will form part of the shinty/hurling/camogie weekend.

Scotland U18 from:
Caitlin Mutch - Inverness
Hannah Johnson - Inverness
Roma Fraser - Badenoch and Strathspey
Emma Gordon - Skye Camanachd
Christina McDonald - Skye Camanachd
Kirsty Dibble - Skye Camanachd
Katherine Dibble - Skye Camanachd

Amy Disher - Lochaber
Mairi Duncan - Lochaber
Abi Stoddart - Glenurquhart
Kate Bradley - Ardnamurchan
Eilidh Ross - Ardnamurchan
Orla McCarthy - Glasgow Mid Argyll
Anne Fairbairn - Fort William
Emily Gordon - Glengarry
Leona Falconer - Glengarry

Youth Fixtures Kenneth MacMaster Cup final

Beaulieu U14 0
Fort William U14 0

The 2018 Camanachd Cup final at Mossfield was preceded by the Kenneth MacMaster Cup Final between Beaulieu U14 and Fort William U14.

Beaulieu went into this 11am throw up as pre-match favourites. After getting a first round bye, they beat Skye and Lochaber to reach the final.

Fort William overcame their Lovat, Newtonmore and Caberfeidh counter-parts on their path to Oban.

Beaulieu got off to a great start as Callum MacIver gave them the lead after just two minutes, scoring from close range.

Rory MacColl added a second goal just 10 minutes into the second half when his back-hand strike, following a knock-down out of the Fort defence, went low past keeper Struan Stephen. The young Fort William squad will take much from the game with almost all of their players eligible for the same competition next season.

Beaulieu have some fine young players and they are unbeaten this season. Their captain Euan MacCormick was presented with the MacMaster Cup.

Graham Fisher was the match referee.

When two worlds collide

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

The Throw Up 2018 project, organised by Highland Print Studio and funded by Highland Culture Strategic Board's Highland Culture: Take Pride, Take Part programme, commissioned four artists to work with designated shinty clubs during 2017 and into the 2018 shinty season. A selection of the final work was exhibited for the first time at last weekend's Camanachd Cup final in Oban.

The artists created a series of artworks inspired by the contemporary culture and heritage of the iconic, indigenous sport. Over the past 12 months they have spent time getting to know the people involved in the clubs, from players to volunteers, to fans, and through them find out more about the sport, the club and its history.



Beaulieu Under 14s defeated Fort William 2-0 to win the MacMaster Cup at Mossfield on Saturday. The game was played before the Camanachd Cup final. Photo: Neil Paterson

Each artist has worked using a number of disciplines including: photography, linocut, screen printing, photogravure and knitting to capture and portray original artwork as a legacy to the clubs involved.

Artist Tom Smith, from Lateral North, has been working with Beaulieu Shinty Club to develop an interactive artwork to showcase three stories at a local, national and international level which highlights the significance of shinty within the community. Through the use of augmented reality they aim to bring these compelling stories to life.

Perhaps the saddest story explores Beaulieu's team during the First World War. Regarded as perhaps the community's greatest ever team, Beaulieu won the Camanachd and MacTavish Cups in 1913, the first club to do that particular double.

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

Donald, a great piper, was killed at the battle of Festubert where his blood stained pipes and a pipe tune were both recovered. This tune, named 'Beaulieu Shinty Club', was thought to reminisce the 1913 victory.

A generation later, the pipes have now been taken on by his nephew and renowned piper Duncan MacGillivray. These restored pipes have now been played around the world including Copacabana beach.

The works of the other artists on the project include:

Roddy Buchanan (Fort William Shinty Club): Roddy is a Glasgow-based artist who exhibits his work nationally and internationally. Roddy was interested by the interaction of the players on the field and his work captures the moments when players lock in battle.

Deirdre Nelson (Newtonmore Camanachd): Deirdre often works with textiles, including projects based in Fair Isle and Shapinsay. Deirdre focussed on the community and the numbers involved at maintaining the club, both on and off the field. One of her findings was



Beaulieu captain Euan MacCormick with the Kenneth MacMaster Cup. Photo: Neil Paterson

that there were more bakers than first team players which she has documented in screen print.

John McNaught (Skye Camanachd): John who grew up in Skye and is an artist working from Cromarty in the North of Scotland. He is a specialist in printmaking and photography, both freelance and as studio manager at Highland Print Studio in Inverness. He used mixed media print making to mark Skye Camanachd celebrating 125 years.

Highland Print Studio Director Alison McMenemy said: 'This has been a great experience learning more about this unique sport. The level of commitment from shinty communities to running the clubs year on year is remarkable. These players play like professionals; to achieve and maintain that level of skill and fitness alongside a day job is truly impressive. These guys are true athletes.'

Steven Mackenzie, who is the Camanachd Association's communications director and is also Beaulieu Shinty Club secretary added: 'We've been really looking forward to seeing the artwork all in one place. I know the teams involved have enjoyed working with the artists and sharing stories of the clubs' past. From a Beaulieu perspective, working with Tom, who is a former Lovat player, has been a pleasure and we hope he has a better understanding and new found respect for his traditional rivals.'

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT
£2550

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes.

Winners' names and home towns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.



Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name

Address

Tel No.

Please tape your £1 coin here (only if posting)

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
I Grant
Oban
N Campbell
Dumbarton

OT

JUNIOR GOLF

Isle of Seil Junior Open



Pictured are the winners of the Isle of Seil Junior Open held on September 16. Lewis Campbell, right, was the scratch winner with Aaron MacLarty winning the handicap. Second scratch, on count back, was Lewis MacMillan, Dalmally, with Ben MacCorquodale, from Appin third. Second handicap was Joe MacVicar, Seil, with Andrew Macmillan in third place.

PRIMARY SHINTY

Newtonmore and Rockfield primaries win shinty festival

Prior to Saturday's Camanachd Cup Final at Mossfield, nine primary teams from the South area plus Newtonmore took part in a shinty festival to celebrate all that is great within youth Shinty.

The teams were split into two age groups; a P5-and-under section with four teams, and a P7-and-under section with five teams. All the games were refereed by senior pupils Lennon Campbell, Charlie Campbell-Roberts and Blair MacFarlane and got underway just after 11am.

The Primary 5 teams played each other twice to maximise their game time and after the league had finished it was clear Newtonmore were the strongest of the teams finishing at the top. The three other sides, Rockfield, Park and Kyles/Strachur were equally matched though and Rockfield finished second behind Newtonmore.

The Primary 7 section had the same teams represented plus an Inveraray side. Again each team found competitive games within the group but like the P5 section it was Rockfield and Newtonmore who finished top of the league. This league was decided with a final and despite some late pressure for Newtonmore the game went straight to penalties. Perhaps fittingly it was Rockfield who won the shoot-out after having finished top of the league section.

This was a great advert for youth shinty with the teams giving their all and respecting the officials who had also represented themselves very well after having only officiated a few matches prior to Saturday.

Table topping ladies record impressive win

Ayr Ladies	19
Oban Lorne Ladies	49
Women's National League 1	

Oban Lorne Ladies made the long journey to Ayr on Sunday with a squad of only 15 players for what would be their toughest match of the season. Ayr having been relegated from premier league last season would be a strong and organised team to take on.

During the opening minutes nerves were showing and mistakes were made by both teams. The opening plays saw lots of scrums, with both teams having strong forward packs the scrums were fairly even. After 10 minutes Oban's fly half Lucy Stewart scored her first try and then converted to take the score to 0-7. Fifteen minutes in and Stewart scored her second try of the day. Following some great footwork and support from her team mates, Lucy found a gap in the strong defence. Again Stewart converted well. 14-0 to Oban Lorne.

Oban were playing well as a team working together and showing how much hard work they have been putting in during training together with coaches Corrie Louw, Billy Thomson and Darrell Williams.

Shortly there followed another break by Lucy Stewart, with great support by hooker Selina Keppie and an offload to winger Ellen Barlow for Oban's third try of the day. The conversion was good



Oban Lorne Ladies.

again by Stewart as Oban now led an impressive 21-0.

Flanker Ailsa MacLachlan did well in controlling the defence and excellent line speed throughout the game complemented by Erika Skofca and Kirsty Sinclair meant Oban's defence was proving hard to break.

However, after 30 minutes a try came for Ayr by their powerful forwards finally breaking through the strong Oban defence. The conversion narrowed the lead to 7-21.

Oban came back with a great response to the Ayr try; an interception by powerful centre Erika Skofca on the Ayr five-metre line followed by a quick offload to Kirsty Sinclair lead to her scoring her first try of the game.

After 35 minutes there was another try for Ayr, with a good conversion bringing the score to 14-28.

Half time saw a good motivational talk from head coach Corrie Louw who was overall

pleased with the ladies' performance.

The restart was slightly scrappy with a couple of penalties awarded to both teams. Oban soon sorted out their issues and after 45 mins there was a second try for Sinclair after an interception on the halfway line. She could not be caught by Ayr defence and touched the ball down with ease. The try was converted and Oban's lead extended to 14-35.

After 55 minutes, Ayr were hungry to close the gap and their scrum half found space on the outside of the Oban defence. After a penalty against Oban for being offside, she scored a try on the wing taking the score to 19-35.

Heather Fothergill was quick to respond to the ref's calls and got in a few great tackles putting Ayr wingers into touch. There were also great tackles put in by Howdo Bean, who found herself playing in the forward pack for the first time with Oban.

Ailsa MacLachlan was also quick to defend the Oban line and made some strong runs through the game. At 65 mins Oban used a quick inside ball to Skofca and, following a strong Oban scrum, there was no stopping her. Stewart's reliable conversation brought the score to 19-42. After 70 mins Ellie MacNiven scored a try on the back of a powerful run and some clever footwork from the Ayr five metre line. The conversion was good yet again and the score finished at 19-49.

Oban's players of the match were awarded to forward Ailsa MacLachlan and Lucy Stewart. The ladies are away again on Sunday to Greenock Wanderers Ladies, who sit mid table after the opening few games. Oban train every Tuesday 6pm and Thursday 6.30pm at the rugby club.

Sunday's result means that Oban sit clear at the top of National Division 1. Sunday's win is also the club's first victory over Ayr.

Alasdair Currie in star driver shoot-out

Seven ARR Craib MSA Scottish Rally Championship (SRC) competitors, including Mull's Alasdair Currie, were due to head to Fife's Knockhill Racing Circuit on yesterday (Wednesday September 19) to contest the SRC John Horton Star Driver Award shoot-out.

This year seven finalists – five picked after a counting round of the SRC and two wildcards – would compete against each other in a series of tests in pursuit of a day's tuition with 1999 British Rally champion Tapio Laukkanen and African Rally champion co-driver Drew Sturrock.

Paddy Munro, Angus Lawrie, Ross Hughes and Steven Wood had all previously booked themselves a place in the shoot-out, with Galloway Hills recipient John Wink and wildcards Michael Binnie and Mull's Alasdair Currie joining the quartet to complete the line-up. Marty Scott had received a nomination following the Speyside Stages but was not able to compete due to work commitments.

The shoot-out is a three-part test of the driver's skillset. Each finalist will have had an interview with a panel of judges to assess attitude and

aptitude. Prestone MSA British Rally Championship manager and Dayinsure Wales Rally GB clerk of the course Iain Campbell will be joined by MCR Motorsport Media's Matt Cotton and The Sun Scotland's motoring editor Jon Doran for the process.

The drivers then join their co-drivers and head out onto a specially-created stage around the Rallyschool track at Knockhill to write a set of brand new pace notes from scratch. They are joined in the car by former factory co-driver and team manager Mike Broad, as well

RALLYING

as two-time Scottish Rally Champion Andrew Wood to access the note-making process.

There are then selected runs over the stage in the afternoon, as the judges gather together to watch the drivers in action before deliberation on their decision.

SRC chairman Gordon Adam was delighted to see the Star Driver Award return for a second year, and believes whoever comes out on top of the shoot-out will be more than deserving.



Fifteen swimmers from Oban Otters competed at the Argyll and Clyde Championships last Saturday in Helensburgh. Swimmers ranged in age from 9-16 years. It was a very successful meet for the squad with lots of personal bests and plenty of medals.

Lorne come out on top in derby

Helensburgh	28
Oban Lorne	49

Tennent's West Division 2

Oban Lorne made the trip to Helensburgh last weekend for their shortest away trip of the season for this Argyll derby against old foes Helensburgh. Both these teams know each other well having played out the last few seasons in West Division 1. With both teams being relegated last season and changes behind the scenes with new coaching staff, this was going to be an interesting encounter.

Oban were looking to continue their strong start to the season having claimed bonus point victories in the first two rounds of the league – a 36-6 win at home to Cumbernauld and an impressive 22-32 win at Paisley last weekend. Helensburgh were looking to get back on track after two opening defeats.

The Oban squad showed only a couple of changes from last week's win against Paisley with big Kyle Graham claiming a starting slot in the second row after impressing off the bench last week. Young Andy Ritchie made his first start of the season on the wing and was joined on the other wing by veteran Roddy Morrison.

Oban started the game well causing problems for Helensburgh with their expansive game plan. Oban threatened out wide early on and after some good quick rucks the first try of the

game came after five minutes when No 8 Owen Macdonald surged clear inside the 22 to score the first of Oban's tries. Finlay Carmichael stepped up to slot the conversion from an awkward angle and give Oban a 7-0 lead.

This was quickly followed by another try for Oban scored this time by Lorne MacLachlan. Again good quick ruck ball inside the opposition 22 allowed Lorne to break a couple of tackles and score under the posts. This try was again converted by Carmichael and Oban had raced into a 14-0 lead.

Oban were quick to get on the score board again when Craig Wright was launched from deep in his own half to race almost 80 metres for the next Oban try. This was again converted by Carmichael and Oban were leading 21-0.

The Oban pack were dominating the Helensburgh pack at this time with the pace of the game. This was creating space out wide as Oban were willing to give the ball width at every opportunity. This allowed Oban to secure the bonus point with their fourth try after 30 minutes. Craig Wright again found space on the outside to outpace the cover defence and score his second try of the game. Carmichael was having a great day with the boot and he nailed another conversion to put Oban 28-0 ahead.

Oban captain Iwan Rhys Roberts was next on the scoresheet with a classic interception try around the

halfway line and sped away to score under the posts again. Carmichael converted again for a flawless first half kicking display and Oban were leading 35-0.

The Oban willingness to throw the ball around was to be their own downfall as a couple of dubious offloads allowed the Helensburgh back line to hack the ball into the Oban 22 where another mistake allowed their centre to ground the ball over the line. This was duly converted and Oban led 35-7 at half time.

Helensburgh came out with all guns blazing at the start of the second half and managed to get their big forward running on to the ball and made good yards into the Oban 22. Poor tackling from Oban was allowing Helensburgh to get on the front foot and the pressure eventually told and the hosts scored their second try of the match. Oban 35 Helensburgh 14.

Oban burst right back and vice captain Stephen Povey was next to cross the Helensburgh line with a trade mark surge, bursting a couple of tackles to get Oban back on track.

Helensburgh responded again with more poor tackling allowing the forwards to break the advantage line and get in behind. A well-worked backs' move then allowed the Burgh winger to score in the corner.

Oban made a few changes with Radi Maksimov and Daniel Speirs entering the fray for the last 30 mins. The

RUGBY

change in the engine room didn't change the dominance the Oban pack had enjoyed at scrum time with Oban securing a push over try after taking the scrum against the feed. No 8 Owen Macdonald touched the ball down for his second try of the game. The big doctor has been a fantastic addition to the team and brings a real dynamism to the back row.

Oban were to be the architects of their own demise yet again allowing Helensburgh in for the bonus point score with more poor defending. Missed tackles were the order of the day and this will need to be addressed at training this week.

Final score was Helensburgh 28 Oban Lorne 49.

There were lots of positives to take from Oban's attacking play although coach Andrew Johnston was really disappointed to give away 28 points in defence. A lot of work needs to be done to fix some of these problems ahead of next week's trip away to Strathaven.

The following weekend, September 29, Oban will host Dalziel RFC from West Division 1 in the next round of the West shield and this will be a tough test for the Oban team.

The club would like to welcome any former players up to the club for a pie and pint before the match.

This weekend's fixture away to Strathaven kicks off at 3pm.

GOLF



The winning Oban Memorials team Ally MacLean, Alan MacPhee, Dougie MacLean and Willie MacAdam.

Oban Camanachd hold successful golf day

Oban Camanachd held a successful golf day at Glencruitten last Sunday where 60 players took part. The event was sponsored by Oban Memorials which took home the trophy as the winning team. Tournament organiser Gareth Evans would like to thank the sponsors and the golf club for laying on hospitality for the players. The cash raised will go to provide equipment for the club's youth teams.



Sean Dunstaffnage won the trophy for longest drive at the first hole.



Oban Saints co-manager Donald Campbell was nearest the pin at the 5th.



Nearest the pin at the 15th was Pat Steeman.



Steven Davitt was nearest the pin at the 15th.

Results from Glencruitten

Winners of the Open Scramble at Glencruitten on Saturday were Jordan Campbell, Graham MacColl, Alistair McLean Jnr and Dugald MacLean with a score of 52 – 2.3 = 49.7.

In second place were Malcolm Cullen, Dail Beattie, Donnie MacLean and Alexander Gow with a score of 61 – 7.8 = 53.2.

On Saturday the Dennis Cathro Pairs take place.

Taynuilt golf results

MacDougall Cup second round and September Tankard - 1 Mark Henricksen 67-08=59; 2 David Laurie 85-23=62; 3 Keith Cameron 84-22=62.

MacDougall Cup winners - 1 Mark Henricksen 63+59=122; 2 David Laurie 61+62=123; 3 Calum Munro 62+66=128.

OT

GOLF



Robert MacIntyre. Photo: Bounce Sports

Bob just misses the cut in Kazakhstan

Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre just failed to make the cut at the Kazakhstan Open last week which was played at the Zhailjau Golf Resort in Almaty.

Robert carded two rounds of 71 for a two under par total of 142 but he missed the cut by one stroke.

The Glencruitten golfer will be hoping to get back on track as the Challenge Tour moves on to the Hoppis Open de Provence played at the Golf International de Pont Royal Golf Club in Mallefont, France starting on today (Thursday September 20).

YOUTH FOOTBALL



Oban Saints Under 13s.

Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: Scottish Cup first round - Under 13s 5, Rutherglen Burgh 1. Scoring for Saints were Aidan MacDonald, Zander Craik, Carson Sloss, Logan Black and Gabriel Tidser. League Cup - Under 14s v Celtic Juniors, postponed; Scottish Cup - Under 16s v Everton BC, postponed.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s no game; Under 14s no game; Scottish Cup first round - Under 16s v Everton BC, Oban Community pitch, 1pm kick-off



Soccer Centre youngsters on their way to Hampden.

Hampden visit enjoyed

A healthy Mid Argyll support was at Hampden recently to see Scotland take on World Cup semi-finalists Belgium at Hampden Park.

A bus load of 40 youngsters from Lochgilphead Soccer Centre headed off to Glasgow in the afternoon to cheer on Scotland in their friendly game.

Soccer centre coach Bruce West said: 'They all had a fabulous time, despite the score.'

Narky Arky are put to the sword

Oban Saints	2
Barrhead Arky	1
SAFL Premier Division	

Oban Saints maintained their 100 per cent start to the season with a hard fought win over last season's Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division One champions Barrhead Arky at Glencruitten last Saturday.

With the remainder of the Premier Division in West of Scotland Amateur Cup action the win stretches Saints' lead at the top of the fledgling league table to six points over nearest challengers St Joseph's FP and Goldenhill.

Graham Douglas returned in goal behind an unchanged back four of Jamie Graham, Steven MacLeod, Captain Dene Cassells and Scott Maitland. Kerr Newbigging and Daniel Croarkin continued their promising partnership in the middle of the park while ahead of them Matt Rippon took over from the unavailable Lewis Cameron, flanked by Fraser MacFarlane and James Ford. With Craig MacEwan and Paul Carmichael still unavailable, and Shaun MacIver injured, a short-of-fitness co-manager Donald Campbell continued in the centre forward role.

Campbell's other half Willie Gemmell took his place

on the bench with Dougal Graham, Ben Pollock and youngsters Ruairidh Horne, Kenneth Black and Aaron McKay for company.

The D & K Lafferty-sponsored Oban side kicked off attacking the railway end on a Glencruitten surface which was in remarkably good condition considering the recent heavy rain.

In the opening stages the fluency of the 8-1 win against Dunoon on their last home outing appeared to have deserted Saints and they struggled to settle into their usual rhythm taking until the 10th minute to muster a shot on goal. After some good work on the left James Ford tee'd up Kerr Newbigging for a thumping shot from the edge of the box which flew narrowly wide of target.

Jamie Graham got forward on the right in the 13th minute and picked out Matt Rippon's near post run, however, a timely interception by Arky central defender Darren Livingston took the ball off Rippon's toe and out for a corner kick. Fraser MacFarlane's delivery was a poor one failing to clear the first defender and the visitors broke up the left with Craig Cameron squaring to Conor McArthur for a volley back across goal and wide of target.

Another break up the left in



Scott Maitland glides past Conor McArthur.

the 26th minute, after Jamie Graham had misjudged a header, saw Arky fullback John Kennedy crash a powerful shot over the crossbar as the visitors enjoyed their best spell of the first half.

Saints finally forced Arky keeper Jamie Henderson into action in the 29th minute but Matt Rippon couldn't generate enough power on his back post header from a James Ford cross from the left to seriously trouble the Arky net minder.

Standing in for regular keeper Ross O'Hagan, Henderson showed he is no slouch between the posts as 60 seconds later he dived full length to his right to finger-tip a low, net bound, James Ford drive around the post for a corner kick.

Fraser MacFarlane produced a far better delivery this time picking out a near post run from Dene Cassells who prodded the ball home from three yards out to give Saints the lead.

Saints doubled their advantage in the 32nd minute after Jamie Graham was felled just inside the Arky box on the Saints right. Referee Archie Mitchell, taking charge of his first Premier Division match,

was well positioned and had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. With regular penalty taker Lewis Cameron unavailable Matt Rippon seized the opportunity to add to his goal tally and made no mistake leaving Henderson rooted on his goal-line as the ball nestled in the bottom corner.

Having taken the initiative Saints looked to extend their lead still further in the 38th minute. Donald Campbell and James Ford linked up well on the left with Ford picking out Daniel Croarkin's supporting run from midfield. Unfortunately Croarkin was unable to replicate his clever flicked finish of the previous week (curmudgeonly described here as a four yard tap-in) with Jamie Henderson making a vital block at his near post.

A well-measured 41st minute Scott Maitland cross from the left after a driving run from deep deserved better than Matt Rippon's wayward back post header as Saints, despite not being at their best, ended the first half good value for their two-goal lead.

Saints began the second half in determined fashion and the visitors required a vital



Saints goalkeeper Graham Douglas.



Graham Douglas saves Gary Kelly's penalty kick.



Saints captain Dene Cassells opens the scoring. Match report and photos: Derek Black

sliding interception from Darren Livingston to foil James Ford after a delightful flick from Donald Campbell.

Gavin Turner's heavy 52nd minute challenge on James Ford gave Saints a dangerous area. With Willie Gemmell on the sidelines Kerr Newbigging tried his luck from 28 yards, however, the search for a new free-kick

with Andrew Smith, Sean Love and Jamie Pattison.

A 61st minute push by Kerr Newbigging handed Conor McArthur the chance to test Graham Douglas from 28 yards but, despite managing to beat the four-man Saints wall, he was unable to find the target.

Jamie Graham skipped away from Andrew Smith on the right in the 63rd minute but failed to pick out Matt Rippon in the middle with a low cross too close to Jamie Henderson.

Dene Cassells got forward in the 67th minute and sent Fraser MacFarlane away on the left for another disappointing cross which failed to find a red shirt in the box.

In the first of co-manager Willie Gemmell's changes Jamie Graham made way for Ruaridh Horne in a direct swap at right-back.

Saints were denied a penalty kick, firmly in the stone wall category, for a late and heavy challenge on Daniel Croarkin.

A minute later referee Mitchell awarded Barrhead a spot kick with a 'ball to hand' decision given against Steven MacLeod. Graham Douglas came to the rescue diving low to his left to parry Arky skipper Gary Kelly's spot kick before scrambling back across to smother the ball at the on-rushing David Bannerman's feet.

The visitors pulled a goal back in the 75th minute when John McDade got in between Kerr Newbigging and Dene Cassells to nod home David Bannerman's corner kick from the right.

Saints came agonisingly close to restoring their two-goal advantage straight from the re-start only for Jamie Henderson to produce another top quality save leaping high to his right to push behind a Kerr Newbigging 25-yard pile-driver.



Kerr Newbigging beats Jack Doak in the air.

specialist looks set to continue as Newbigging blasted his effort high over the crossbar.

The Saints pressure began to build and Jamie Henderson came off his line well to make an excellent block at Fraser MacFarlane's feet.

Donald Campbell couldn't believe his luck in the 55th minute when his attempted low curler into the bottom corner struck the outstretched left leg of Gavin Turner and spun away from goal. The loose ball fell to Kerr Newbigging who couldn't get it under control on the edge of the six-yard box with John McDade finally managing to clear the danger.

Arky made three changes just before the hour mark replacing John Kennedy, Jack Doak and Craig Cameron

with Andrew Smith, Sean Love and Jamie Pattison.

A 61st minute push by Kerr Newbigging handed Conor McArthur the chance to test Graham Douglas from 28 yards but, despite managing to beat the four-man Saints wall, he was unable to find the target.

Jamie Graham skipped away from Andrew Smith on the right in the 63rd minute but failed to pick out Matt Rippon in the middle with a low cross too close to Jamie Henderson.

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Kerr Newbigging, Daniel Croarkin and Donald Campbell congratulate Matt Rippon on his successful penalty to make the score 2-0.

A late 77th minute Donald Campbell challenge on the halfway line had both sets of players and the Arky supporters searching for their handbags as tempers boiled over.

Fortunately Mr Mitchell was able to draw on his experience and quickly restored order with the award of a free-kick to Arky. Before the restart Saints made their final switch sending on Dougal Graham to replace Daniel Croarkin. Graham took over Scott Maitland's left-back berth with Maitland moving into midfield.

Graham Douglas came out confidently to claim the free-kick under pressure from Darren Livingston and Jamie Pattison and launched a Saints counter-attack where Donald Campbell picked out Scott Maitland's supporting run with an inch perfect pass.

Disappointingly Maitland snatched at the chance blazing a very presentable opportunity wide of target.

Fraser MacFarlane's clever flick from Matt Rippon's 85th-minute free-kick from the right almost crept in at the far post before the visitors launched one last free-kick into the box.

FOOTBALL

Darren Livingston beat Kerr Newbigging in the air to send the ball across the face of goal but thankfully too far ahead of Sean Love coming in at the back post.

Mr Mitchell's final whistle brought to a close an 'entertaining' afternoon for the Glencruitten faithful who can look forward to another home fixture this coming Saturday when Motherwell Thistle bring their own 100 per cent record to town for a Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division clash.

The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.



Fraser MacFarlane.



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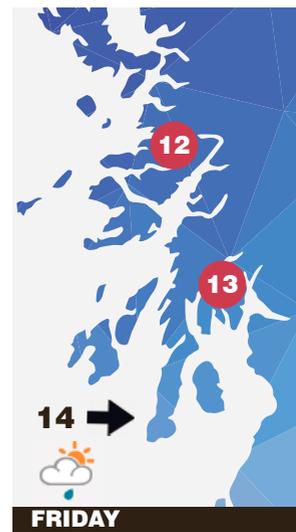


WEATHER

Thursday
Light rain showers with a moderate breeze from the south west
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

Friday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze from the west
Temperatures 8°C to 12°C.

Weekend Outlook
Cloudy on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Moderate breeze from the west south west
Temperatures 10°C to 14°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday September 20, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	03.32	2.8	09.10	1.7
Thur	15.18	3.2	21.39	1.8
Fri	03.52	3.0	09.59	1.5
	15.55	3.4	22.21	1.6
Sat	04.15	3.3	10.37	1.3
	16.29	3.7	22.53	1.3
Sun	04.46	3.5	11.10	1.1
	17.03	3.9	23.23	1.1
Mon	05.19	3.7	11.40	0.9
	17.37	4.0	23.54	1.0
Tues	05.51	3.8	12.08	0.9
	18.10	4.1	***	**
Wed	00.25	0.8	06.18	3.9
	12.36	0.8	18.38	4.1

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd



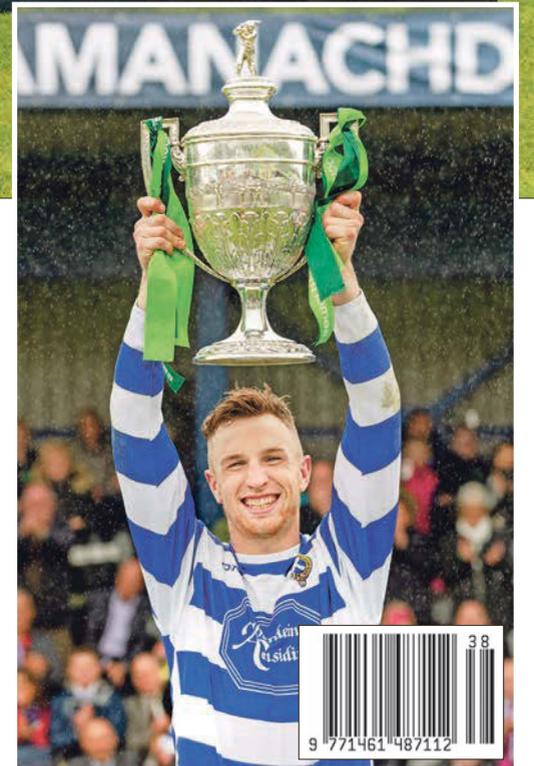
INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Oban Camanachd hold
successful golf day

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AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 63



The victorious Newtonmore squad with the Camanachd Cup after their 3-0 win over Lovat. Inset: Newtonmore skipper Andy Mackintosh with the cup. Match report and more photographs on shinty pages 56-59. Photos: Neil Paterson

Newtonmore defeat Lovat to lift the Camanachd Cup



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90p



Kinlochleven hosts Skyrunning championships



Impressive display at Glengarry

Infrastructure key to 2040 vision

Fort William masterplan event hailed a success

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William residents spoke with a 'united voice' on the future of the town last week as they made clear to Highland Council and government planners that transport and connectivity in the area must improve before any developments can go ahead.

The construction of more than 250 houses, a replacement Belford Hospital, a centre for science excellence and the addition of 400 new jobs at the Liberty factory were just some of the projects in the Fort William 2040 masterplan that were pored over by more than 120 people during a full day of public workshops and discussions last Wednesday at the Nevis Centre.

In anticipation of a period of drastic change in the town, Highland Council, along with

the Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, compiled the Fort William 2040 masterplan, which clearly sets out the 20-plus projects that are expected to be completed within the next 22 years.

At the consultation meeting last week, public officials listened to lively discussions between residents, business owners and community representatives on the masterplan.

'One clear message that was reinforced was the need for infrastructure change to happen soon,' said Scott Dalgarno, development plans manager for FW 2040.

'It gave locals, and us at the Highland Council, a useful chance to impress upon the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland officials the urgent need for infrastructure improvements.'

Continued on page five.

Fort folk put hands in pockets for William



Such is the popularity of William, the resident dog at Invernevis House care home in Fort William, that a wee fundraising appeal to help cover extra costs such as food and treats has snowballed and has seen people digging deep into their pockets.

And now comes the fantastic news that the town's Crown Vets practice has generously agreed to help with William's vet bills and make sure that all his immunisations are kept up to date.

Pictured here with William are home driver/handyman David Stafford, right - known to all as 'Towser' - and the residential home's deputy manager Krzysztof Kowalski. For the full story, turn to page 11.



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LT

Act of 'stupidity' sees Montrose visitor to Fort fined £480

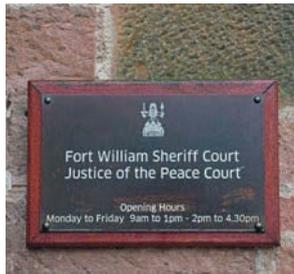
A Montrose reveller, enjoying a visit to Fort William for the summer's mountain biking world championships event, was fined £480 for what a sheriff described as 'a ridiculously stupid thing to do'.

Graeme Robb Simpson, 32, of Dalhousie Terrace, Montrose, had pleaded guilty to an amended charge of common law assault when he appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

The court heard that on the day in question, father of one Simpson, who is single, had been under the influence of alcohol having been drinking since the lunchtime of the previous day.

Procurator Fiscal Robert Weir said a woman unknown to Simpson had been walking in the High Street: 'The accused had placed his head between her breasts and shook his head from side to side before walking away.'

'The matter was reported to police. A foot patrol was



nearby and the accused was traced and arrested.'

Defence agent Catriona Rowantree said Simpson had been in the town for the mountain biking world championships and had been with friends.

'He had started drinking at lunchtime the previous day and this was an act of drunken stupidity on his part. There was no sexual intent on his part and he has expressed remorse and regret,' she said.

Fining Simpson, who works as a mechanical fitter, Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald commented: 'This was a ridiculously stupid thing to do.'

Shoplifters appear in sheriff court

Three men appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court last week for sentencing in connection with various shoplifting offences in the Co-op store and the McColl's shop, both in Caol.

David O'Hara, 25, of Kilmallie Road, Caol, pleaded guilty to stealing a quantity of alcohol from the McColl's shop on November 18, 2017. His plea of not guilty to stealing a bottle of whisky from the Co-op in Caol the same day was accepted by the Crown.

Procurator Fiscal Robert Weir told the court O'Hara had stolen some wine and cans of lager worth around £15. He had been spotted on CCTV and reported to police.

A further charge, which O'Hara also admitted, of possessing ecstasy, stemmed from an unrelated matter when O'Hara was in a police

cell on June 3 this year and the cell area was searched. Five ecstasy tablets with a value of £25 were discovered.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said O'Hara was a single, unemployed man, adding: 'The offences were of a relatively low value but when taken together there is obviously a concern.'

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald fined O'Hara £485, which included a monetary penalty of £150 following a review of a Community Payback Order.

Aidan Maclean-Stewart, 22, of Bute Place, Fort William pleaded guilty to stealing alcohol, also from McColl's in Caol, on November 18 last year, and that he did this while on bail.

Maclean-Stewart was also sentenced for injuring his partner by kicking a door and crushing her hand against a wall on April 15 last year

at his then home address in Fort William, which he had previously admitted at an earlier court appearance; behaving in a threatening or abusive manner on April 11 at the same address by shouting and swearing at his partner and holding a kitchen knife to his own throat and threatening to kill himself, which he also admitted previously; and to damaging a vehicle in Kennedy Road, Fort William on September 16, 2017, and to which he pleaded guilty at an earlier court appearance.

Maclean-Stewart also admitted breaching bail.

Sheriff MacDonald told Maclean-Stewart he had cases accumulating 'left, right and centre'. She fined him £470, ordered him to do 100 hours of unpaid work as a direct alternative to custody, and admonished him on the breach of bail.

Scott Crichton, 26, a single man employed as a window cleaner, who now lives in Inverroy, also pleaded guilty to stealing an item of food on November 18 at the Co-op in Caol.

The Procurator Fiscal told the court that Crichton had been spotted on CCTV taking something from the frozen section, which turned out to be some reduced turkey meat with a value of between £1 and £2.

Mr Melrose said Crichton had been seen placing the item in a pocket of his jumper. 'He then went to the check-out and paid for the rest of his shopping but not that item,' added Mr Melrose.

Crichton commented from the dock it had been an 'absent-minded mistake' on his part.

Sheriff MacDonald fined him £90.

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Fort man fined for keeping unlicensed air rifle

A Fort William man who kept an unlicensed air rifle, because it was the only memento he had of his late brother, was fined £400 at the town's sheriff court last week.

Christopher Michael Johnstone, 59, of Grange Road, Fort William, had pleaded guilty to having the weapon in his home on November 10 last year without a valid certificate.

Procurator Fiscal Robert Weir told the court that police had visited Johnstone's home in relation to a separate matter and had noticed that in the spare bedroom was a gun carrier bag and on checking found it contained the air rifle.

'The officers seized the rifle and the accused was spoken

to. He explained the weapon had belonged to his brother who had passed away some time ago and he had forgot about it.'

Defence agent Catriona Rowantree told the court police officers had already searched Johnstone's home at other times and the rifle had been plain to see, but that officers did not make an issue of it until November 10.

'Mr Johnstone told the police he was not aware it was an offence to be in possession of an air rifle without a licence,' she said.

Ms Rowantree told Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald that her client suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and that the air rifle had sentimental value for him.

'It is all he has to remember

his late brother by and he would like to know if the rifle could be decommissioned so that he could keep it - and he would cover the costs of this if it is possible to do.

'He never intend to use it and was keeping it purely for sentimental reasons and is prepared to pay for it to be decommissioned.'

Mr Weir said he was not in a position to say if decommissioning the weapon was technically possible, but he had no difficulty with the proposition if it was possible.

Fining Johnstone, Sheriff MacDonald told him she was granting the Crown's application for forfeiture of the weapon meantime and he could liaise with the Crown thereafter on the possible decommissioning of the rifle.

Fort man fined over drugs find

Possession of ecstasy, cannabis and diazepam saw a Fort William man fined £200 at the town's sheriff court last week.

Jack Salter, 20, of the town's Lochaber Road, had previously pleaded guilty at an earlier court appearance to being in possession of small quantities of the drugs at the town's police station on December 26 last year.

Procurator Fiscal Robert Weir told the court Salter had been at the police station in relation to a separate matter and it was while being searched the drugs were discovered.

The six ecstasy tablets had a street value of £5 each;

Supervision order after threatening pub staff

A man was placed on a supervision order for one year and ordered to do 80 hours of unpaid work after admitting threatening violence and damage to property, as well as attempting to bite a police officer.

Gary Wallace, who was described as having issues with alcohol and mental health problems, appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

Wallace, who appeared from custody, had pleaded guilty that on September 4 this year at a pub in Fort William, he had behaved in a threatening or abusive manner likely to cause fear and alarm in that he uttered threats of violence against people and property.

Wallace, 45, of no fixed abode, also admitted assaulting a police officer by attempting to bite him on the arm at Fort William Police Station on September 5.

Procurator Fiscal Robert Weir told the court the incident had occurred at around 10.30pm and the pub staff had formed the view Wallace

was under the influence of alcohol. They asked Wallace to leave and he had become aggressive, saying he was going to come back and burn the place down and that he would hunt the staff down and 'deal' with them.

Mr Weir continued: 'As a result he was told to leave again and he did so, telling staff he was going to 'take their heads off'. Because of what he said to staff the police were contacted and the accused was traced and arrested a short time later.

'It was while he was being searched that he tried to bite a police officer on the arm.'

Defence agent Catriona Rowantree said Wallace had accepted his behaviour in the pub would have upset people: 'He is remorseful. He'd had a difficult day and had turned to alcohol for solace.'

Sentencing Wallace, Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald told him: 'This was extremely unpleasant and was committed while you were already on licence. I have taken into account you have spent some time on remand already.'

Man receives 150 hours for growing cannabis in home

A sheriff sentenced a Fort William man to 150 hours of unpaid work in the community after police found cannabis plants growing in a cupboard.

Craig Mitchell Hulston, of Campbell Court in the town's Plantation area, had previously pleaded guilty by letter to two offences.

Hulston, 53, had admitted to producing cannabis at his home on October 27 last year and to being in possession of cannabis on the same date.

The court heard how police officers attending a nearby road traffic collision had detected a strong smell of cannabis from both the front and rear of the property.

The officers had some

relevant intelligence and so a search warrant was obtained.

The officers attended the property and Hulston freely admitted cannabis cultivation, with plants growing in a cupboard in the hallway.

Hulston told the officers he was growing the plants for his own use. Various other small amounts of cannabis were discovered during the search.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald had deferred sentence until last week for a criminal justice social work report and for further clarification of the values of the drugs involved.

When Hulston appeared for sentencing last week, Procurator Fiscal Robert Weir told the court the value

of the cannabis plants had been £1,800 in total.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose told Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald that Hulston, a labourer, had been quite candid about his position, and that he maintained there was a medical background to the whole affair.

'I know a medical explanation is not a defence but it is an explanation tendered by Mr Hulston,' he said.

'It is rather a potentially awkward position because of his directly analogous offence from two or three years ago.

'But since this matter was reported he has cut down on his cannabis use and will not grow more despite the

medical benefits to him.

'He is highly rated as an employee by a local building firm and is in full-time employment.'

Sheriff MacDonald said she was persuaded to deal with the matter by way of a community-based disposal.

But she warned Hulston: 'You were told once by this court not to grow cannabis and then you have gone and done it again.'

'The 150 hours of unpaid work in the community is a direct alternative to custody.'

Sheriff MacDonald granted a Crown motion for forfeiture of the cannabis plants and various items used in growing them, including an extractor, lamp and shield.

Driver given absolute discharge over travel card fraud charge

A Fort William woman who was charged with fraud after using a deceased person's bus pass to aid a woman suffering from dementia has been given an absolute discharge by a sheriff.

Caroline Watt, 57, of Camanachd Crescent, had pleaded guilty that between July 11, 2015 and June 16, 2017, while employed as a bus driver by Lochaber Action on Disability she had been in possession of a bus pass for a dead woman.

Watt had repeatedly presented the travel card to the onboard reader on a bus of which she was the driver when she knew the holder had died and £1,570.62 was therefore obtained by fraud.

However, last week Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald had heard that Watt had received no

personal financial gain from the fraudulent use of the card and had only done so to help another bus passenger who suffered from dementia.

Procurator Fiscal Robert Weir said when the matter came to light Watt had admitted her part straight away.

'There was no benefit financially to the accused - she had used a dead person's bus pass on behalf of a third party.'

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said Watt had worked for Lochaber Action on Disability for 18 years as its transport officer, but had also played a number of other roles in the charity's operations. He said when the matter came to the attention of Lochaber Action on Disability, both Ms Watt and another member had been instructed to attend at

Transport Scotland's offices in Glasgow.

Mr Melrose said it was when a good friend of Ms Watt's had died suddenly, the woman's bus card for free travel was left on the bus.

'Another lady who suffered from dementia was also entitled to a bus card but because of the difficulties associated with dementia, the card could not be sent out to her.'

'The bus involved was owned by Lochaber Action on Disability itself. Any benefit was to Lochaber Action on Disability and the whole sum was repaid - no money went near Caroline Watt.'

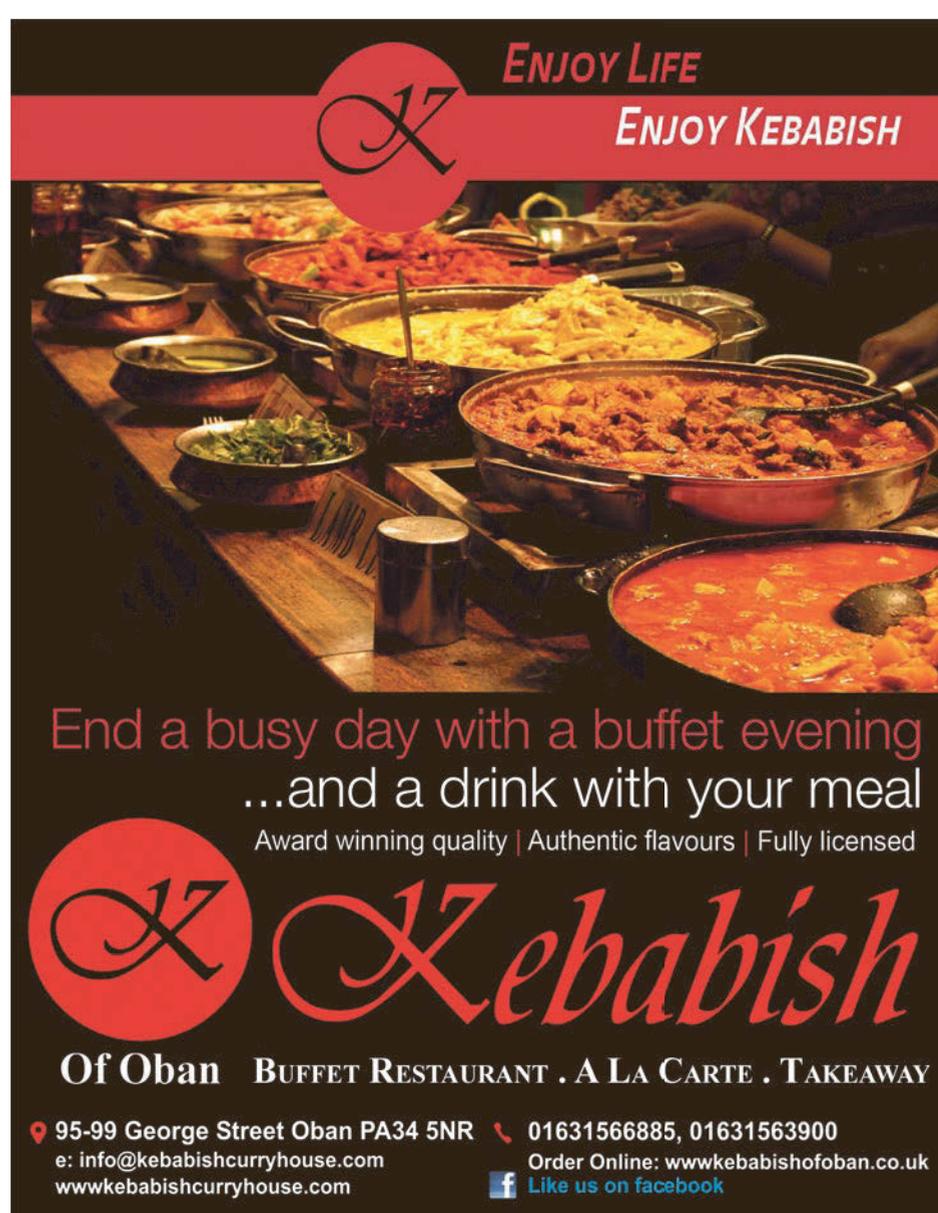
'I think it has come as a complete shock to Ms Watt that she finds herself sitting in this court on this matter.'

After hearing from Mr Melrose and Mr Weir, Sheriff MacDonald said she was going to make an 'unusual' order.

'You didn't gain anything personally by doing this. You were only trying to help someone with dementia, who could've got travel if Transport Scotland had issued that [card]. I am therefore going to grant you an absolute discharge.'

while the nine diazepam tablets were valued at £1 each and the amount of cannabis weighed 0.1g. Defence agent Hamish Melrose said Salter had pleaded guilty right at the outset. Sheriff Eilidh

MacDonald said because of the small value involved she was imposing a financial penalty of £200. Salter's plea of not guilty to a charge of possession of etizolam on the same was accepted by the Crown.



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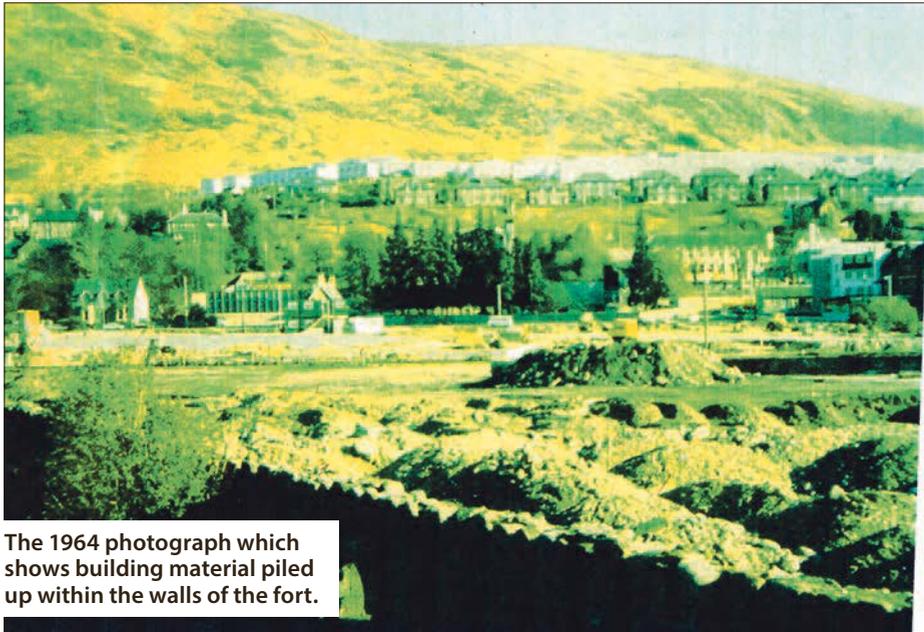
1960s photo boosts plans for Old Fort visitor centre

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

A 54-year-old photograph of Fort William could prove decisive in a campaign to turn the town's old fort into a 'world-class' visitor attraction.

Friends of the Old Fort (FOOF) chairman Norrie MacLean has been campaigning for more than a decade to excavate and redevelop the ancient fort. Mr MacLean said he was close to giving up after his most recent plans were thwarted by claims from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) that the soil on site is historic.

Now, however, a photograph believed to be from 1964 which shows piles of building material dumped within the walls of the old fort could be enough evidence to prove that the soil at the site is not historic and can be removed



The 1964 photograph which shows building material piled up within the walls of the fort.

to make way for the development of a visitor centre.

Following the discovery of the photograph, a meeting

was arranged between FOOF members, Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes and Historic Environment Scotland's

director of heritage Barbara Cummins last Friday to discuss the possible excavation of the site.

'It was actually a very positive meeting,' Mr MacLean told the Lochaber Times. 'We have some agreement and Mrs Cummins is going back to HES and will look at how they can assist us. I can never understand why the fort has been left for so long and she agreed that it definitely needs upgraded.'

Mr MacLean said that the earth around the fort, originally built in 1654 to pacify the local clans, would need to be levelled for safety reasons and to expose some of the ancient walls before a new visitor centre could be built on the site.

'Ideally we want to put a visitor centre in some version of the original fort, detailing life at that time around the Great Glen. There's so much history down there, we could make it a world-class tourist area. We just need to get a visitor centre fit for the modern world.'

Mrs Cummins later told the Lochaber Times she looks forward to working with FOOF to find a solution that provides what they are looking for to make the site safer to visit while maintaining its significance as a scheduled monument.

She said: 'I was impressed with the level of commitment from the Friends of the Old Fort at our meeting last week, as they gave me some really interesting material around their plans.'

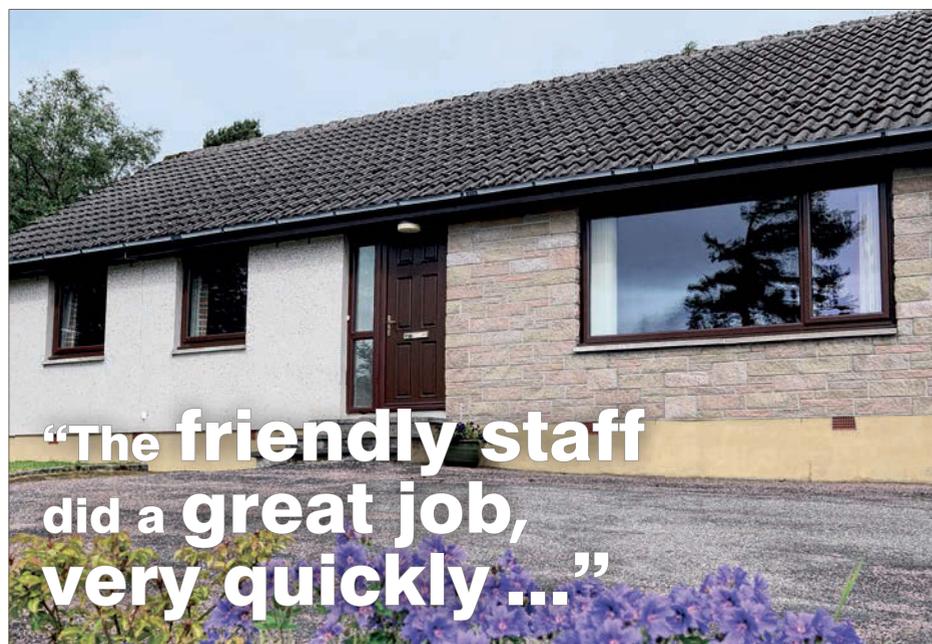
Mrs Cummins will be meeting with FOOF again late in the autumn to discuss this further.

Ms Forbes also commended the group on their progress and hopes that Friday's meeting will be the 'catalyst' needed to take forward the vision that FOOF have for the area.

'For years, Friends of the Old Fort and people such as Norrie MacLean have voluntarily tidied up the Old Fort and campaigned to have it restored so that visitors take an interest,' she said.

'I've been impressed with the tireless dedication of these volunteers, but sorry that it has taken so long to take forward plans for the Old Fort.'

Norrie MacLean, centre, chairman of Friends of the Old Fort, discussed plans to excavate the old fort with Dr Barbara Cummins, right, director of heritage at Historic Environment Scotland, and MSP Kate Forbes, left. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.



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



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

- Alistair Gillies, Gorthleck



Laggan resident fined for unsecured rifles

Laggan resident Peter MacKenzie was fined £660 at Fort William Sheriff Court last week after admitting leaving two rifles unsecured at his home.

The court heard that police officers had attended the home of MacKenzie, 55, at South Laggan, near Spean Bridge, on November 23, 2017, in relation to a separate inquiry.

Procurator fiscal Robert

Weir told the court it was while officers were speaking to MacKenzie that the two rifles were noticed in his porch and they were seized as a result.

In mitigation, MacKenzie's defence agent said his client had removed the bolts from the two firearms and these were locked away, rendering the rifles inoperable.

MacKenzie has held a firearms certificate for

approximately 30 years and the court heard he used the rifles for vermin control on hiscroft.

Fining him, Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald told MacKenzie he had been aware of the terms of his firearms licence and this was a matter of safety.

'But I have taken into account what your solicitor has said and the fact you have no previous convictions.'



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Kinlochleven future bus timetable still uncertain

Disagreements over changes to the Kinlochleven to Fort William bus service resurfaced last week as future timetable arrangements remain uncertain, writes *Neill Bo Finlayson*.

At a meeting of Lochaber Transport Forum's Bus Users' Group last Friday, there was uncertainty over changes to the Kinlochleven timetable. It was recently changed so that the last bus leaving from Fort William was reinstated and the second last bus changed to the earlier time of 8pm.

Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Niall MacLean said: 'There's a lot of talk of Highland Council not having the money. We can't afford not to have a bus service.'

Mr MacLean continued: 'People have left and lost their jobs because of the timetable changes. Residents found out five days before the change. They were penalised without consultation.'

Shiel Buses' managing director David MacGillivray

responded by saying that job losses and the poor consultation were not the fault of his company.

Mr MacGillivray said: 'We can't just run buses all the time and we can't run a service just for a few people. We are between a rock and a hard place here.'

He continued: 'We are happy to do 8.30pm or 8.40pm but for anything later there are just not numbers to back up running a service then.'

Forum member Arthur Cowie added: 'We need to encourage the public to use the service so David can run a viable service.'

Since the meeting, Councillor MacLean has started an online survey to ask Kinlochleven residents if they would like to see the last bus leave Fort William at 8.35pm or 9pm, which is available through his Facebook page.

He is asking officials and Shiel Buses if the last bus can be extended to 9pm when the timetable change happens at the end of November.

Supervision for man who assaulted father

A year-long supervision order was imposed on a Fort William man who had admitted assaulting his own father in an attack that saw him put his arm round the older man's throat and compress it.

At an appearance at Fort William Sheriff Court last month, Alexander Michael MacGillivray, aged 21, had pleaded guilty to charges that at his home in Lundavra Road, Fort William, on June 29 this year, he assaulted his 60-year-old father by pushing him; placing him in a headlock, repeatedly punching him on the head and body, placing his arm round his throat and compressing his throat.

MacGillivray further pleaded guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner likely to cause a reasonable person fear and alarm in that he brandished a knife at police officers and threatened to stab them.

Sentence was deferred until

last week for compilation of a criminal justice social work report.

Appearing for sentencing before Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald last week, procurator fiscal Robert Weir went over the details of the case again and told the court the incident had occurred during what he called 'some kind of play fighting' between the father and son.

Mr Weir said the younger man had shouted he was going to kill his father as he had 'always treated me bad' and the older man had lost consciousness for several seconds after his son had put his arm round his neck.

Police had attended about 10.40pm that day and found the younger MacGillivray in possession of a three-inch kitchen knife.

'He told the officers if they tried to arrest him that he was going to stab them,' said Mr Weir. It was at this point that

the accused made stabbing motions and the officers drew their batons and sprayed the accused with Pava, at which point he dropped the knife and he was successfully restrained.'

Pava is the name of the incapacitant that Police Scotland now issues its officers with in place of CS spray and is similar in nature to pepper spray.

In mitigation, defence agent Hamish Melrose said one of the bail order's special conditions had been that MacGillivray was not to approach his father or enter Lundavra Road, where he had lived with his father for a number of years.

Mr Melrose said MacGillivray, as a result of the bail condition, had been living with his uncle in the town, although his father had accompanied him to court, and his mother was also there.

'There is a background to all of this which is mentioned

the report,' added Mr Melrose.

Imposing the community payback order in the form of a supervision order, Sheriff MacDonald told MacGillivray it had been a 'very unpleasant' offence.

'But I have taken into account everything said on your behalf by Mr Melrose and the contents of the background report and will impose a community payback order as a direct alternative to custody.'

'The supervision order will last for one year and you will live with your uncle while you are subject to this order.'

However, Sheriff MacDonald agreed to alter the bail condition so that he could enter Lundavra Court to visit his father but that he must leave by 5pm on any such visit.

And the sheriff added: 'I will fix a review for you to come back in three months' time and see if your conduct requires this [bail] condition to still be necessary.'

Infrastructure is key to Fort 2040 vision

Continued from page one

Mr Dalgarno felt the meeting offered a 'refreshing' chance for council officials to discuss future plans alongside local residents and to think about 'the bigger picture'.

'The biggest thing for us was that people left the room that day feeling genuinely engaged in how the town can change,' he said. 'We wanted them to feel equals and to work alongside us.'

John Gillespie, chairman of Caol Community Council, certainly felt the event was 'a great start' to planning the future of the town.

'It was a really positive day and great to see everyone getting round the table and talking about the future. We should really concentrate on the fact the community involvement and engagement was of a very high level.'

Chairman of Fort William Community Council Alex Farquhar was similarly buoyed by the meeting and was impressed that the public bodies had come together to

ask local people for a long-term view of the town.

'To see it all laid out, and with a real likelihood of it happening, was very encouraging,' said Mr Farquhar. 'Everyone spoke with one voice and it was clear that the most important thing in Fort William was that the transport infrastructure had to be fixed.'

He added: 'We all feel Fort William's time has come. We all think the town deserves it and we have all waited long enough. It's the second biggest town in the Highlands, so it's time we started getting some of the benefit.'

Among the projects discussed at the event was the potential of a kayaking centre at the bottom of the tail race at Inverloch, while there was a general desire to better utilise Fort William's waterfront.

Affordable housing and the effect of tourism, in particular Airbnb, on the housing market was also discussed, along with the expected increase in demand on schools.

Speaking to the Lochaber

Times, Andrew Baxter, Lochaber area leader for Highland Council, said he was 'amazed' and 'really encouraged' by the reaction from the community.

He said: 'What was important was that there were government representatives hearing about these issues and people from Fort William and Lochaber speaking with a united voice.'

'Quite often what happens with plans is that the plan just sits on a shelf gathering dust. But one of the most impressive things was the drive and commitment from the community to see these changes happen.'

Mr Dalgarno explained that the feedback and information collected at the consultation is now being used to refine the masterplan and develop a delivery programme and will help 'better monitor how the component projects develop'.

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LT

Fort man in court over £1,470 in unpaid fines

A Fort William man who had £1,470 in outstanding unpaid fines, appeared at the town's sheriff court last week.

Sean Thomas McCuish, 27, appeared from custody last Thursday and as well as dealing with the matter of the outstanding fines, Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald also dealt with two drugs offences.

McCuish had pleaded guilty to possession of Mephedrone and ecstasy at his home in Wallace Place on February 18 of last year.

His pleas of not guilty to possessing quantities of Psilocin, cannabis and cannabis resin on the same day were accepted by the Crown.

Procurator Fiscal Robert Weir told the court that it was around 8.50pm on the night of February 18 last year when police officers forced entry to McCuish's home.

The officers had a search warrant under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) and during the search recovered a small amount of Mephedrone – about 1g – with a street value of between £30 to £50, plus



three yellow Ecstasy tablets worth about £15.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose told the court in mitigation that McCuish had returned to work for his father's diving business near Inverness and as a result was able to pay any monetary penalties at the rate of £100 per month.

Sentencing McCuish, Sheriff MacDonald told him he had continuously refused to co-operate with orders from the court by failing to pay fines and do unpaid work in the community.

She fined McCuish £100 on each of the two drugs offences and on the breach of the Community Payback Order, she revoked the order and imposed a £250 fine instead.

And she warned McCuish: 'Miss any one of these monthly payments and you will be going to prison.'

Boundary changes 'outrageous' attack on democracy

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Ian Blackford MP has hit out at Westminster plans that would split Lochaber into two UK parliamentary constituencies after the Boundary Commission's final boundary recommendations were submitted to the UK Government last week.

The SNP Westminster leader, who submitted objections to the plans during consultations and raised concerns in Parliament at the time, said the proposals showed an 'utter contempt' for the practicalities of life in the Highlands and islands.

He continued: 'It is more proof, as if it was needed, that



Mr Blackford's constituency already covers 15 per cent of Scotland's land mass.

a London-centric thought process simply doesn't cater for the way our lives are in Scotland, and particularly the Highlands.'

The changes, which require the backing of MPs and peers to come into effect, would see Fort William and Ardnamurchan join Argyll and Bute to form a new constituency called Argyll, Bute and South West Highland, while Spean Bridge, Glenfinnan and Mallaig would merge with Skye, Badenoch and Inverness to form a new Highland Central constituency.

The changes would see the overall number of Highlands

and islands' representatives cut from four to three, with those seats becoming the largest constituencies in the country, forming 45 per cent of the area covered by the boundary review of Scotland.

Despite widespread criticism of the plans, the Boundary Commission for Scotland said it was unable to make changes because of the ratio between the number of electors and the low population density of the areas in question, which they said meant large constituencies 'could not be avoided'.

Mr Blackford continued: 'My constituency, Ross, Skye and Lochaber, is already 12,000 square kilometres. It is 15 per cent of the land mass of Scotland. Contrast that with Northern Ireland, which has a land mass of just over 14,000 square kilometres, you can see that the current situation in itself is bad enough.'

'But to then make those areas even larger, where you're getting to a situation where three Highlands and islands MPs are covering an area larger than Belgium, then you really are getting into a situation that is beyond all reproach.'

Mr Blackford claimed the

Conservative government was 'railroading' these boundary changes through parliament merely for the party's own political gains.

'It's an outrageous attack on Scottish and Highland democracy and really does add insult to the injury of the recent power grab that we're seeing through the Tory-led Brexit disaster,' he added.

The new constituency of Argyll, Bute and South West Highlands would cover two different council areas, Argyll and Bute and Highland Council.

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara said that 'geography, topography, history or access to elected representatives' had been totally overlooked in what he called a 'crude numbers game' where the equalisation of parliamentary constituency by population was the overriding factor.

He added: 'I always believed that elected representatives should be as close to their communities as they can possibly be. I just wish the Boundary Commission had prioritised people's right to equal representation as much as they prioritised equalising the numbers.'

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WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

■ A craft fayre is being held at Duncansburgh Church Hall, the Parade, Fort William, on Saturday September 22 from 11am to 3pm. There will also be a pop-up cafe organised by Lochaber Rotary Club. Contact Chris on 07900 928515 for more information.

■ Fort William and District Table Tennis Club's 2018-19 season starts on the Monday, September 24. The club plays every Monday at the Nevis Centre in Fort William from 6.45pm until 9pm. For more information ring Jim on 01397 706060.

■ Representatives of Caol-based Lochaber Sensory Care for sight and hearing support will be visiting Lochaline on Tuesday September 25. A

team of staff and volunteers will be at Morvern Medical Centre from 10.30am until 12.30pm to offer free advice and help to those living locally with sight or hearing loss. They will also supply NHS hearing aid batteries, provide re-tubing for the hearing aids and assist with any difficulties.

■ Lochaber Sports Association is hosting its annual general meeting on Wednesday September 26 at 6.30pm at Lochaber Rugby Club, Banavie.

■ There is live music at Fort William Baptist Church on Sunday September 30 from 7pm. The event will be followed by refreshments. The evening is in aid of the extension fund. All welcome.

■ A new group, Lochaber Ladies, will hold its first meeting in the Montrose Centre at Inverloch on Monday October 1 at 7.15pm. All welcome.



■ From October 3-5, a special 'open house' event regarding proposals for a new cinema in Fort William, will be held in the DV8 building in Cameron Square. Running each day from 11am-7pm, Highland

Cyclist dies near Roy Bridge

The A86 road was closed for four hours on Saturday, two miles east of Glenspean Lodge Hotel at Roy Bridge, following an incident in which a cyclist lost his life.

The accident happened shortly before 1pm and the 54-year-old male cyclist from England was conveyed by the Scottish Ambulance Service to Belford Hospital in Fort William where he was pronounced dead.

The incident was attended by police officers from Dingwall and Fort William.

The Lochaber Times understands that the man appears to have suffered some kind of medical episode and was not involved in a collision of any kind.

Placement success

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has come out top in a report to measure participation rates among young people aged 16 to 19 in education, training or employment.

The annual report is used to assess progress in the delivery of Opportunities for All, the Scottish Government's commitment to young people in Scotland.

Councillor Angus McCormack, chairman of the comhairle's education, sport and children's services committee, said: 'This is very welcome and encouraging news.'

Cinema Open House will include designs on view by Skye-based architects Dualchas. Owner Angus MacDonald, above, will also be on hand to discuss the project and answer questions.

Lochaber Women's Aid will be hosting their annual general meeting at 5.30pm on Wednesday October 10 at Voluntary Action Lochaber offices, An Drochaid.

West Highland Museum is organising Big Bang and Beyond, a fun children's event as part of the Highland Archaeology Festival 2018 on Saturday October 6 from 10am to 1pm. To book a place call 01397 702169 or email info@westhighlandmuseum.org.uk

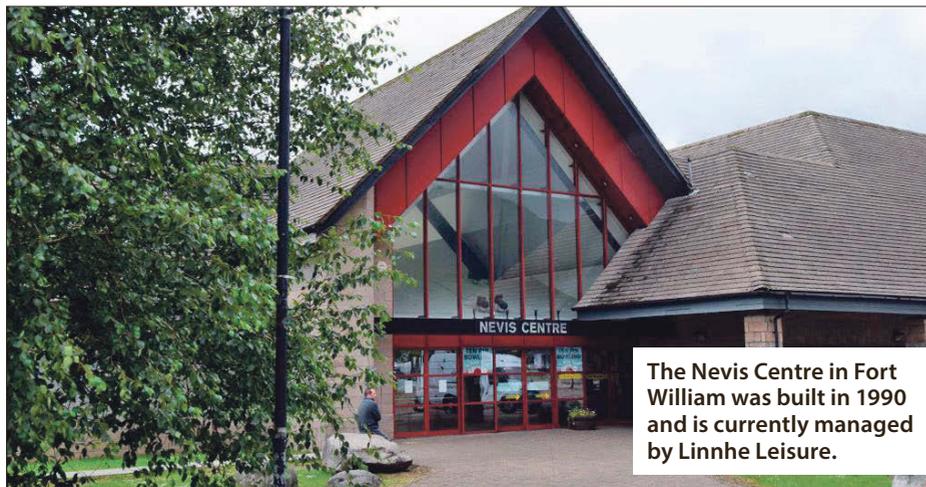
HLH and Linnhe Leisure in Nevis Centre talks

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

The board of Linnhe Leisure, the company responsible for the management and operation of the Nevis Centre in Fort William, is in discussions with High Life Highland (HLH) to establish a partnership agreement to operate the town's premier events venue.

Board members believe that a collaboration with HLH, which operates leisure and community centres throughout the Highlands on behalf of Highland Council, will be beneficial to the future of the Nevis Centre, which was originally built in 1990.

The proposed partnership between the two organisations would see HLH take responsibility for the day-to-day running of the centre, while the board of Linnhe Leisure would focus on the longer-term development of



The Nevis Centre in Fort William was built in 1990 and is currently managed by Linnhe Leisure.

the facility and its services.

The Nevis Centre is currently leased by Highland Council to Linnhe Leisure Ltd – a charitable company limited by guarantee, run by a voluntary board of directors.

Speaking about the potential partnership, Sheana Fraser for Linnhe Leisure said: 'While we are at a very

early stage, we are encouraged by the discussions that have taken place and the board believes that developing the partnership with High Life Highland will be a positive step for Linnhe Leisure offering opportunities to further enhance the leisure provision in the area. There are strong benefits for both

Linnhe Leisure and High Life Highland in forming a partnership.'

Five years ago the company ran into financial difficulty and entered a Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) with the approval of its creditors. This allowed the centre to continue to trade and all creditors will have

been paid in full by the end of this year.

During this period the board has carried out major improvements to the centre, including investments in wifi cabling throughout the building and improved safety measures in the bowling alley. Water ingress has been a serious issue and work to replace the roof is currently out to tender.

High Life Highland chief executive Ian Murray added: 'HLH is pleased to have been invited by the board of Linnhe Leisure to discuss ways in which our organisations may be able work together for the benefit of the individuals, families and wider community groups using Nevis Centre.'

High Life Highland already works in similar partnerships with a range of community groups across the Highlands to operate community spaces.

Official opening of Fort William council offices

Highland Council has officially taken receipt of its new Fort William offices from Elgin-founded builder Robertson.

Work on The Charles Kennedy Building in the town's Achintore Road has been completed following a two-year renovation and construction programme.

Members of the public were due to be invited to an open afternoon to view the offices yesterday (Wednesday) after they were formally opened by Highland Council's Lochaber area chairman Councillor Andrew Baxter.

The building was renamed in honour of the late Mr Kennedy who attended Lochaber High School and represented the Highlands as an MP from 1983 until 2015.

Mr Kennedy died suddenly, soon after losing his seat of Ross, Skye and Lochaber in the 2015 general election.

Throughout the project there was a focus on retaining the key features of the original Grade B listed building, with Robertson able to salvage a good quantity of the existing structure to reuse on the wider renovation works.

These works took place alongside the construction of a new, two-storey extension

named the Civic Hub – which includes a service point, registry office, council chamber, committee rooms and general offices.

Speaking ahead of yesterday's ceremony, Mr Baxter told the Lochaber Times: 'It will be an honour and a privilege to formally declare both the Charles Kennedy Building and Alexander Ross House open.'

'Together these redeveloped buildings now deliver a fantastic new site providing modern and accessible facilities serving the Fort William and wider Lochaber community.'

Frank Reid, managing director of Robertson Northern, said: 'The first phase of the project was handed over to the council in November 2017 and this second handover signals the culmination of months of hard work. Staff at the council can now look forward to getting settled in their new working environment.'

Lochaber councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of The Highland Council's environment, development and infrastructure committee, said the local authority welcomed the transformation of what had formerly been an eyesore to the entrance to Fort William.

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O'Brien appointed Nevis Range CEO

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Nevis Range announced a raft of changes to its senior leadership team last week as four new members were appointed.

The Aonach Mor resort has appointed former destination manager for the Outdoor Capital of the UK Chris O'Brien as chief executive officer (CEO). He takes over from interim CEO Rod Pashley.

A well-known figure in Scottish tourism, Mr O'Brien joined Nevis Range in 2017 and is keen to use his experience in the sports, leisure and entertainment industries to boost Nevis Range's reputation as a world-class outdoor resort.

'Together we are going to make Nevis Range the number one outdoor experience



in the UK,' he said. 'Many companies aspire to change an industry yet very few have all the elements required

Pictured are Chris MacPherson, engineering director; Chris O'Brien, CEO; John Sutherland, activities director. Grant Huggan was unavailable at the time of the photograph. Photograph: Nevis Range.

- talent, resources and perseverance. Nevis Range has proven that it has all three in abundance.'

The new senior leadership team at Nevis Range also features Chris MacPherson as engineering director. Mr MacPherson has worked his way up to the role since joining the company in 1995 and he joined the board in 2008.

He said: 'After more than two decades of service at Nevis Range I can honestly say I am very excited about the future. With the strength of

the management team there is no limits to what we can achieve as an organisation.'

John Sutherland has also joined the senior team as activities director having been involved with the company's developments from an early age as a ski instructor. He said he was excited to start the new role and was keen to see the continued success of the company as an all year-round visitor destination.

The fourth and final addition to the senior team is Grant Huggan who will take up the role of operations and facilities manager.

Grant came to Nevis Range in 2008 to work the winter as a ski technician. Although he never planned to stay, the staff and the ever-changing business saw him become the manager of the Nevis Range Ski Hire department.

Jags to start first women's football team

Kinlochleven-based football team South Lochaber Thistle are hoping to establish the first women's football team in the West Highlands.

The club is holding an open public meeting this Friday, September 21, to gauge interest in the project. Hosted by the Leven Centre facility in Kinlochleven school campus at 6pm, the meeting is open to anyone interested in becoming involved with a women's team, from players, committee members, coaches or even supporters keen to learn more.

Thistle president Peter Newman said: 'Forming a women's team marks the continuation of the Jags' journey to create an inclusive local footballing community which, it is hoped, will eventually include schools' coaching and a veterans' team - essentially offering football, irrespective of class or gender.'

Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting or can contact the club via social media or email southlochaberthistle@gmail.com.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



The protections and comforts of the modern world render most of us immune to the changeable ways of weather.

However, for those on the west coast islands, everyday life and work still often moves at the mercy of the elements.

At the beginning of this week I had a glimpse back into the pressures of having to plan round the unpredictable whim of wild autumn weather. More than 18 months ago, we had taken on a gig on the Isle of Coll to perform a concert as part of the Coll Homecoming.

This week-long celebration was on the same theme as the two events that had previously taken place on Tiree, where those with connections to the island would gather for a week and celebrate their shared heritage with a range of cultural events and meetings of kindred spirits.

The weather very nearly put a spanner in the works of the band making it to Coll and back and having to make decisions depending on weather forecasts that change constantly. This was a stark reminder of how much more difficult it is to plan life when weather is a factor. Those who live on the islands and especially those

who work on the sea have to do this day in, day out.

When I lived on Tiree, and especially during the few years when I was fishing full-time, it used to irritate me when people would say such things as: 'It must be so stress-free and idyllic staying on an island like Tiree.' Yes, if you are on holiday, but if your life revolves around weather, tides, getting your catch off the island on time every week, getting on and off for gigs, making sure gear is safe when away and many other untethered factors all with the over-arching pressure to make a living, it is not quite such a tranquil existence.

Our gig was on Monday night and, because we absolutely had to be back on the mainland by Wednesday to get ready for the Barrowland gig in Glasgow this weekend, the decision on whether to go to Coll or not was a difficult one.

At one point, the forecast predicted that if we did not get off Coll by Tuesday morning, we might be marooned there until Saturday and would therefore have to cancel the Barrowland gig. The financial and reputational repercussions of that scenario would have been very serious.

Many times plans were made

and then altered with a change in forecast.

One option would have been to cancel the Coll gig but, although for us that would have been much easier, it would have badly let down the people on Coll and their visitors. This was the most likely outcome at one stage but, with a weather window predicted for Tuesday morning, we decided to take the St Olave out as by the time the CalMac sailing was due on Tuesday evening there was a southerly gale forecast.

As it turned out, the weather gods were on our side and we made it out and had a flat calm sail back on Tuesday morning. This was the fabled calm before the storm, and I am writing this as we steam down a mirror-like Sound of Mull just having listened to the Coastguard forecast on the VHF predict severe gale nine to storm 10, becoming violent storm 11 later. I am very happy we will be tied up well before this comes upon us! The storm of 2,000 wild revellers in the Barrowland is now the only forecast we have to worry about.

Our reception from Colaich near and far made the whole exercise worthwhile. A great gig and a great welcome.

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ABC Group stands ground in hydro cash row

The group accused of renegeing on an alleged agreement over the £20,000 a year in community benefit being paid from certain hydro power schemes on Loch Arkaig, near Achnacarry, says it will not give up the money, writes Mark Entwistle.

Last week the Lochaber Times reported the resignation of a councillor from the Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council in the row over which group should hold the funds - the Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) which operates alongside the community council or the SCIO which operates alongside the ABC (Achnacarry, Bunarkaig and Clues) Group.

The subsequent resignation of Sandy Edmond, from Achnacarry, has forced the community council into abeyance due to an insufficiency of elected councillors.

Until recently, Mr Edmond had been chairman of the SCIO set up for the community council area to handle monies such as that paid as community benefit from energy companies. He is also currently secretary and a trustee of the ABC Group - something community council chairman John Fotheringham says was clearly a serious conflict of interest.

The row flared following

this month's community council meeting, when Mr Fotheringham was adamant there had been an agreement with a previous chairman of the ABC Group, that all of the payments negotiated with Green Highland Renewables, would be handed over to the community council area SCIO to be disbursed for the benefit of all.

But three days after the meeting, Mr Edmond resigned and launched a blistering attack on what he claimed were efforts by the community council, under Mr Fotheringham's leadership, to target the ABC Group and take over funds the latter had worked hard to negotiate.

It had been hoped that Dot Ferguson, Lochaber area ward manager for Highland Council would be able to mediate, but the local authority says this will not now happen.

Asked for his view, Liam McLoone, the current ABC Group chairman, told the Lochaber Times he was open to mediation but that he stood by Mr Edmond's remarks.

'These funds come from disruption [caused by construction of the hydro schemes], and from what I believe is a right for communities to benefit from the profits made on local natural resources,' he explained. 'The opportunities this funding offers our community are not only to sustain

our current activities, but for the future generations that will live here.

'Even if I did feel it was morally correct for the community council SCIO to be in receipt of the benefit funding, which I don't, I feel the community council SCIO does not have the capacity or

engagement to manage these funds responsibly.'

Asked for its view, a Highland Council spokesperson said as community benefit funds were voluntary agreements, and there was no legislative requirement for such arrangements to be made, there was therefore no

formal legal procedure that must be followed.

Asked to comment on Mr McLoone's remarks, Mr Fotheringham said there was a serious principle at stake.

'The ABC Group is getting £20,000 a year for 40 years - a total of £800,000 - which it intends investing,' he said.

'If it is a question of disturbance from the construction of these schemes on Loch Arkaig, then Gairloch had to put up with more than anywhere else and they've not been given a penny from this, and nor will they if that cash is just invested long term.

'How is any of that fair?'

VIEW FROM The Chamber



Last week saw around 20 members from a variety of industries enjoy a great networking lunch and site tour at Marine Harvest's processing plant at Blar Mhor, Fort William.

Marine Harvest is a long-standing and very involved member of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce. We were delighted that the company agreed to host us for a networking lunch, which proved extremely popular with members.

Ian Roberts, the director of communications at Marine Harvest Scotland, moved to Lochaber from Marine Harvest in Canada to take up his new post earlier this year. Ian gave chamber members an enlightening presentation about the value of salmon as a healthy, resource-efficient

food and shed a light on the scale and scope of Scotland's salmon production in a global context.

After a delicious salmon-based lunch, the attendees donned their protective hygiene wear to follow senior production staff on a tour of the processing plant.

To see some pics from our visit go to www.lochaber-chamber.co.uk

As well as offering a glimpse behind the scenes of one of Lochaber's biggest employers, this networking event gave members the opportunity to chat to others who work in different areas and make connections they might not otherwise make.

Join Lochaber Chamber today to start benefiting from the opportunity to meet new business people, find out more about key local businesses, get fantastic member benefits, promote what you do and more. Visit www.lochaber-chamber.co.uk or call us on 01397 705765.

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Photography shows serving suggestion.

LT

Councils to hold interim elections

Nominations are being invited from people seeking election to community councils in Lochaber and Skye.

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council, Sunart Community Council and Dunvegan Community Council are holding interim elections due to the resignation of some members which has brought the memberships to below half the required number.

Nominations are also invited from people seeking election to re-establish Staffin Community Council on the Isle of Skye where there are eight vacancies.

To stand for election candidates must be entered in the current electoral register for the community council area. The deadline for receiving all nominations is 4pm on Wednesday October 3.

Nomination forms and information can be found at highland.gov.uk/elections

VISITUS
www.lochabertimes.co.uk

MSP Kate Forbes visits Plantation properties

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes was in Fort William at the end of last week, spending time in the town's Plantation estate to see for herself the issues with unsightly staining to the cladding of some properties.

Ms Forbes told the Lochaber Times: 'I have been informed about the stains on external cladding on housing in the Plantation in Fort William and promised to meet some of the residents.'

'I was joined by Councillor Niall McLean, after Councillor Andrew Baxter arranged the meeting.'

More than 20 Plantation residents met with Mr Baxter last month to highlight the long-running saga of problems in the local area, including the staining of walls on certain homes.

A number of the properties belong to Lochaber Housing



Association. A spokesman recently said: 'For clarity there is not an issue with the wall cladding in the Plantation - the issue is with algae growth on the surface of the render which we are experiencing on most of our properties in the

Lochaber area.

'The issue is we can't power wash as you would normally due to the construction of the external wall insulation.

'We have applied different products on different areas to assess what product gives the

best result. With some of the products it takes three to six months to have full impact.

'We also have had an external consultant take a look and give guidance on the best way forward with algae growth and removal.'

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes joined local councillor Niall McLean to inspect the problem cladding in Plantation, Fort William, last week.

'Once we have this information pulled together we will commence with the best suited product.'

Ms Forbes said the matter needed to be resolved as quickly as possible.

'Cladding has been installed on thousands of homes in the Highlands in an effort to improve insulation, reduce bills and thereby start to tackle the scourge of fuel poverty across the region,' she said.

'I am disappointed that residents are unhappy with the work and it's important that this is resolved as soon as possible.'

'I intend to pursue the issue and try to rectify it as much as possible on behalf of the residents.'

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In partnership with Developing the Young Workforce West Highland

Have Your Say The Future of Lochaber Business!

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is delighted to announce a Question Time Event as part of Ideas Week 2018!

Question Time is a free Event on Monday 12th November at 2pm, tickets must be booked in advance and can be found on Eventbrite.

Hosted by Laurence Young of Glencoe Activities, Question Time will be focused on the "Future of Lochaber Business". Attendees will be invited to submit questions in advance of

the event.

The panel comprises: Tim Allen (Scottish Chambers of Commerce), Charlotte Wright (Highlands and Islands Enterprise), Steve Baron (Highland Council), Kate Forbes MSP, Oliver Stephen (BSW Timber), and Duncan Mackison (Jahama Highland Estates / Liberty British Aluminium)

This is your chance to ask those questions you've always wanted to about the issues in Lochaber that matter to you.

Unleash your creative sales potential!



Brought to you by Lochaber Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Marine Harvest, renowned sales presenter John-Paul Hughes will lead a fascinating seminar into the creative sales techniques that will help you better connect with your business audience, understand their motivations and turn prospects into customers.

After starting his working career as a professional football player for Dundee

Utd. back in 1993, which never worked out as planned - John-Paul Hughes transitioned in to the real world of spirit crushing jobs in call centres, construction sites, and factory nightshifts before getting the opportunity to start selling photocopiers...

As bland as it may seem, this role taught John-Paul how to sell, and lead to his eventual big break as an account handler at a small creative media agency, Spike Media.

He took a huge pay cut, kissed goodbye to commission cheques and gave up the company car. But what he lost pales in comparison with what he gained.

John-Paul has since gone on to enjoy a multi-award winning creative

'No one will remember what you said or what you did, but everyone will remember how you made them feel.'



John Paul Hughes

career with media owners including GMG, Bauer Media, and more recently, Communicorp UK, as their Group Creative Director.

His understanding of the creative side of the sales and marketing psyche is unmatched - "...no one will remember what you said or what you did, but everyone will remember how you made them feel."

This seminar is for everyone who has a sales aspect

to their job - whatever the industry and whatever the type of sales. You'll be inspired to think differently about sales and marketing... and how you approach your working life!

Please see www.lochaber-chamber.co.uk for more information and to book tickets for events taking place during Lochaber Ideas Week 2018.

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William's tale sees more generosity from Fort folk

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

William takes his role at Invernevis House care home in Fort William very seriously – his job is to put smiles on faces and it is one he clearly does very well, much to the delight of the elderly residents who love spending time with the spaniel-cross dog.

Now something of a celebrity – and not just a local one thanks to his very own Facebook page – William arrived at Invernevis House in February 2016 after being adopted by the home through the Scottish charity, 'Give a Dog a Bone and an animal a home'.

The home's staff had been searching for a dog for residents following the death of a resident's dog which had been living there and it was this charity that suggested William.

But his previous hard life as an abandoned pet on the streets of Cyprus had taken its toll and left William with some health worries, including a degenerative hip condition.

Last year residents and staff, together with members of the community, raised an amazing £8,000 to allow vets to replace both William's hips.

William has settled in well to his new life and Invernevis House was keen this week to highlight the continuing



generosity of people towards William's care.

Crown Vets in the town has now offered to cover William's annual health care needs, such as immunisations and check-ups, and a current appeal to help cover his on-going living costs has seen even more generosity from the residents of Fort William.

William's days are always busy and normally start with him and the home's driver and handyman David Stafford – known to all as Towser – heading off in the mini bus to collect the day care patients and then taking them home again.

William also makes sure he spends time with residents and staff, and has proved wonderfully adept at lifting people's spirits.

He has a rota of volunteer walkers who ensure he gets plenty of exercise – although the home is always looking for new names to add to the list.

Earlier this month, William enjoyed a holiday when he

visited the linked Dail Mhor care home at Strontian and made lots of new friends.

But William doesn't just bring happiness to the Invernevis House residents and staff, but he also brings happiness to residents' families as well.

Care home manager Claire Cameron says the dog plays an important part in the life of the home.

'Having William here brings a homely feeling for the residents at Invernevis; he is a very warm and loving dog.'

'He has the sweetest nature and the residents adore him. It has been well proven that pets, especially dogs, have a very therapeutic effect when they can come into homes.'

'The NHS can't fund William's costs, so we raise funds to cover those and when noticing the funds were low we put out an appeal over Facebook to see if anyone wanted to donate.'

'We were overwhelmed by

the generosity of the kind folk of Fort William and the surrounding areas.

'With Crown Vets agreeing to help with his bills and make sure that all his immunisations are kept up to date, and the generous donations from a few local businesses, I am delighted to say that William is one very happy dog.'

If anyone would like to donate any food for William there is a box at Invernevis House, Fort William. You can also follow William's adventures on Facebook at 'William the care home dog'.



William is adored by Invernevis House residents and staff, alike, with staff member June McCormack, pictured left, giving William a treat.

Sweet music at Three Lochs Festival

Final preparations are under way for this year's Three Lochs Festival, which takes place this Saturday and promises to be bigger and better than ever.

The festival of arts and literature takes place every two years in Strontian, and is well worth the effort of getting along to.

Anyone who has been before can vouch for the varied programme of activities laid-on for all ages and interests, including drama, music, film, photography and, of course, lots of books and literature.

This year one of the actors from the hugely popular

Outlander television series will be sharing some behind-the-scenes secrets.

This year's festival kicks off with a musical production of No Petticoats Here by Louise Jordan at The Highland Bookshop in Fort William tonight (Thursday) and closes with a contemporary folk music evening in Strontian, from BBC Radio Two Folk Musician of the Year Tim Edey, ably supported by Jed Grimes.

Aspiring writers will benefit from the range of practical workshops led by successful published authors.

Anyone with an interest in nature, wildlife and the environment has a range of interesting talks to attend, including two from national wildlife hero Jim Crumley.

One of the best things about Three Lochs is that there are activities throughout the day for young ones, many of which they can be safely left at, while parents go and do something different.

Tickets to all activities are available online or at the door. More information available from www.threelochs.co.uk or email: info@threelochs.co.uk



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Millions needed to set up Skye flights

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

A study into the feasibility of re-introducing flights to Skye has revealed that the cost of establishing an air service could cost as much as £2.34m in the first year.

The working group, tasked with investigating the feasibility of a scheduled air service linking Skye with either Glasgow or Edinburgh, commissioned aviation consultants Arcadis to identify the infrastructure and operational costs required to establish the trial air service.

The study comes after Skye councillors backed a report published earlier this year which recommended creating a trial air link between the island and Glasgow.

It found that the capital investment required to make the airport ready for a sched-

uled service is estimated at between £1.15m and £1.36m, while the annual running costs of supporting the air service and running the airport is estimated at between £880,000 to £980,000.

The working group – made up of representatives from HITRANS, Highland Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Transport Scotland and Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd – has outlined a ‘preferred option’ which involves the deployment of a 19-seat aircraft – a Twin Otter – to operate 12 flights per week from the existing airstrip at Ashaig, near Broadford to Glasgow.

‘The research undertaken by the working group clearly demonstrates a demand for the service but we must be realistic in what we can achieve with the funds likely to be available,’ said Ranald

Robertson (HITRANS partnership director), commenting on behalf of the working group.

‘Operating a service on a trial basis is clearly going to be more affordable and our focus now must be to identify the funding to get the trial service off the ground. If this funding can be secured, the working group will set out future steps including airport and airspace licensing which would include stakeholder and community engagement.’

According to the working group, two years is the shortest realistic timescale needed to obtain licences and approvals, construct new facilities, set up an aerodrome operating team, sign agreements with airline operators and commence scheduled air services.

Through consultation with key stakeholders, an outline

layout for the introduction of a trial service at Broadford has been prepared, which identifies provision of a 200-square-metre modular building terminal situated in a central location with short walking distances to the car park and the apron. Thirty public car parking spaces, including EV charging provision, would be provided together with space for bus, taxi and drop off.

Skye (Ashaig) Airport is located around four miles east of the village of Broadford and is owned by The Highland Council. No commercial services have operated from the airport since 1988 and the airfield is unlicensed under CAA regulations.

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Prof Fiona McQueen, left, Sarah Gilmour, Joanne Thom, Aimie Davies, Alison MacIver, (winner of QNIS award); student Elizabeth Anne Mackay and Pat Tyrell (QNIS rep).

Scotland's chief nursing officer visits UHI

North nursing students had the opportunity to meet Scotland's chief nursing officer when she visited the University of the Highlands and Islands' nursing department in Inverness on Monday September 10.

Professor Fiona McQueen spoke to students and staff in person at the Centre for Health Science and addressed students in Stornoway via a video conference link.

She also took part in the department's award ceremony, presenting certificates to nominees for the university's nursing student of the year awards, as well as a certificate and £100 cheque to

the overall winner, Aimie Davies.

Aimie, 29, who is originally from Portree and now lives in Nairn, was selected for the award for her outstanding performance in her academic work and clinical placement.

Marie Cameron, the university's head of undergraduate nursing, explained: 'Aimie demonstrated a great aptitude for clinical practice, with her mentor describing her as a "fantastic student" and an "exceptional worker".'

Aimie said: 'I am over the moon to have been chosen to receive this award and I hope I can be a credit to the nursing profession in the future.'

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MSP's high hopes for Arnish yard

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Hopes for the future of the Arnish yard in the Isle of Lewis remain high, according to Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan.

The islands MSP was speaking after meeting with Sean Power, vice president for business development of DF Barnes, to discuss the firm's vision for the yard's future.

In April this year DF Barnes acquired BiFab as part of an agreement brokered by the Scottish Government to support new opportunities at

the yard for fabrication and construction in the marine, renewables and energy sector.

Over the summer, DF Barnes confirmed there would be redundancies, prompting criticism from trade union GMB Scotland which described the redundancies as 'the effective closure' of the deep water quay. At that time, DF Barnes said it was working to secure new contracts for BiFab.

Now, Alasdair Allan MSP has been reassured of the yard's future under DF Barnes after his meeting with Mr Power.

He said: 'I am very encouraged by the commitment shown by the company in its efforts to bring work back to Arnish, with a bid for a significant new project being submitted in the past few days. I am also grateful for the reassurance that the yard is a key part of its plans.'

'There does seem to be a recognition of the huge asset now at the company's disposal, in terms of the skills and attributes of the local workforce. The workforce has been absolutely key to the survival of BiFab during its most difficult period, and

I was very happy to update a representative of the former works committee at Arnish on these developments.'

'Arnish plays a significant role in the economy of Lewis and it is difficult to imagine the future without it,' Mr Allan continued.

'As the local MSP for the area, I have continued to stress that Arnish is uniquely placed to capitalise on future manufacturing opportunities in the expanding Scottish renewables sector. There is now every reason to be optimistic for the future and for jobs to return.'

Portree centre remains closed

Portree Community Centre remains closed for use until the area affected by flooding has been passed as safe to use.

The area currently cordoned off includes the large hall.

The community centre committee has been working hard to develop plans for the centre and has a meeting

with local councillors on Wednesday October 12.

A committee member said: 'We are aware of the demand from groups to use the hall and need for the public toilets to be open, and will continue

to keep you posted.'

The committee is happy to hear from people, who can get in touch through the centre's Facebook page or website portreecommunitycentre.com

MacNeil questions drop in first responder calls on Lewis

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus MacNeil has contacted the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) to find out why first responder teams were not called to assist at local incidents as in the past.

The trained volunteers are usually dispatched by an ambulance control centre to calls in their local area to help until the ambulance arrives.

However, the Carloway First Responders have received only one callout from the SAS in the last year. The team, which has been operating in the area for 10 years, had

previously assisted with 40-50 incidents a year.

Mr MacNeil said: 'First responders provide valuable medical assistance and reassurance to those waiting for the arrival of an ambulance.'

In response, to Mr MacNeil's question, Pauline Howie, CEO of SAS said the SAS recognised the dedication, motivation and value of first responders to communities and a new community first responder model was being developed for the future which potentially included an increased scope of practice.

Reserve your tickets for A Community Remembers

People can now reserve tickets for the Iolaire Community Remembrance Event in December.

The event, hosted by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, will take place at 9.30pm on Monday December 31 in Lewis Sports Centre, marking the centenary of the Iolaire tragedy.

The event will feature mili-

tary and school band performances, poetry readings and songs and drama.

Although tickets are free, there is a limited number available and organisers anticipate a high demand.

Tickets will be on a first-come-first-served basis online or by phoning 01851 600502, with four allowed per transaction.

Skye and Lochaber distilleries attend Holyrood showcase

The growth of the Scotch whisky industry was marked last week at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh.

Kate Forbes MSP, who attended the event, said it was great to see so many new emerging distilleries located at the heart of Highland communities.

During the course of the evening the MSP for Skye and Lochaber spoke to several distillery representatives, including the Ben Nevis Distillery, Raasay and Diageo - who own Talisker.

The SNP politician said: 'There has been a significant growth in the whisky industry in recent years, with new distilleries in Skye, Raasay and Dingwall to name just three.'

'As whisky remains one of Scotland's biggest exports, it's great to see new, emerging distilleries located at the heart of Highland communities.'

'Many of the new distilleries are locally owned too which means that the benefits will hopefully be shared locally.'

'It was great to welcome Ben Nevis distillery and Raasay distillery in particular to the Parliament, and I had a



Kate Forbes MSP with Iain Hector, visitor experience manager at the Raasay Distillery, at the whisky event last week at the Scottish Parliament.

chat with both. Ben Nevis continues to draw in visitors from far and wide, and for good reason. There are few places as iconic as the foot of Ben Nevis.

'Raasay only opened comparatively recently but is already getting noticed, not least for its determination to source barley locally, working with local farmers.'



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Glengarry showstopper

Saturday saw the eighth staging of the annual Glengarry Produce Show.

Show organiser Gayle Rand said that despite being late in the season, growers produced an impressive display of vegetables and flowers, shown alongside the fabulous entries of baking, floral arrangements, arts and crafts, photography and children's classes.

She added: 'Judges complimented exhibitors on such a high standard of entries once again this year.'

'Many thanks to all the exhibitors, judges, ladies in the cafe and members of the hall committee.'

Results: Ardgarry Farm Trophy (garden produce) – Ken Brown; Invergarry Hotel Trophy (novelty veg) – Ken Brown; Great Glen Travel Award (floral) – Kate Stewart; A N Fraser Trophy (photography) – Patrick Ungless/Valerie Brogden; Seven Heads Shield (baking and preserves) – Catherine Stewart; Beryl Barnes Memorial Cup (arts and crafts) – Val Ungless



Thistle Stop Trophy (floral art) -Lorna MacRae; 1st Fort Augustus Guides Award (high school ages) – Rhianna MacCallum.

Most points children's sections – Finley Murry; most points in show – Kate Stewart; David MacCallum Memorial Cup (best in show) – Hazel MacDonald.



Above: The happy winners at Saturday's Glengarry Flower Show; left: Finley Murry, won the children's section; clockwise above right: Kate Stewart took the trophy for most points in show; Rhianna MacCallum won the high school ages class; Rhiannon Cooper won best exhibit in the children's classes.





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Lodge to mark 275th anniversary

Fort William Masonic Lodge No. 43 will mark its 275th anniversary in style next month with a weekend of celebrations.

On Saturday October 6 the lodge will host an anniversary dinner at Lochaber High School from 2pm, where representatives from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in Edinburgh, will be in attendance.

The next day, members of the lodge will parade from the Masonic Hall on Fort William High Street at 11am to the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church for a ceremony at 11.30am.

Although formally established in 1743, records show that freemasonry was practiced in Fort William, then known as Maryburgh, 25 years prior to its constitution.

Almost 300 years later, the lodge is still active in the community and its current members are encouraging anyone involved, past or present, to join in their anniversary celebrations.

Belford gets on bike for worksite funding

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William's Belford Hospital is one of more than 60 worksites across Scotland which will benefit from more than £600,000 being handed out to employers by Cycling Scotland from the Cycle Friendly Development Fund

The cash will be used to promote cycling as a healthy, sustainable and accessible way to travel to work.

The Cycle Friendly Development Fund, delivered by Cycling Scotland with funding from Transport Scotland, will be used for projects that encourage staff and visitors to travel by bike.

This will include upgrading workplace amenities, such as changing areas, showers and drying facilities; buying bikes to support a bike pool or hire fleet; setting up maintenance



areas and buying cycling tools; installing cycle parking and upgrading minor workplace specific pedestrian/cyclist access routes, including signage.

As a result, more than 52,000 employees, including those at the Belford Hospital, the Oban-based Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), Scottish

The Belford Hospital which is set to benefit from the cycling cash initiative.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson

Matheson MSP said: 'There are many environmental and health benefits that can be gained simply by choosing to cycle, and this funding will help reduce some of the local barriers that exist and encourage active travel.'

'This support will progress our vision to develop an Active Nation, where more people choose to walk and cycle than ever before, by providing additional amenities to more than 52,000 workers across Scotland.'

And Katharine Brough, head of behaviour change at Cycling Scotland, added: 'Cycling has so many benefits and creates a healthier and happier workforce

and we work closely with our partners to help employers and other organisations encourage and support cycling.'

Dr Tom Wilding, from the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) outside Oban, said: 'As a keen cyclist and environmental researcher, I am thrilled that Cycling Scotland will be helping us make much-needed improvements to the facilities for our cycling community.'

'We have more than 300 people working and studying on our very beautiful campus, and already a good number of us cycle regularly to SAMS as public transport is limited.'

'Better facilities - especially changing/drying rooms - will encourage more of our staff, students and visitors to cycle and for the cycling culture to become more firmly embedded in our workplace.'

Rangers finally reveal answer behind Mull sea eagle mystery

The history and formal identification of a male sea eagle named Star from the North West Mull Community Eagle Watch has finally been revealed after four years of detective work by rangers on the island.

Seasonal ranger Cian Burke-Brown of the Mull and Iona Community Trust has succeeded in clinching the tell-tale photographic proof to identify exactly where Star was hatched and fledged.

Ever since a new, unknown male sea eagle paired up with the resident female named Hope in 2014, conservationists on Mull have been trying to work out who he was. It is thought the newcomer killed Hope's original mate in a territorial dispute as he sought to take over the nesting area.

Her original male, known as Yellow E, had wing tags and his identity was known. He hatched on Mull in 2006 and was paired with Hope for nearly five years.

However, following their last breeding attempt together, he was found dead. A post-mortem examination revealed talon wounds suggesting a fight with another



eagle. Shortly afterwards, Hope was seen paired with the new unknown male.

He had a leg ring coloured blue over silver which identified him as a chick which had fledged somewhere in Scotland in 2010 but after that the trail went cold as no one was able to read the letters on the ring.

Now, photographs have shown the letters as C9 over 33, which proves Star was hatched at a nest site on Morvern and, after four years of exploring Scotland as an immature sea eagle, he returned home and then across the Sound of Mull to pair up with Hope.

They have successfully raised five chicks between them in recent years and this

year have fledged a further two chicks.

Dave Sexton, RSPB Mull officer, said: 'Cian did a fantastic job getting these shots and was determined to solve the mystery of where Star originated from.'

'Thousands of visitors from all over the world have watched Star and Hope and their two chicks this year as part of the award-winning Mull Eagle Watch five-star experience. The hide will be open until mid October as the eagle family will remain nearby offering fantastic views.'

The chicks were named as Ulva, to celebrate the recent community buy-out of the nearby island by North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd, and Misak, honouring a Colombian tribe's visit to see the eagles earlier this summer.

Mull Eagle Watch is a partnership between the Mull and Iona Community Trust, RSPB Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forest Enterprise Scotland and Police Scotland. Trips can be booked by VisitScotland on 01680 812556.

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Fish farm refutes 'shocking' footage

A west coast fish farm says an 'unprecedented' SSPCA inspection has shown it is protecting the welfare of its salmon, after a charity released 'shocking' footage showing 'serious animal welfare concerns'.

The video, purportedly shot on Monday August 27 at Vacasay salmon farm in Loch Roag on the Isle of Lewis, run by the Scottish Salmon Company, was passed to the Scottish SPCA for investigation.

A spokesperson for campaign group OneKind said: 'The video shows salmon with the flesh on their heads exposed due to severe sea lice damage, heavy sea lice burdens, fish jumping out of the water, and severe fin and tail damage.'

OneKind campaigner Sarah Moyes said: 'It's very concerning that there are plans to double the salmon farming industry in Scotland when fish are suffering in this way. We're calling for a moratorium on further growth until the industry starts putting the welfare of its animals first.'

The Scottish Salmon Company said: 'The SSPCA has now confirmed that it will be taking no further action. It was wholly satisfied that we are taking all possible steps to protect the welfare of our fish and effectively deal with

the naturally occurring issue of sea lice.

'The warmer water temperature this summer has impacted the number of incidences of sea lice. However, the video footage is both highly out of context and alarmist. If it is from our site, it was obtained by an individual trespassing.'

'We remain fully committed to responsible farming practises and stringent health management of our stock. We are working with academic and industry partners to finding long-term sustainable solutions to tackle these industry-wide challenges.'

'We remain fully committed to responsible farming'

Scottish SPCA chief superintendent Mike Flynn said: 'We can confirm we were alerted to a salmon farm on the Isle of Lewis.'

'Our senior inspector on the islands spent several days investigating the concerns that had been raised and the owners co-operated fully. The fish involved have been receiving treatment and all measures possible are being taken to ensure their welfare.'

'Anyone concerned about the welfare of an animal should contact our animal helpline on 03000 999 999.'

New chief exec for Highland Council

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Donna Manson has been appointed as the new chief executive of The Highland Council, and will take up her role following the retirement of Steve Barron.

Mrs Manson is currently a service director for children and young people in the Scottish Borders.

Donna started her career teaching in areas of deprivation and has a real passion for reducing inequalities for families. She worked in education in Edinburgh and Fife before starting her current post with Scottish Borders Council where she has gained extensive experience of all council areas and working with partners as a corporate director.

Mrs Manson said: 'I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve the public in the Highlands and one of my main priorities is to focus on retaining the talent of our people in their local communities by creating local learning and training opportunities linked to jobs, housing and high quality council services.'

'I am ambitious that the



Donna Manson has been appointed the new chief executive of Highland Council.

the Highlands for more than 30 years as a sailor and hill walker and is fiercely proud of her Highland family identity, recognising the importance of culture, heritage and tradition in communities. She is delighted to be 'bringing the family home to their roots' and having the opportunity to be working and living in the Highlands.

'It is a real honour and privilege to have the opportunity to serve the Highlands with the staff team of Highland Council,' she said. 'This really is a once-in-a-lifetime job in the most amazing place that is the Highlands and so much part of my family.'

The leader of the council Margaret Davidson said she was 'very pleased and excited' to welcome Mrs Manson, who started on Friday September 14, to her new role.

council is a strong and visible presence in local areas and viewed to be playing a positive and productive role, working with local businesses, partners and the public for the benefit of both local people and visitors to the Highlands. I am confident that the council can thrive

and overcome the challenging budget times and I look forward to being out in communities with staff, listening to people within their local area and working together on matters that are important to them.'

Mrs Manson has been a regular visitor to all areas in

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MPs give thanks to Runrig at Parliament

Ian Blackford MP, along with some parliamentary colleagues, has lodged a motion thanking Celtic rock band Runrig for their contribution to Scottish music and culture over the last 45 years.

Runrig finally brought the curtain down on their storied musical careers last month with two farewell concerts performed in the shadow of Stirling Castle. A group of MPs, who all attended one of the final shows, felt recognition had to be given to the band for their contribution to the Scottish music industry.

Speaking at the time, Mr Blackford said: 'We have all loved listening to the band over the last 40-odd years, we felt it really was the least we could do.'

'An Early Day Motion has been lodged with Parliament and our thanks and gratitude is now written there for everyone to see. I would encourage all parliamentarians to sign the motion.'

'We have also all personally thanked our colleague Pete Wishart, who is a former band member, for the significant contribution he made to the story of Runrig.'

Glen Nevis hostel celebrates five stars

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Glen Nevis Youth Hostel is celebrating after being given five-star status by the national tourism organisation.

VisitScotland awarded the hostel a top Quality Assurance accolade following its recent major refurbishment.

The new-look hostel, located at the foot of Ben Nevis – the UK's highest mountain – has welcomed more than 1.3 million guests in its lifetime and is a popular base for people wanting to climb the Munro.

The refurbished hostel offers a wide range of high quality, shared accommodation and private en-suite rooms. New facilities include a contemporary open-plan living space with a log burning stove, a well-equipped self-catering kitchen, drying room, laundry and secure bike storage.

The hostel is also a VisitScotland Information Partner (VIP) which, launched in May 2016, harnesses the local knowledge, warmth and enthusiasm of partners across the country to help visitors receive the warmest of welcomes and make the most of their trip.

Chris Taylor, VisitScotland regional leadership director,



said: 'I am delighted that Glen Nevis Youth Hostel has achieved five stars. It is testament to all the hard work by Hostelling Scotland and its team over the years – particularly recently with its refurbishment – to bring it up

to such a high level.

'Quality Assurance is about more than just the stars on the door – it's about the entire visitor experience and driving improvement in that experience throughout the Highlands.'

VisitScotland's regional leadership director Chris Taylor paid a visit to Glen Nevis Youth Hostel last week to present the award to Lochaber group manager Caroline Knox.

'Consumers want quality and value for money experiences.

'Star gradings help visitors make informed decisions and select businesses that meet, and exceed, these expectations.'

Graham Sheach, marketing manager for Hostelling Scotland, was 'delighted' to achieved the five-star rating.

He said: 'The award reflects the hard work and commitment shown by everyone involved in the redevelopment of the youth hostel.'

'It comes one month after the hostel celebrated 80 years as part of the local community, having welcomed more than 1.3 million guests throughout its lifetime. The refurbishment of Glen Nevis represents the start of a new era of hostelling in Scotland.'

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About hits out at ferry 'disparity'

Labour in the Western Isles has hit out at the Scottish Government over 'gross disparity' in its approach to ferry services and the needs of island businesses.

Prospective Parliamentary candidate Alison MacCorquodale said the decision to charter an additional freight vessel for Shetland services stood in 'dismal contrast' to the rejection by ministers of the same proposal for the Western Isles.

The Scottish Government announced 'the temporary charter of a third vessel' for Shetland after fish were left behind at Lerwick because of reduced ferry capacity on three occasions.

'We have been told repeatedly by the Scottish Government and local SNP representatives that there are no vessels available for charter although we have produced evidence in the recent past to show that this is untrue,' continued Ms MacCorquodale. 'Their credibility and excuses now lie in tatters. Where there is a will there is a way – but it is blatantly obvious that distress signals from the Western Isles have not been getting through.'

Ms MacCorquodale also called for the reintroduction of a freight vessel on the Stornoway/Ullapool route.

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LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBBoundary changes
for constituencies
are unworkable

It is difficult not to have sympathy for the points expressed by MP Ian Blackford regarding the proposed changes put forward by the Boundary Commission to redraw the constituencies of the Highlands and Islands.

The Member of Parliament for Ross, Skye and Lochaber has submitted objections to the plans, which would see a reduction in the number of constituencies from four to three.

The changes, which require the backing of MPs and peers to come into effect, would see Fort William and Ardnachurchan join Argyll and Bute to form a new constituency called Argyll, Bute and South West Highlands, while Spean Bridge, Glenfinnan and Mallaig would merge with Skye, Badenoch and Inverness to form a new Highland Central constituency.

This is simply a numbers game for the Boundary Commission, which is attempting to create parliamentary areas which all have similar populations.

The very obvious shortcoming with this approach is that it pays no heed to the history, geography or topography of this part of Scotland.

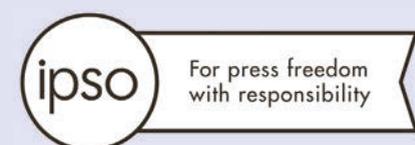
The reality is that the two constituencies mentioned cover vast swathes of territory and include many islands. In factual terms, these constituencies would become virtually unmanageable for whomever is elected in them.

This is not a political issue but one of basic practicality, and the Boundary Commission should reconsider its proposals.

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

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

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Searching for father's
photograph

I have been looking for many years without success to find a photograph of my father as a young man.

I think with all the publicity surrounding the centenary of the end of the Great War this may just be my last opportunity to succeed in that endeavour.

My father was born in Oban in 1882. He was a member of the Oban TA Mountain Battery prior to enlisting in the regular army in 1906. On enlistment he joined the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

From his army records he served firstly in India (1906), returning directly from there to Belgium/France (1914) and then Italy (1917). During the course of that service he was awarded two Military Medals, firstly, at The Battle of Messines. A Bar to that followed in Italy during the Battle on the River Piave. The award of both medals was mentioned in The Oban Times. They were also in the London Gazette, September 28, 1917, and March 29, 1919.

Some years ago a very kind lady, Faith Orr of The Oban Times, assisted me in researching the archives and was able to tell me that in 1919 The Oban Council presented gold watches to all Oban men who had received gallantry awards during the war. Faith found some articles on the event and my father was listed as having been there and I do recall seeing the watch.

Mr John MacPherson, during one of my visits to the Oban War and Peace Museum, was able to show me one of the presented watches which is on display at the museum, I believe donated by a recipient or his family.

I am hoping the presentation in 1919 was photographed either by someone officially recording the event or by someone whose family member was being honoured that day and that some families may still have a copy of the picture.

It is a bit of a long shot but I hope this appeal via The Oban Times may just turn one up or indeed a relative that I don't know about.

At the end of the war my father, being part of the regular army, transferred to 'K' Battery Royal Horse Artillery, serving in India.

Alex McColl,
Pendeen, Upper Castle Road, St Mawes,
Cornwall, TR2 5BY.

Congratulations on ferry
summit

I write to congratulate Alison MacCorquodale on her effectiveness as prospective Labour candidate in the Western Isles. She appears to have achieved more in the space of days than many of us have managed in years.

On September 5, Ms MacCorquodale drew attention to the latest CalMac crisis and called for 'an islands summit on ferry services to which the MSP and MP should be invited with "empty chairs" if required'.

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YOUR PICTURES



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

would like to see published here, simply send it to editor@obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Cran-

On September 6 at Holyrood, Alasdair Allan MSP asked Paul Wheelhouse, the minister for energy, connectivity and the islands, if he would 'commit to visiting my constituency to meet me and other stakeholders at a summit to discuss that important issue?' i.e. ferry capacity.

Until then, Mr Allan's most notable contribution to the ferry debate had been to call for a tax on campervans to deter them from coming to the Western Isles at all, so this really was dramatic progress.

On September 9, Mr Allan issued a press release stating that Mr Wheelhouse had 'agreed to visit the Western Isles' to discuss 'the shortage of ferry space' with himself and 'other stakeholders'.

I think we need early clarification of who will be involved in these discussions and what opportunity there will be for the people and businesses most affected by the ferry shambles

to be heard. Let's not lose sight of the promised 'summit'.

In the meantime, thanks are due to Ms MacCorquodale for her effective intervention. Who knows, we might even hear from the MP once he can spare time between crowdfunding for Alex Salmond and broadcasting for Russia TV.

Angus McCormack,
25 North Street, Sandwick, Isle of Lewis.

Concerns are growing over
Islay infrastructure

On my latest visit to Burnside I heard numerous concerns raised about Islay's infrastructure and its ability to cope with our tremendous growth in industrial output.

This is a concern I share and both Argyll and Bute Council and the Scottish Government

LT

DISTRICT NEWS

LOCHABER

Police Scotland has issued an alert warning the local community about possible bogus workmen in the Lochaber area.

The warning involves two white males, one described as being in his 40s, 6ft, medium build, fair, brown hair and speaking with an Irish accent, while the other was described only as in his 20s.

The men were driving a white Ford Transit with the registration AD10 EBA.

Both men have been delivering flyers and cold calling addresses in Inchree/Onich area.

They have also been carrying out gardening work without permission placing an elderly female in distress.

The local community are advised to be vigilant to cold callers, particularly the elderly and vulnerable residents in the area.

FORT WILLIAM

The Lochaber Rotary Club's pop-up café returns to the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall this Saturday, September 22.

Teas, coffees, cakes and traybakes will be available from 11am till 3pm, with soup and sandwiches being served from noon until 2pm.

After the success of the last event, the club is keen to encourage more locals and visitors to enjoy this facility.

Club president Iain Johnston said: 'We were delighted with the public support. We entertained around 60 people in the café.'

'It was a fantastic atmosphere and a great time was had by all. We have no overheads. All the income goes to charitable causes and we look forward to a good turnout.'

'The hall has good disabled access and toilets, with disabled parking at the door.'

NETHER LOCHABER

Dance teachers Kate Ward and Marylynn MacDonald have hung up their dancing shoes after 30 years of teaching children's dance classes.

They would like to thank parents, helpers and especially the children for their great support over the years, and said remaining funds have been divided among local charities.

Kate said: 'It has been a privilege and a pleasure teaching the children who always danced to a high standard at ceilidhs, displays, competitions and festivals gaining great results which made us very proud.'

'Thank you children for all these happy Tuesday evenings over the years. Keep dancing.'

HAVE YOUR SAY

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Kate Forbes, left, with fellow nominees Lewis MacDonald MSP and Mairi Gougeon MSP.

Kate Forbes nominated for conservation award

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes has been nominated for a national conservation award following the success of her 'Final Straw' campaign.

Final Straw urged the Scottish Government to ban plastic straws, and over the past nine months her lobbying has resulted in scores of organisations ditching them – estimated to run into the millions – in favour of biodegradable alternatives.

It saw Ms Forbes named as a finalist in the Political Advocate of

the Year category for the RSPB's Nature of Scotland Awards, which were announced at an event in the Scottish Parliament last week.

Ms Forbes said: 'I am delighted, if a little taken aback, by this nomination for an RSPB award. It means a lot to me after the campaign I launched earlier this year.'

Kate's fellow finalists are Dr Tom Dargie, Mairi Gougeon MSP, Lewis MacDonald MSP and Dr Ruth Tingay. The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony in Edinburgh on November 22.

MALLAIG

The building which housed the Royal Bank of Scotland's branch in Mallaig went under the auctioneer's hammer yesterday (Wednesday).

SVA Property Auctions, an independent auction service, were selling the bank and 26 other lots at the Trades Hall of Glasgow.

A total of 14 of the lots for sale were former bank premises, many with potential for either businesses or conversion to residential use.

The Mallaig property, which was originally home to the bank on the ground floor, also has a vacant three-bedroomed first floor flat above and a small garden and single garage to the rear.

The property occupies a prominent location in the town centre, overlooking the ferry terminal, and bidding was expected to reach around £135,000.

KILMALLIE

Kilmallie Community Council will hold its latest meeting at 7.15pm on Monday (September 24) in Kilmallie Community Centre.

Items on the agenda include a police update, a presentation by Ferguson Transport on new plans at Annat, a presentation about the proposed Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) centre on the Blar, as well as complaints of smell from Duiskey and discussions with SEPA.

Ian Blackford MP meets survivors of Holocaust in London

Lochaber MSP Ian Blackford heard last week in Westminster from Helen Aronson, who survived the Holocaust, at the launch of Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2019.

The memorial day, held on January 27 each year, remembers the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust and the millions of people killed under Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

The date marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

Survivor of the Łódź ghetto in Poland, Helen Aronson said: 'It is vital we do everything in our power to ensure these things never happen again, anywhere in the world.'

'Children must be allowed to grow up safe and secure and not be wrenched from their homes, like

I was. That's why it is so important that you, as members of parliament, are here today and that we make a commitment to mark Holocaust Memorial Day every January.'

Mr Blackford said: 'The experiences of survivors such as Helen and Joan remind us about the importance of marking Holocaust Memorial Day. I want to encourage people in Ross, Skye and Lochaber to mark HMD on January 27, 2019.'



Mr Blackford met with Joan Salter MBE, in pink, who was forced to flee from Europe and travel to America in 1943 without her parents at age three.

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Lochaber Sea Cadets are looking for both volunteers and cadets to join.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson

Lochaber Sea Cadets looking for recruits to join Fort William unit

The Lochaber Sea Cadet unit is seeking volunteers and cadets, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

The group is looking for enthusiastic people to join its team, based in Fort William, which aims to give young people the best possible head start in life through nautical adventure and fun.

As an instructional volunteer at Lochaber Sea Cadets there are many opportunities for personal development while passing on knowledge and life experience to young people aged 10 to 18.

The unit would welcome volunteers from a military, teaching or professional background, however if anyone has a good level of enthusiasm, a passion for development, and an understanding of working with young people from all backgrounds in life, the team would love to hear from them.

If anyone has skills in leadership, business or administration and would like to oversee Lochaber Unit's operation, they should

consider joining the unit's management team. They could help manage the finances and budgets, help fundraise for the unit, organise events, write press releases for media or build corporate relationships with businesses.

Lochaber cadets are also looking for young people, aged 10-18, to join the vibrant unit.

As a nautical charity, the sea cadets' vision is to provide the best possible head start in life through nautical adventure and fun, and fun is at the forefront of what they do. Sea cadets gives young people a new perspective, broadens horizons and creates possibilities.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering or in becoming a cadet and would like more information, should please contact Kelly Giblin (sea cadet development worker) on kgiblin@ms-sc.org or call on 07807 274637.

Find out more about Lochaber Sea Cadets on its Facebook page.

Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

■ 'It's nice to be nice' is one of Lochaber's most popular sayings. So let's start by providing a pleasant observation before the column comments get a bit more caustic as we go along.

Right, then, isn't the Parade looking an absolute picture these days? Partly due, right enough, to the legacy of flowers and plants remaining there from the royal visit. The Parade, indeed, is a credit to Fort William, a colourful and pleasant testimony to the foresight of the town's Cameron-Campbell/Fairfax-Lucy family in providing the ground in perpetuity for the local and visiting public. Our own 'Dear Green Place' is a veritable oasis in a Fort William which, otherwise, often presents a somewhat tired impression.

■ Gist of a letter to Fort William and Lochaber Tourist Board. From an intending visitor who lives in Surrey: 'Dear Sir or Madam, are there any houses or small hotels on or around Skye that provide B&B and evening meals? Also are there buses or coaches from Skye to the Scottish cities? I would prefer to go off peak in April, May or June. How would I get there? PS - Can I use English money in Skye? Yours Etc, Mrs ----'

■ Meanwhile, Granny Jenny and Great Auntie Sadie were up from Cambuslang for the week. On Tuesday they went on a coach trip - to Skye. At Kyle they were able to get off the bus and walk about to stretch their legs. They were given instructions as to when to get back on board. But the pair of them were so taken with the scenery, and were chatting away like grannies and great aunts do, that they managed to miss the bus! However, they're home now.

■ Stroppy bloke causing havoc in the restaurant of a town hotel. Had the waitresses running around with his requests. 'Get me this.' 'Bring me that.' 'It isn't what I wanted - take it away!' All the diners at the other tables were sympathising with the staff as this guy was being really awkward. Then, when everything was nearly to his satisfaction, he called for a whisky. The dram was borne in on a silver tray, and set down in front of him. Whereupon he picked up the bottle of white vinegar from his table, and, thinking it was water, topped up his glass. At least our difficult diner didn't have the gall to complain about that.

■ The 'Pulsating Plumbers' were up in the Fort's higher reaches last week. Into the house at Number 29 in a certain road they went. Showed their I/D and then proceeded to drain the hot water cylinder. Meanwhile some carping

carpenters and exasperated electricians were awaiting the arrival of the 'Pulsating Plumbers' at No 29 in a different road. Eventually, all the tradesmen caught up with each other, and the right house for treatment was finally agreed. But the plumbers got a right s(lagging), I can tell you.

■ Like much of Corpach, the canal railway bridge at Banavie was closed for part of Tuesday. It wouldn't realign - even though a Land Rover tried to take the bridge in tow to pull it into place. Which explains why the new station at Loch Eil Outward Bound was so busy. It became the temporary terminus on the Mallaig Line. (Remember, Corpach was closed).

■ Donald and David betook themselves to Dingwall for the Ross County v Fort William cup tie. Into the ground they went. Into the stand, indeed. 'Boy, it's cheap for a stand seat here', Donald enthused, 'Only a pound each to watch the match in comfort.' David agreed it was great value - even if the game was not going in Fort's favour. On the way out, Donald caught sight of the notice at that particular entrance. 'Only OAPS and Children at this Gate', it read. I wonder which category Donald and David came under!

■ I've kept the good wine till nearly the last. 'You can't come in here with that bottle!' remonstrated Neil at the door of the Pulp Mill Club, prior to the Wolfstone gig. The lassie, clutching the nice line in wine tried to explain. But Neil went on, 'I'm sorry, but you're not allowed to take your own drink into the club'. Quite reasonably, the girl - a local young farmer, in fact - managed to take the chance to state her case. 'It's not for me to drink', she told Neil. 'This bottle of wine is one of tonight's raffle prizes.' Shades of the night when Philomena Begley was asked by another Pulp Mill doorman for entry money - to her own concert!

■ Now the annual 100,000 hardy souls who keep right on to the end of the road on the West Highland Way can relax with a dram of their 'very own' whisky. 'The End Blend' is being retailed at the Scottish Crafts - and Whisky Centre in Fort William. It's selling well in miniatures to the Fort's daily invasion of West Highland Wayfarers. The wee label on the bottle depicts a backpacker in 'shorts' - well, it would, wouldn't it? - completing the long and winding road at the End of the Way, as indicated by a Fort William signpost. Says the man behind the specially produced tittle, 'As the West Highland Way officially finishes in Fort William, I thought the walkers would appreciate a wee souvenir of their journey in liquid form to mark the fact they've successfully reached The End.'

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LT

FOOTBALL



Oban Saints captain Dene Cassells opens the scoring against Barrhead at Glencruitten last Saturday.

Match report and photos: Derek Black

Hard-fought win keeps Saints out in front

Oban Saints maintained their 100 per cent start to the season with a hard-fought win over last season's Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division One Champions Barrhead at Glencruitten last Saturday. With the remainder of the Premier Division in West of Scotland Amateur Cup action the win stretches Saints lead at the top of the league table to six points over nearest challengers St Joseph's FP and Goldenhill.

Saints kicked off attacking the railway end on a Glencruitten surface which was in remarkably good condition considering the recent heavy rain. In the opening stages the fluency of the 8 - 1 win against Dunoon on their last home outing appeared to have deserted Saints and they struggled to settle into their usual rhythm taking until the 10th minute to muster a shot on goal.

Standing in for regular keeper Ross O'Hagan, Jamie Henderson showed he is no slouch between the posts as 60 seconds later he dived full length to his right to finger-tip a low, net bound, James Ford drive around the post for a corner kick. Fraser MacFarlane produced a great delivery, picking out a near post run from Dene Cassells who prodded the ball home from three yards out to give Saints the lead.

Saints doubled their advantage in the 32nd minute after Jamie Graham was felled just inside the Arky box on the Saints right. Referee Archie Mitchell was well positioned and had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. With regular penalty taker Lewis Cameron unavailable Matt Rippon seized the opportunity to add to his goal tally and made no mistake leaving Henderson rooted on his goal-line as the ball nestled in the bottom corner to make the half time score 2-0.

Saints began the second half in determined fashion and the visitors required a vital sliding interception from Darren Livingston to foil James Ford after a delightful flick from Donald Campbell.

The visitors pulled a goal back in the 75th minute when John McDade got in between Kerr Newbigging and Dene Cassells to nod home David Bannerman's corner kick from the right.

The Oban side regained their composure after this reversal and came close two or three times but in the end had to settle for a 2-1 victory.

Mr Mitchell's final whistle brought to a close an entertaining afternoon for the Glencruitten faithful who can look forward to another home fixture this coming Saturday when Motherwell Thistle bring their own 100 per cent record to Glencruitten for a Premier Division clash; kick-off 2pm.



Saints keeper Graham Douglas saves Gary Kelly's penalty kick.



Hilary Gerardi crosses the line in Kinlochleven after a sprint finish in the Glen Coe Skyline race. Photos: No Limits Photography.

Kinlochleven hosts skyrunning championships

A prestigious weekend of Skyrunning took place in Lochaber last week as the world's best mountain runners pitted themselves against the unforgiving West Highland landscape.

With four days of mountain races on the schedule, more than 2,000 athletes gathered in the village of Kinlochleven from last Thursday for the extreme running festival from September 13-16. Course organisers were forced to use alternative race routes due to the harsh weather conditions which saw winds reach up to 100kph on high ground.

The first race, part of the prestigious Skyrunning World Championships 2018, played out in heavy rain and strong winds as 350 athletes took part in the Salomon Mamores Vertical Kilometer (VK) race, which challenges runners to climb a total elevation of 1,000 metres over just 5km.

Swiss athlete Rémi Bonnet triumphed in a fastest course time of 39 minutes 23 seconds to win the race, while Spanish runner Laura Orgué beat her own record set last year to claim victory.

On Friday, the 2018 Skyrunning World

Championships ULTRA race, held in the Highlands for the first time, was won by Brit Jonathon Albon and Dutch runner Ragna Dabats.

Challenging weather forced race officials to swap to the bad weather course for the Salomon Ben Nevis Ultra race. Still a strenuous race, the ULTRA World Championships course extended to 47.5km with a total ascent of 1,640m.

Albon, who was last year's Extreme Skyrunner World Series Champion, led for most of the ultra and finished in 3:48:02, 12 minutes ahead of the other runners.

On Saturday Kilian Jornet and Tove Alexandersson took gold for Spain and Sweden in the final race of the 2018 Skyrunning World Championships as both athletes smashed the course records for the 29km Salomon Ring of Steall Skyrace.

More than 700 runners entered the technical Skyrace, which includes four Munro summits (Scottish mountains over 3,000ft/914m) and 2,500m of ascent.

Jornet, 30, a world-acclaimed skyrunner, came home in 03:04:34, an incredible 20 minutes faster than the



Kilian Jornet on course during the Glen Coe Skyline race.

record set last year.

In only her second Skyrace, 26-year-old Alexandersson finished almost 19 minutes ahead of the record in 03:46:28.

The weekend's final event, the Salomon Glen Coe Skyline, bore the brunt of the bad weather as rain and wind wreaked havoc.

In rain and strong winds, 200 athletes from across the world took on the alternative 32km bad weather course through challenging mountainous terrain.

Race officials deemed wind speeds of 100kph on high ground to be too dangerous for the full 52km route, especially as it would include the UK's infamous Aonach Eagach Ridge.

The route, amounting to a total ascent of 2,700m, still included the exposed Grade 3

SKYRUNNING

scramble of Curved Ridge on Buachaille Etive Mor.

Spain's Kilian Jornet and American Hillary Gerardi battled the worst of the weather to triumph in the race.

Jornet, who became the 2018 SKY World Champion at the Ring of Steall Skyrace the day before, crossed the finish line in Kinlochleven in a time of 03:37:17.

After more than 30km of running, first and second place in the female race was determined by a 200m sprint for the finish line, with Gerardi winning by just seven seconds in a time of 04:17:48.

Lochaber Athletic Club athlete Finlay Wild had to pull-out of the Glen Coe Skyline race due to illness.

Fort William mark 10th anniversary of 2008 Camanachd Cup victory

SHINTY

Fort William Shinty Club commemorated the Camanachd Cup winning exploits of their 2008 team by hosting a special anniversary match with the current team.

Former players dusted off their boots and picked up their sticks once again to take on the current, more youthful, Fort William side in the anniversary match at An Aird.

The match marked 10 years since Fort William won the 2008 Camanachd Cup and took place on the same day as this year's final between Lovat and Newtonmore.

After the match, the two teams warmed up in the clubhouse and watched a re-run of the 2008 final.



Members of Fort William's Camanachd Cup winning squad of 2008 reformed last Saturday to play the 2018 first team in a 10th anniversary match, which ended in a 3-3 draw. Photos: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



2008 cup winner Bryan Simpson is tackled by Ryan Boyle in Saturday's anniversary match.

Children and young person development fund

The Camanachd Association, the governing body for shinty has announced Phase 2 of the Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd Children and Young Person Development Fund.

This will support shinty clubs in their development and is focused on enhancing opportunities for children and young people.

The Children and Young Person Development Fund aims to increase opportunities and participation at



accredited or accrediting member clubs by providing a maximum grant award of £500.

The funding will be eligible for accredited member clubs which are proposing new or enhanced initiatives to develop shinty for children and young people (up to age 18).

The deadline for the second round of applications is Monday October 8.

This investment celebrates Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd's 30th year sponsoring shinty and commemorates the 125th anniversary of the Camanachd Association.

Fort youngsters win Donnie MacLean Memorial Trophy

YOUTH SHINTY

Under 14 shinty teams from Lochaber, Newtonmore, Oban, Ballachulish, Invergarry and Fort William clashed camans in the annual Donnie MacLean Memorial Trophy shinty sixes competition held at Spean Bridge last Sunday.

After a day-long series of matches the final brought Oban Lorn and Fort William to the pitch, with Fort collecting the silverware from Donnie's widow Mary and son Paul.

Oban Lorn and Fort William played in the final.



The winning Fort William side with members of the late Donnie MacLean's family who presented the trophy. Photos: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

LT

GOLF

Goal fest for Brora as Fort concede nine

Brora Rangers	9
Fort William	0
Highland League	

Fort William succumbed to their ninth league defeat of the season on Saturday after Brora Rangers romped to victory.

Brora took the lead after just nine minutes when MacKay stroked the ball into the net. Rangers doubled their advantage after 24 minutes when MacKay was able to finish past Fort keeper Mateusz Kulbacki.

Dale Gillespie made it 3-0 for Brora just before half time after he made the most of a poor Fort clearance in the box to smash the ball home.

Fort were keen to make amends after the interval but Brora showed no signs of letting up. MacKay completed his hat-trick less than 10 minutes after the restart with a deft



Fort William manager Kris Anderson

chip over Kulbacki before Craig Campbell got on the scoresheet.

MacKay got his fourth goal of the afternoon which made it 6-0 to Brora. MacLeod scored a quick-fire brace in the space of four minutes while Gillespie rounded off Brora's scoring with a 25-yard effort to make it 9-0.

Fort William remain on -8 points for the season and firmly rooted to the foot of the table, while that win moves Brora into third place in the league.

LOTTERY NUMBERS

Lochaber club lotteries

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 6, 10 and 16. There was one winner this week, Donella Lamont, who won the £300 jackpot. The prize for next week will be £100.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 4, 11 and 14. There were no winners this week. Next week's draw will have a prize of £1,400.

Caol Community Centre's bingo lotto numbers for this week were 4, 12 and 17. There were no winners this week. Next week's jackpot will be £200.

GOLF

Isle of Skye golf club results

Gents: Saturday September 8, Talisker Scramble: 1 The Amigos - Andy Pendry, Ian Douglas and John Allan Macleod - 56.4; 2 The Young Team - Angus Macdonald, Daniel Macdonald and Ryan Macaskill - 57.3; 3 The Autocrats - Willie Cowie, John Finlayson and Phil McCaherty - 59.2.

Sunday September 9, Tourist Trophy: 1 Robert Macaskill 34pts; 2 David Maclean 33pts; 3 James Colven 33pts.

Wednesday September 12, Bogey: 1 Ryan Macaskill +8; 2 Robert Macaskill +2.

Ladies: Sunday September 9, Monthly Medal: 1 Donalda Johnston 91(19) nett 72; 2 Jill Mackinnon 95(20) 75.



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Three wins from three as Lochaber top the league

Lochaber	21
Birkmyre	8
Tennent's West Division 3	

Lochaber made it three wins out of three in the league as they overcame a physical Birkmyre side on Saturday in round three of the Tennent's West Division 3.

Following on from solid victories in their opening two fixtures, the Banavie side were able to extend their lead at the top of the league to three points thanks to an impressive display from the home side's forward pack.

Before kick-off the club held a minute's silence at the start of the game in memory of John Johnston, father of former player Andrew Johnston, who now coaches at Oban Rugby Club. John used to be a regular on the hill to cheer on the Lochaber boys.

This was the first time the clubs had met after Birkmyre were demoted last season and there was an evident step-up in physicality, despite the visitors starting with only 14 players after two players pulled out.

The start of the game was very tight, with neither team able to create any real scoring opportunities. Lochaber's scrum had a slight advantage over Birkmyre but they were proving a much tougher test than previous opponents.

Lochaber finally crossed the line after being awarded a penalty five metres out. After a well-worked set penalty move, Christopher Simpson



Lochaber's John MacKerlich stretches out from the bottom of a pile to score a try while team mate Alvaro Rodriguez battles with the opposition.

crashed the ball up to within a metre before he was stopped.

Support arrived quickly and John MacKerlich was able to pick and go to force the ball down on to the line and score. Jonathan McCook added two points with the conversion.

Birkmyre clawed three points back after a monster penalty from around 40 metres out brought the score to 7-3. Soon after, Lochaber thought they had scored again when Callum Boyd crossed the line but to their bewilderment the referee brought the play back for a Lochaber penalty despite having played advantage.

In the second half, Lochaber made the numbers advantage count when Christopher

Simpson broke free from his own half out wide and evaded the scrambling Birkmyre defence to dot down under the posts for an easy conversion for Scottie Diack.

Birkmyre were next to score with a controversial try after Findlay Ireland had rolled the Birkmyre player onto his back in the tackle before the line. Daniel Thomas came in to help with both Lochaber players holding the ball up as they all slid over the line but the referee ruled Birkmyre had grounded the ball. The conversion hit the post and the score was tight again at 14-8.

With the game drawing to a close, Lochaber were deep in Birkmyre's 22 and from a

RUGBY

solid scrum Lochaber passed the ball out to the backs. After quick passing through the hands, Jonathan McCook burst on to the ball and, through the tackle, scored under the posts. Diack converted and the referee blew for full time.

The win keeps Lochaber top of the league on 14 points, three points above Glasgow University Medics in second place.

Lochaber travel to Coatbridge on Saturday to play Waysiders/Drumpellier who are also undefeated after two away games.



Christopher Simpson is tackled by the Birkmyre defence.



Calum Boyd evades the tackle of two Birkmyre players.

Battling the weather in Ben Nevis Triathlon

Classed as one of the UK's toughest triathlons, the Ben Nevis Braveheart Triathlon attracted more than 100 hardy athletes from across the world to take on the gruelling course.

Competitors from as far a field as Hong Kong and New Zealand lined up at the start of the triathlon on Saturday morning.

Starting from the Old Fort in the centre of Fort William, athletes braved the cold



Sarah Ormerod, Rachel Normand and Sophie Mullins of Carnethy Running Club won the team category.



Men's winner Iain Veitch from Peebles.

waters of Loch Linnhe with a 1.2-mile sea loch swim in the morning to begin the race. This was followed by a 56-mile road cycle out as far as Aberarder on the A86 before returning to the transition point at the Old Fort.

After a quick change of footwear the competitors then began a 13-mile hill run

to the summit of Ben Nevis and back to finish off the day's racing.

Race organisers No Fuss Events had to be vigilant as the poor weather conditions threatened to affect the Ben Nevis leg of the race.

Podium results: Male Individual - 1 Iain Veitch, 5:21:53; 2 Graeme Stewart; 3

TRIATHLON

Chris Watson.

Female Individual - 1 Nicole Morgan, 7:09:12; 2 Leanne Bridgeman; 3 Lyne Gatherer.

Team - 1 Carnethy Running Club, 6:12:13; 2 Jodie Smith/David Naughton; 3 Crossfit Salford.

Young Wheelers shine at Nevis Range

Seventy-five mountain bikers from across the north of Scotland competed in the second round of the Scottish Cycling North Dirt Crit Series at Nevis Range.

The race, for children under 16, was hosted by the West Highland Wheelers with support from Nevis Range and bike shops Off Beat Bikes and Nevis Cycles.

With a total of 42 Lochaber youngsters taking part, it was a great showing for Lochaber riders and highlighted the health of the sport in the area.

There were also podium finishes for local riders in all age categories from under six, with girls' winner Charley Kennedy, to under 16, with boys' winner Fraser Clark.

Other podiums came from Cole O'Hagan (second U6 boys), Jessica Bamber (second U8 girls), Charlie Stewart (third U8 girls), Jack Bamber (first U10 boys), Sorley Swabey (second U12 boys), Daniel

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Parfitt (third U12 boys), Ruby Clark (second U12 girls), Cammy MacKintosh (first U14 boys), Cory Muir (second U14 boys), Nina Cameron (first U14 girls) and Euan Harley (second U16 boys).



Under 6 girls' winner West Highland Wheeler Charley Kennedy is quick out the blocks.



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WEATHER

Thursday
Light rain showers with a Moderate breeze from the south west
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

Friday
Light rain showers and a Moderate breeze from the west
Temperatures 8°C to 12°C.

Weekend Outlook
Cloudy on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Moderate breeze from the west south west
Temperatures 10°C to 14°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday September 20, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	03.32	2.8	09.10	1.7
Thur	15.18	3.2	21.39	1.8
Fri	03.52	3.0	09.59	1.5
	15.55	3.4	22.21	1.6
Sat	04.15	3.3	10.37	1.3
	16.29	3.7	22.53	1.3
Sun	04.46	3.5	11.10	1.1
	17.03	3.9	23.23	1.1
Mon	05.19	3.7	11.40	0.9
	17.37	4.0	23.54	1.0
Tues	05.51	3.8	12.08	0.9
	18.10	4.1	***	**
Wed	00.25	0.8	06.18	3.9
	12.36	0.8	18.38	4.1

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd



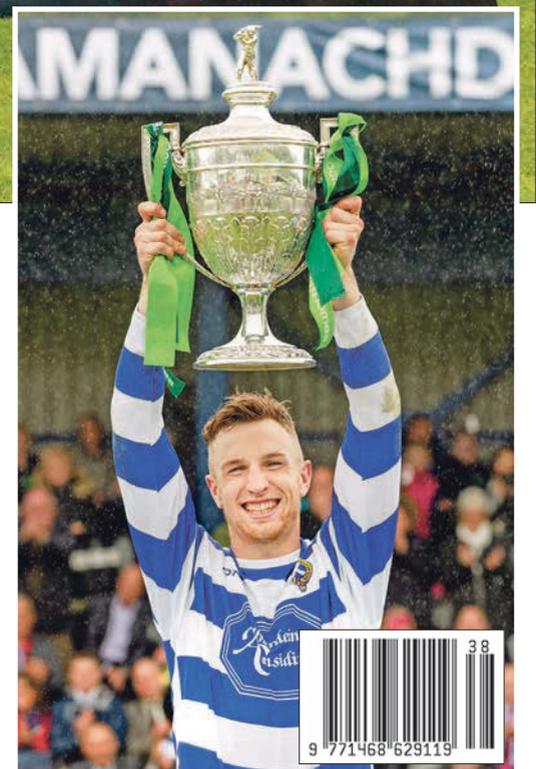
INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Battling the weather
in Ben Nevis Triathlon

**NORTH WEST
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AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 63



The victorious Newtonmore squad with the Camanachd Cup after their 3-0 win over Lovat at Mossfield Stadium. Inset: Newtonmore skipper Andy Mackintosh with the cup. Match report and more photographs on the shinty pages, 56-59. Photos: Neil Paterson

Newtonmore defeat Lovat to lift the Camanachd Cup



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